



HOMELINK NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

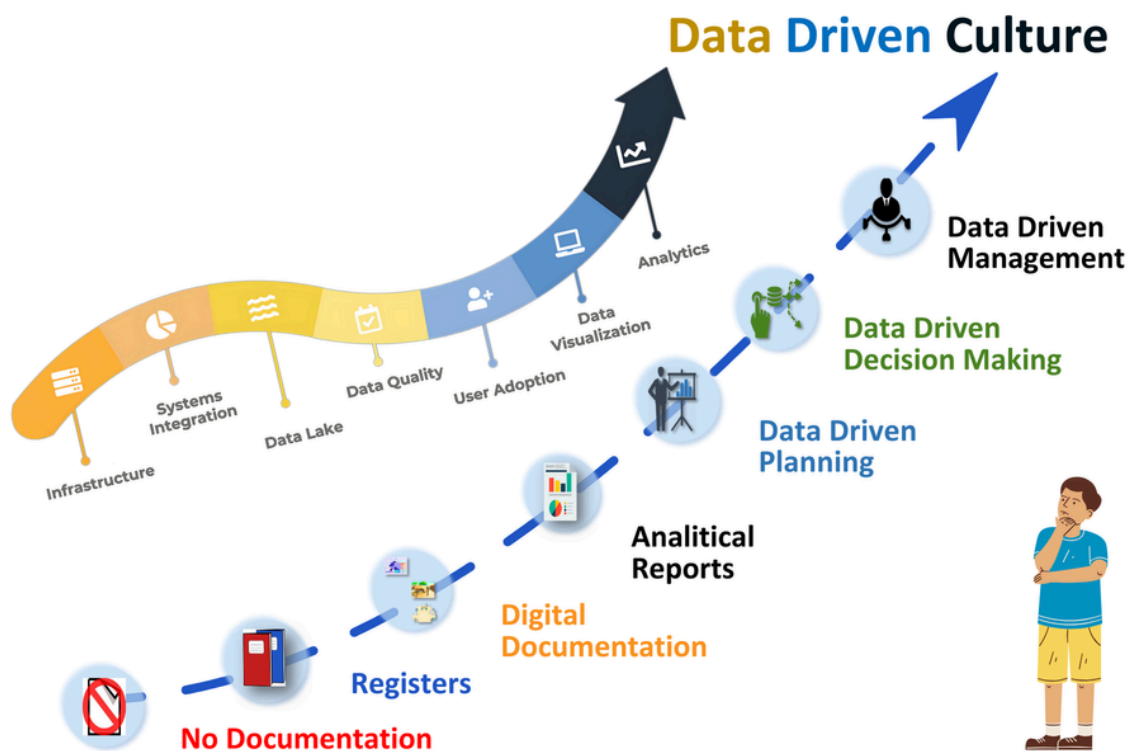


Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk
New Delhi



EVOLUTION OF HOMELINK NETWORK

A Journey of Service: Empowering Young at Risk, Reuniting Missing Children, and Advancing Digital Tools for Data-Driven Decisions



CONTENTS

HOMELINK NETWORK TEAM	1
TITBITS FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR	2
DB YAR FORUM & HOMELINK NETWORK	3
THE HOMELINK DIGI (DATA INTELLIGENCE FOR GLOBAL INTERFACE)	4
NATIONAL STATISTICS	6
INFOGRAPHICS	8
SNIPPETS	9
ANIMATIONS & PUBLICATIONS ON YAR CAMPAIGN 'FAMILY IS WHERE I BELONG'	10
HOMELINK BOOKLET & HOMELINK WEBSITE	12
LONG TERM PLAN FOR HOMELINK NETWORK & DEVELOPMENT OF DATA PROTECTION POLICY	13
VISIT BY HUB COORDINATORS AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR: TRAINING, PLANNING AND MONITORING	14
TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES	15
VIRTUAL TRAININGS & MEETINGS	20
YAR AWARDS 2024	23

HOMELINK NETWORK TEAM

NATIONAL TEAM



Fr. Joseph Prabu
Homelink National Director



Mr. Austin Francis
Technical Manager



Mr. Raj Parit
National Data Management
Coordinator & Trainer

HUB TEAM

BANGALORE HUB - INK PROVINCE



Fr. Varghese Pallipuram
Hub Director



Mr. John Joshua Nirmal
Hub Coordinator

CHENNAI HUB - INM PROVINCE



Fr. Andrews Stephenraj
Hub Director



Ms. Jyothi Priya
Hub Coordinator

NEW DELHI HUB - INN PROVINCE



Fr. Maria Arockia Doss
Hub Director



Mr. Firoj Kumar Digal
Hub Coordinator

GUWAHATI HUB - ING PROVINCE



Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel
Hub Director



Mr. Birender
Hub Coordinator

HYDERABAD HUB - INH PROVINCE



Fr. Ratna Neelam
Hub Director



Ms. M. Swarna Gowri
Hub Coordinator

KOLKATA HUB - INC PROVINCE



Fr. C George
Hub Director



Ms. Sujana Egnesh
Hub Coordinator

MUMBAI HUB - INB PROVINCE



Fr. Roshan Gonsalves
Hub Director



Ms. Khushboo
Hub Coordinator

TIRUCHY HUB - INT PROVINCE



Fr. Amalorpavaraj
Hub Director



Ms. Jacqueline
Hub Coordinator

TITBITS FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

DATA MATTERS!

Smartphone batteries these days charge much more quickly than they used to. This is accomplished by increasing the charging power and managing the heat generated by this increased power consumption. Thus, a higher capacity charger can increase the rate of this flow from the positive side to the negative side. Homelink DIGI is nothing but a flow of positive data to influence the power of Network.



Jeff Weiner says, "Data really powers everything we do". Data is more than just numbers, it has power to change, impact and influence our effectiveness and sustainability. During this year we have witnessed the digital revolution through Homelink DIGI (Data Intelligence for Global Interface), a web cum mobile tool. This tool is not to impress people but to impact people. Paradigm shifts take place and our reach to the unreached take a turn to be the signs of the power. True wisdom goes beyond the mere accumulation of data; it combines knowledge with moral and spiritual insight. The power is to turn data into information, and information into insight.

The Homelink Network is connecting organizations for a dialogue to establish new forms of collaborative initiatives to advocate for the rights of the children based on facts and figures available in Homelink DIGI. Our collaborative network is a necessity, not a choice. One thing is sure, nothing can substitute the human factors of goodwill and benevolence that build up our Network. So, as partners in this Network, we are called 'to invest in relationships, and to affirm the interpersonal nature of our humanity, including in and through the Network' (Pope Francis).

I extend my gratitude and appreciate the untiring and diligent efforts of Mr. Austin Francis, National Technical Manager, Mr. Raj Parit, National Data Management Coordinator and our eight Hub Coordinators and Hub Directors. They played a vital role in capacitating the Staff members of Networking partner organizations to document systematically and above all empowered them to critically analyse their data to improve the standard of the organization. Homelink Network is to think analytically, rigorously, and systematically about the power of data.

We live in a digitalized and technological world, which transforms and accelerate our lives. In this new digital era of data, positive outcome will only be achieved if we act responsibly with inclusion, transparency, and reliability. I am extremely happy to express my grateful appreciation for the committed service rendered by our YaR and Homelink Network Partners, who bring in acceleration in the lives of young people at risk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Prabu SDB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Prabu SDB
National Director & Homelink Network

DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK



The Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (DB YaR Forum) stands as a keystone network in India, passionately committed to safeguarding the welfare, fostering the growth, and upholding the rights of vulnerable children and young adults. With a robust presence of over 80 member institutions spread across 20 states and union territories, DB YaR Forum offers a comprehensive array of services. These include vital initiatives such as street presence, rescue operations, safe shelters, and after-care facilities. DB YaR Forum's unwavering mission revolves around accompanying and protecting these young individuals, ensuring they have access to nurturing environments conducive to their holistic development, active participation, and preservation of their inherent dignity.

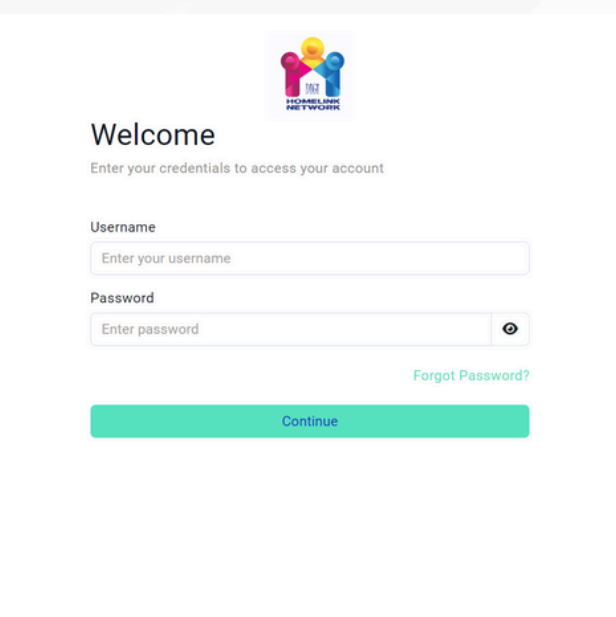
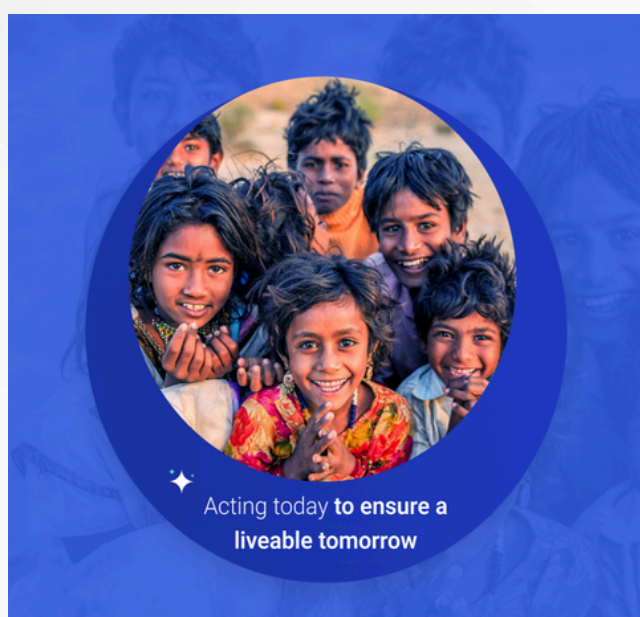
HOMELINK NEWTORK (HLK)

The Homelink Network, an initiative launched by the DB YaR Forum in 2002, stands as a beacon of hope for at-risk youth across India. Its primary objective is to deliver timely and precise responses to the multifaceted needs of vulnerable young individuals through data management. Central to its approach is the cultivation of a culture rooted in data-driven decision-making and proactive intervention planning, leveraging cutting-edge technology. This integrated framework empowers stakeholders to monitor real-time trends and anticipate emerging challenges, ensuring swift and targeted support for youth in distress. Spanning 8 strategic Hubs and multiple Nodes nationwide, the Homelink Network functions as a cohesive ecosystem of over 60 member organizations.



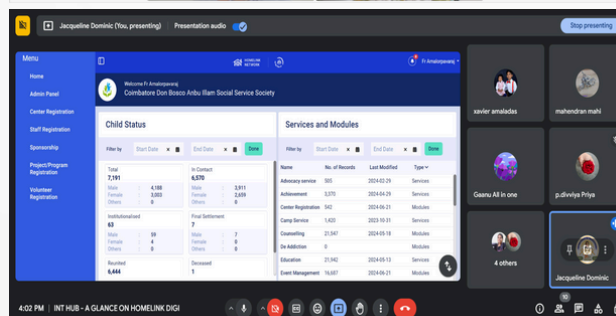
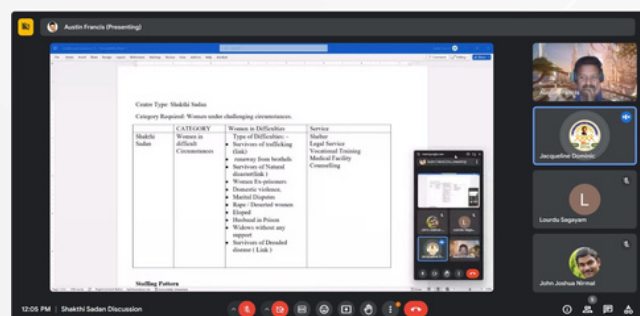
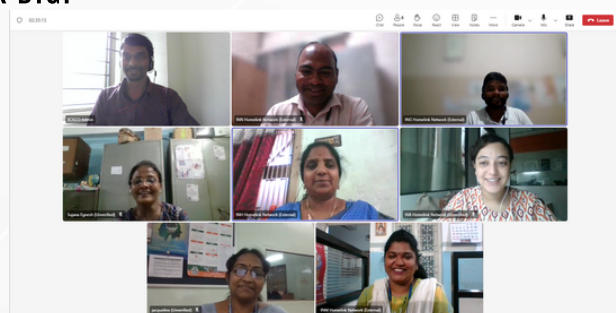
HOMELINK DIGI (Data Intelligence for Global Interface)

The Homelink DIGI continues to evolve strengthening our efforts to protect children and young adults. The Development is the integration of the People Protection App (PPa) with Facial recognition API. It will be enhancing child protection measures and playing a key role in reuniting missing children with their families. This will also help in improving database accuracy by eliminating duplicates and providing exact data visualization and reporting. A significant correction has been made to Child MISS (Child Management Information System & Services) data and migrated to Homelink DIGI database for data storage, documentation and analysis. To validate the platform, the Homelink Team conducted over 180 demo data entry tests. Users Acceptance Testing (UAT) was also carried out to ensure a refined and effective tool for Homelink Network. The DIGI comes with centre-specific customization to mitigate organization requirements.



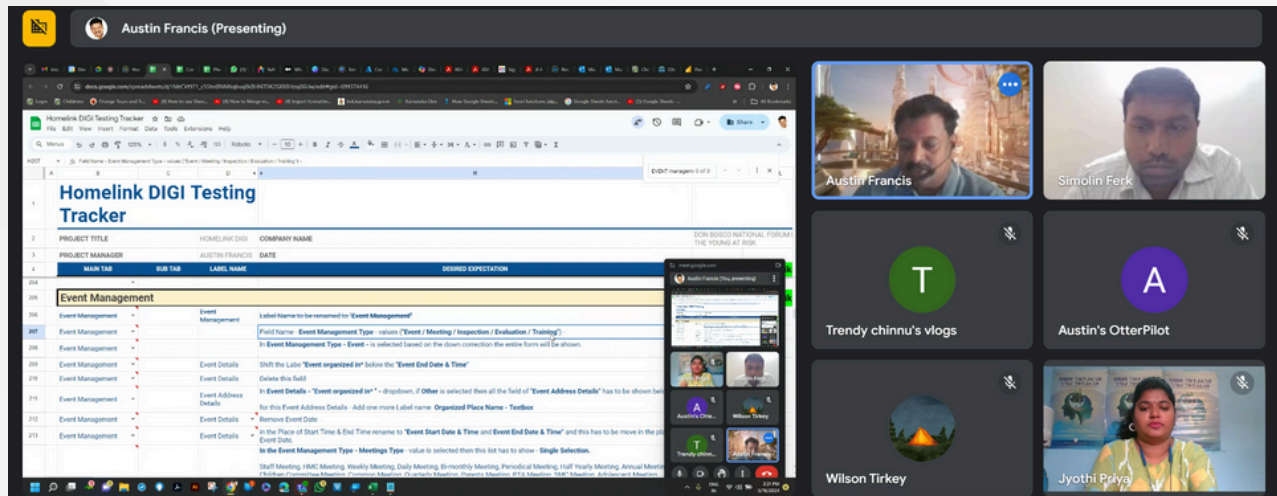
DEPLOYMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELINK DIGI

The Homelink DIGI is deployed across nodes, enabling module-wise data entry in key sectors. DB YaR Forum has customized it for efficient data management and service improvement. Regular follow-ups and technical support are being provided to ensure effective usage and timely data updates at the ground level.



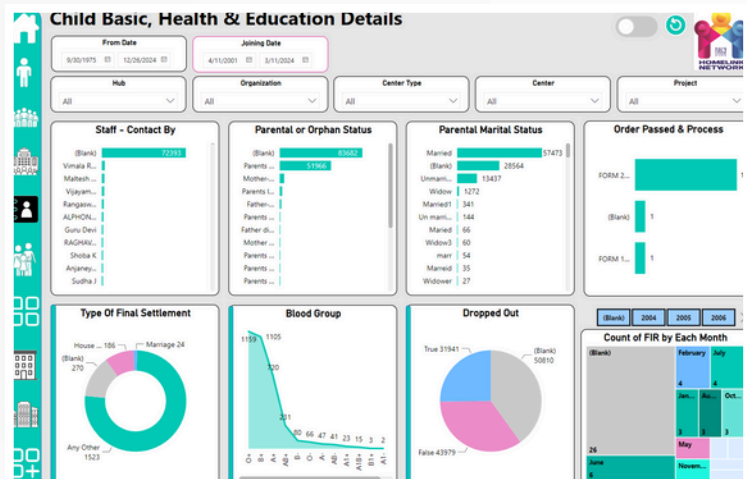
DATA MIGRATIONS, CORRECTIONS AND PHOTO RESIZING

The data migration from Child MISS to Homelink DIGI is completed. Data corrections and photo resizing were done to ensure a smooth transition, optimize performance and enhance user experience for long-term benefits.



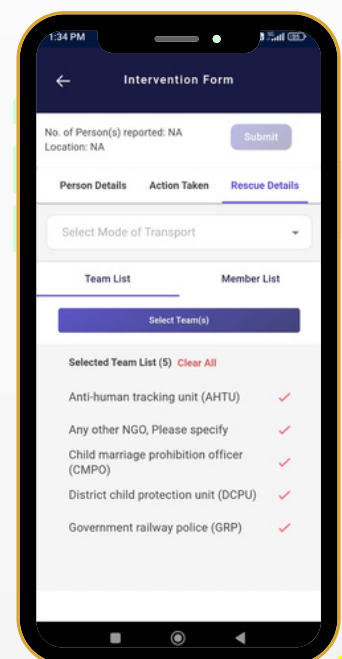
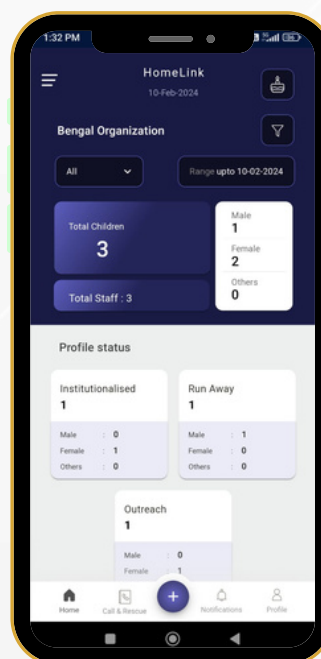
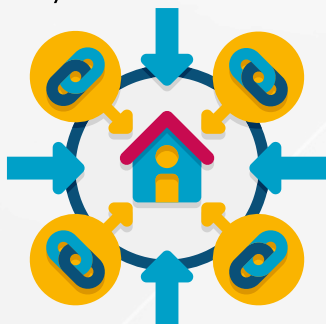
POWER BI REPORTS

The DIGI features 350 Power BI templates that visually present data through charts and graphs, providing insights for strategic planning and effective service execution.



HOMELINK MOBILE APP

The mobile application comes with a data entry feature and assists in monitoring and live reporting, making it easily accessible and instantly available for data accountability.

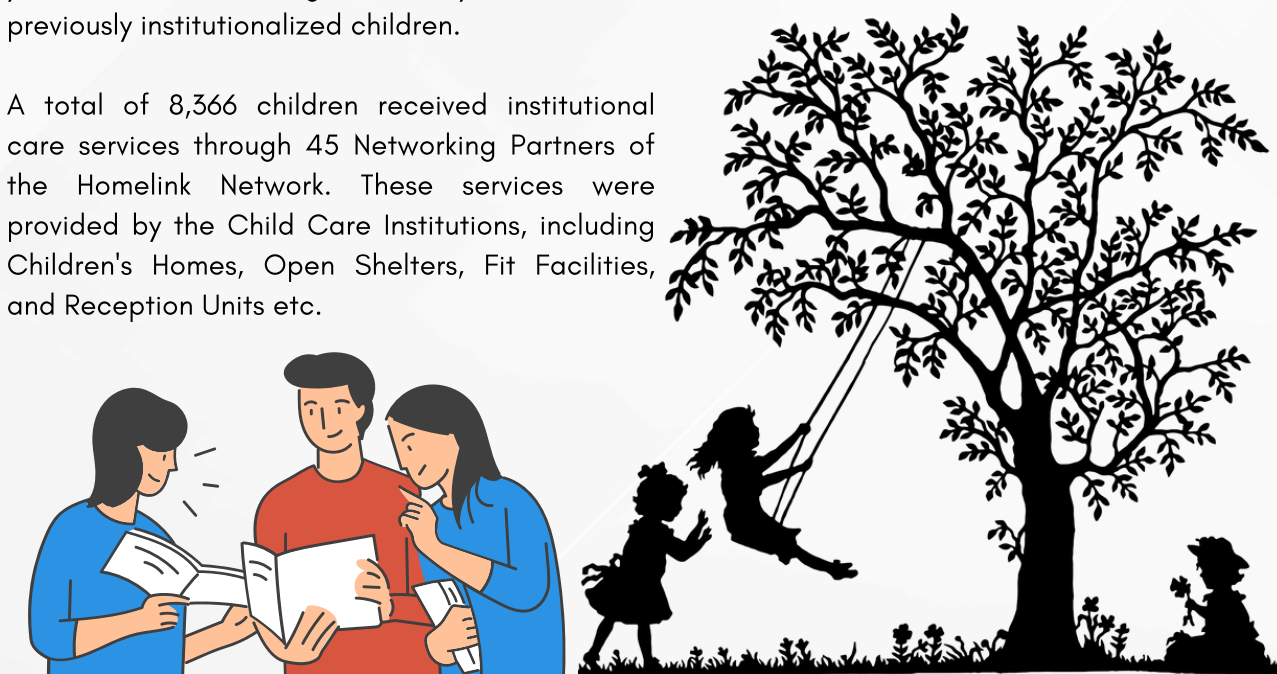


NATIONAL STATISTICS

INSTITUTION-BASED CARE			
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	-	229
Total	6,160	2,206	8,366

The data reflects the number of children who received institutional care during the financial year 2024-25, including both newly admitted and previously institutionalized children.

A total of 8,366 children received institutional care services through 45 Networking Partners of the Homelink Network. These services were provided by the Child Care Institutions, including Children's Homes, Open Shelters, Fit Facilities, and Reception Units etc.



Note: These data have been collected manually as the Child MISS web portal was discontinued, and the newly developed Homelink DIGI portal was still under development and maintenance. The development of DIGI was delayed due to challenges in data migration and other technical issues. The data was gathered from the Nodes through emails and telephone calls and verified by the Hub Coordinators. These data will soon be reflected in the Homelink DIGI.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

CHILDREN IN OUTREACH-BASED CARE (SERVICE CENTRES)

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
Total	35,045	46,244	81,289



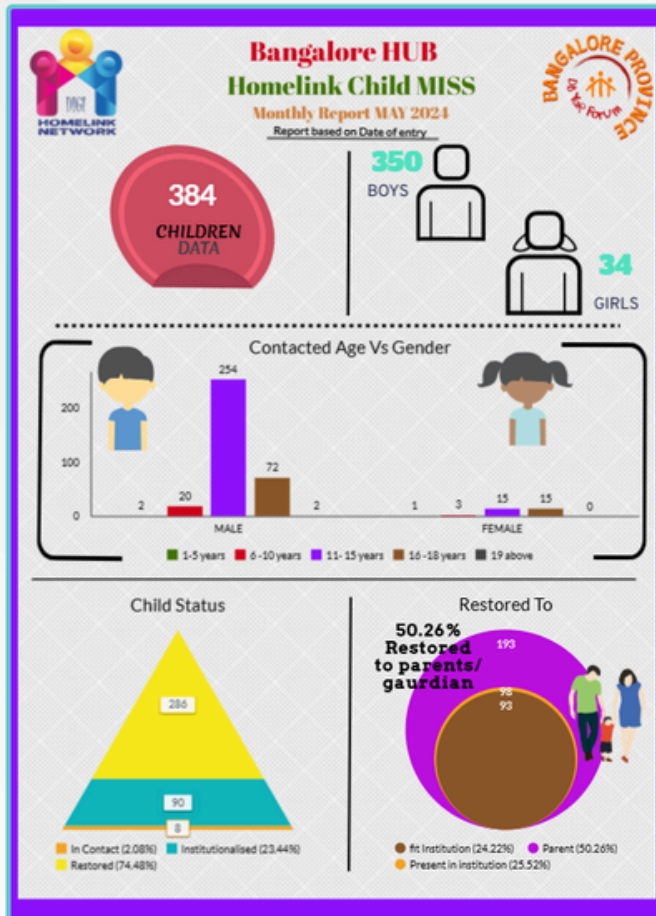
A total of 81,289 beneficiaries received support through outreach and community-based services during the financial year 2024-25. These services included tuition support, vocational training, non-formal education, and other developmental interventions.



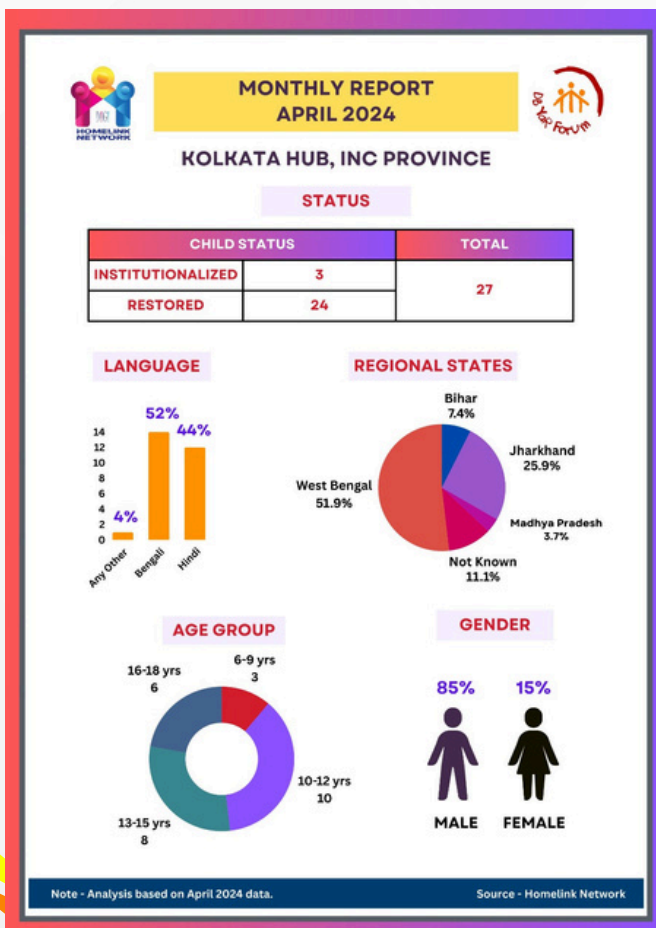
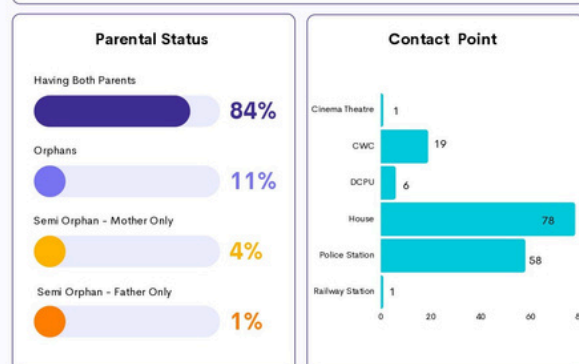
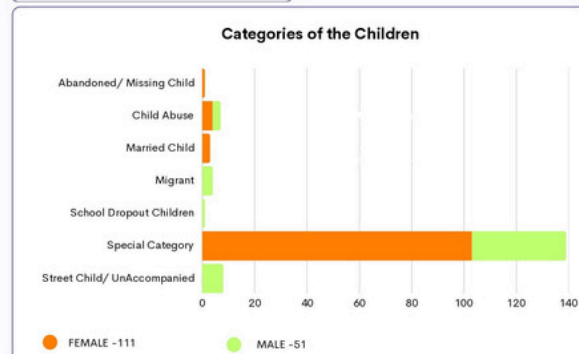
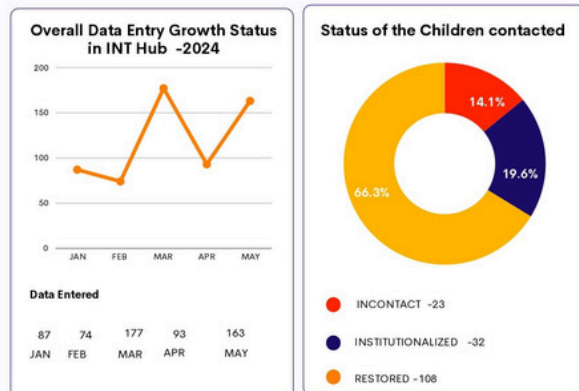
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INFOGRAPHICS

Infographics have become a key tool for data visualization, effectively communicating reports to beneficiaries, project teams, and stakeholders. The Homelink team prepared monthly or quarterly - infographics; after training even the organizations created their own. This practice enhances reporting supports decision-making, and strengthens engagement with beneficiaries, donors, and partners. A total of 33 infographics were prepared.

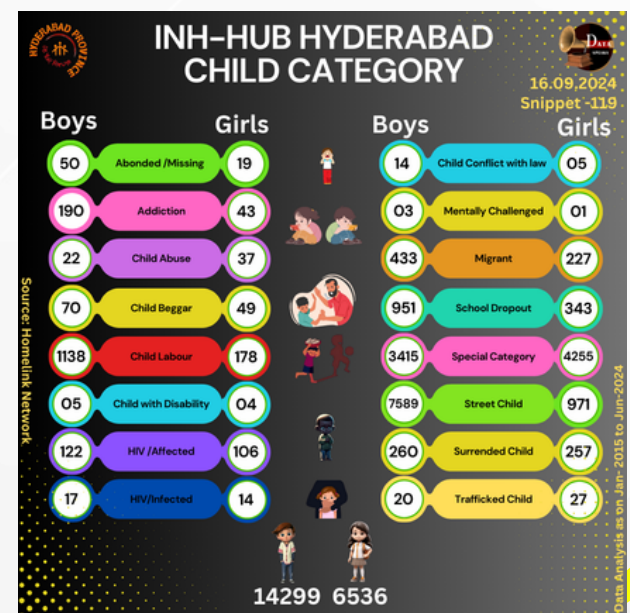
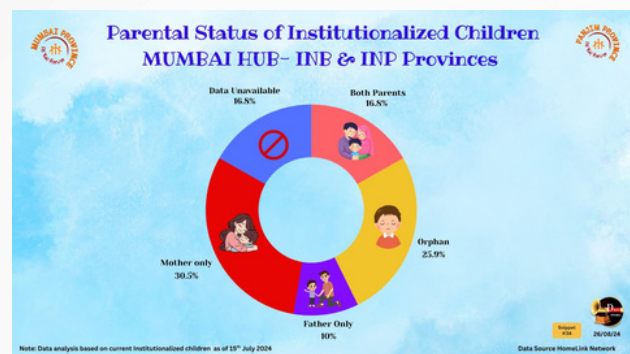
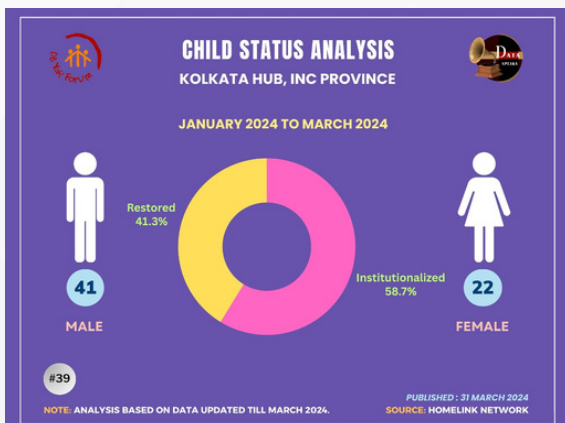
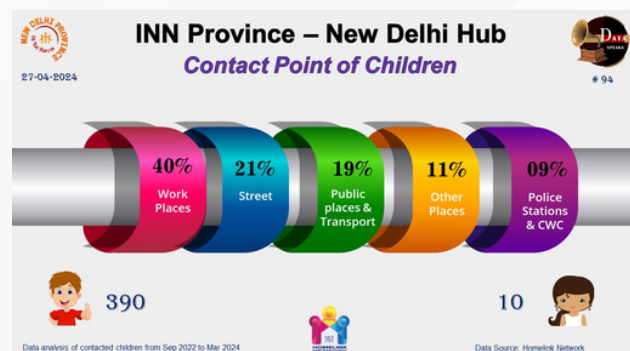
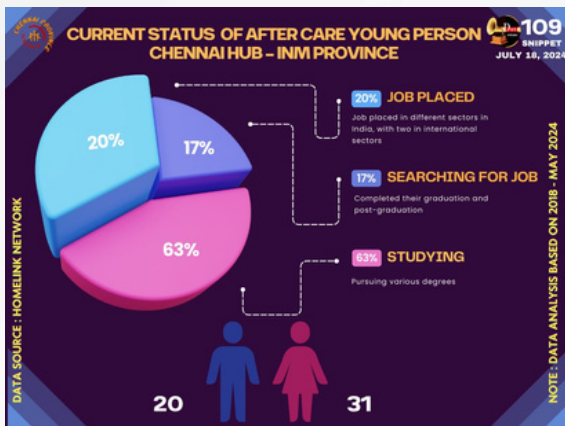
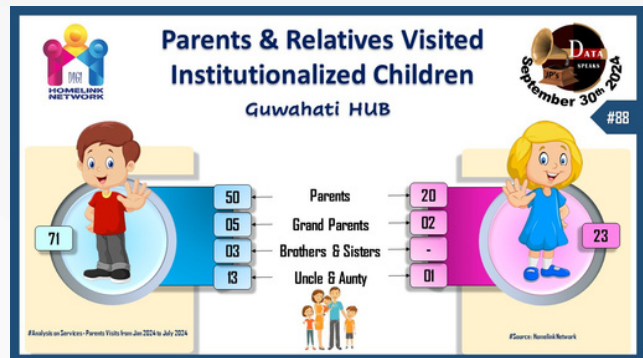
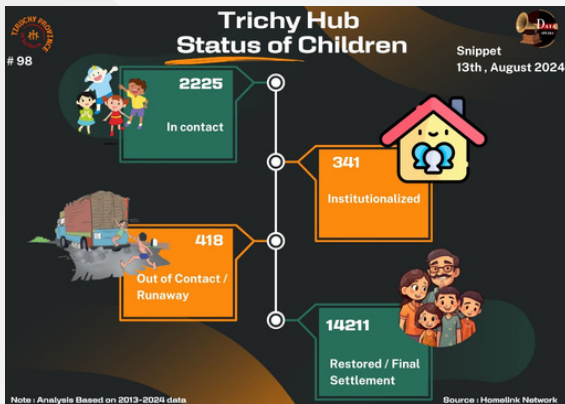


Trichy Province, Coimbatore Hub Analysis Report for the Month of May 2024



SNIPPETS

"Data Speaks," an initiative by Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk and Homelink Network, promotes a data-driven culture. A total of 144 snippets, (104 image-based, 40 video-based) were prepared to facilitate thought-provoking discussions and improve data visualization.



ANIMATIONS ON YAR CAMPAIGN 'FAMILY IS WHERE I BELONG'

The YaR Campaign, "FAMILY is where I BELONG," was a key initiative promoting the well-being of children and young adults. The YaR Centers are actively engaged with the children through various campaign activities. These efforts empowered families to foster healthy relationships and a friendly environment for the children in the family.

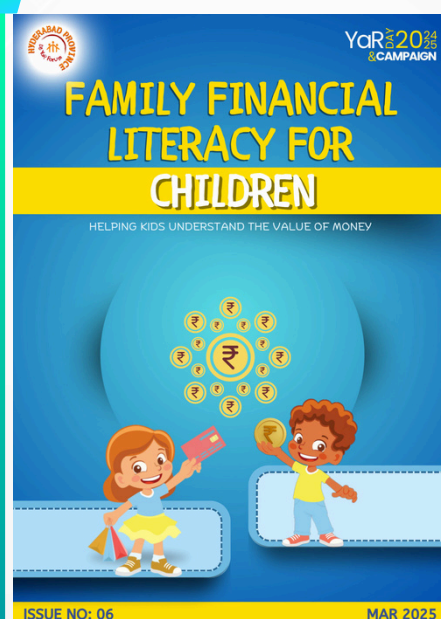
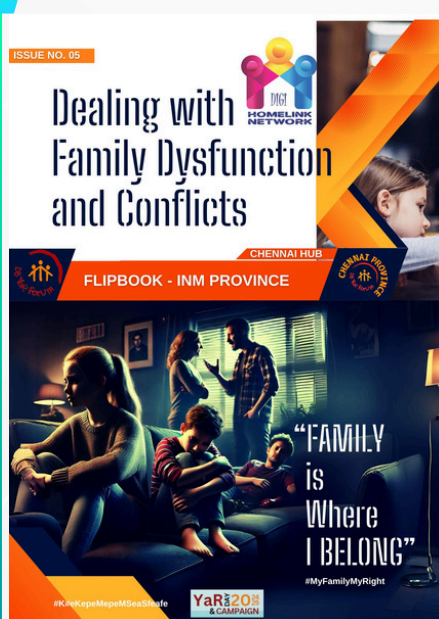
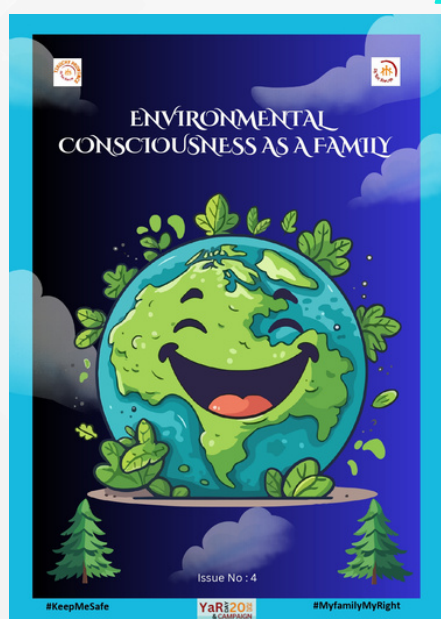
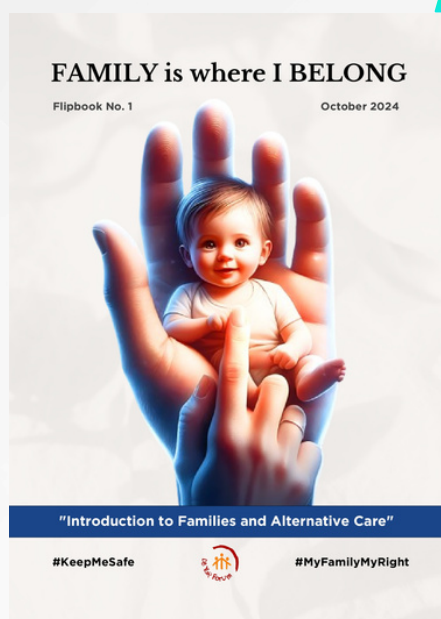


PUBLICATIONS ON YAR CAMPAIGN 'FAMILY IS WHERE I BELONG'

FLIPBOOKS

Flipbooks were introduced to provide quick, engaging content with minimal text and more visuals, making them user-friendly. They offer essential information on various topics. These interactive flipbooks help to learn and disseminate knowledge. It promotes the well-being of children, families and caregivers, nurturing the growth of children in a safe family environment.

As part of the "FAMILY is where I BELONG" campaign, some flipbooks have already been released, while others will be available in the coming months. Each flipbook is introduced effectively, offering valuable insights to strengthen family relationships and foster a nurturing environment for children.



HOMELINK BOOKLET

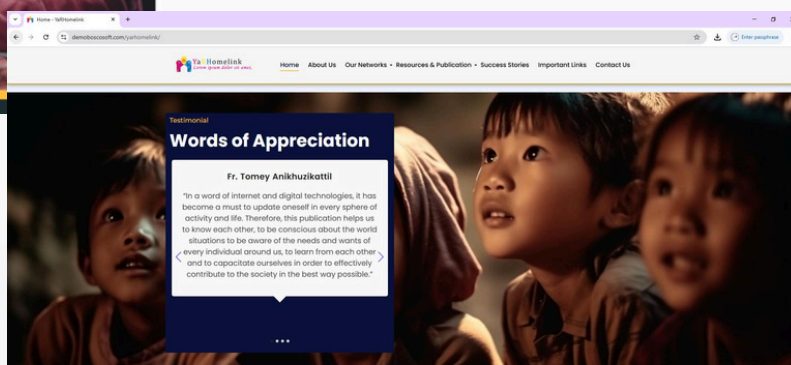
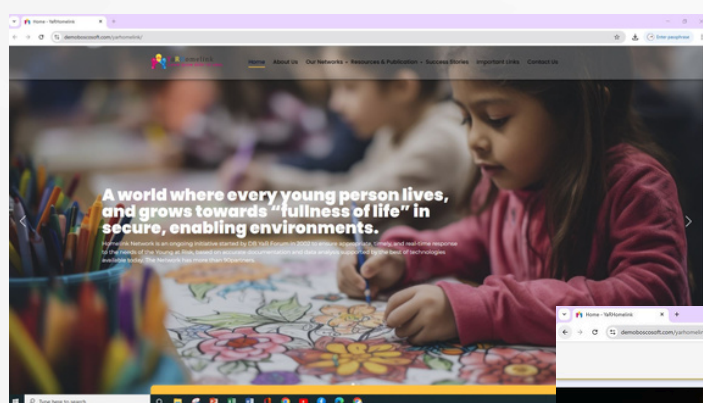
The Homelink Booklet serves as more than just promotional material. It provides a comprehensive overview of the Homelink Network's history, development and key features of the Homelink DIGI Tool. This document emphasizes the network's growth, technological advancements and collaborative efforts to foster a data-driven culture.

Designed to engage with NGOs and like-minded organizations to foster partnerships to expand the network's reach for greater impact through data-driven decision-making practices. This collaboration aims to enhance efforts in reducing cases of missing children and ensuring their safe reunification with families, and further advocate on child rights issues.



HOMELINK WEBSITE

The YaR Homelink website (homelink.in) has been developed to serve as the central platform for Homelink DIGI. Through this website, users can securely log in and access various services of Homelink DIGI. This initiative enhances accessibility and streamlines digital operations within the network.



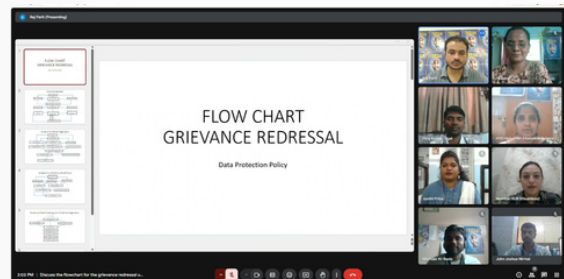
LONG-TERM PLAN FOR HOMELINK

The DB YaR Forum has developed a long-term strategic plan for the Homelink Network to ensure Homelink DIGI's sustainability, spanning to two phases of over six years. The plan aims to revolutionize digital - documentation for the nonprofit. It empowers partner organizations with a technology-driven framework for efficient data management and decision-making. The integration of Homelink DIGI into grassroots initiatives will function as a bridge to fill the digital gap while aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This initiative fosters a child-friendly, resource-accessible environment and enables technology for social impact.



DEVELOPMENT OF DATA PROTECTION POLICY

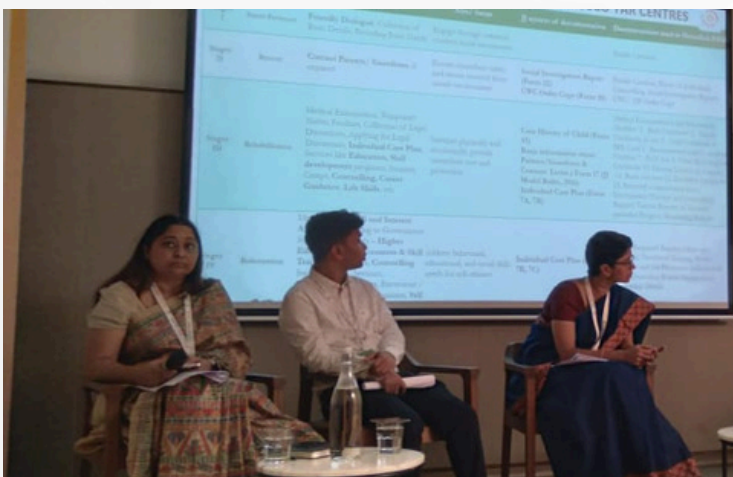
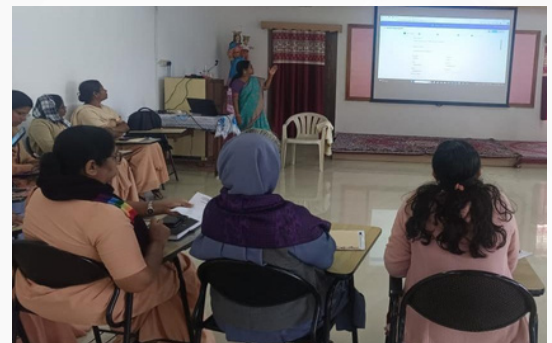
The Data Protection Policy was drafted and presented at the Annual Governing Members (AGM) Meeting and receiving strong support for responsible data management. A dedicated working committee was formed. The Committee proposed to include an expert to refine and strengthen the policy. DB YaR is committed to establish a framework that maintains - ethical data handling and safeguard norms. It will guide secure data management by ensuring the safety and dignity of data principals while underlining a trustworthy system.



VISIT BY HUB COORDINATORS AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR: TRAINING, PLANNING AND MONITORING

Hub Coordinators conducted 113 visits to nodes, training data managers and staff on Homelink DIGI, updates and reporting. These included capacity-building on documentation, use of media and digital tools and other issues. Additional visits addressed staff training, improving data quality, quantity, analysis and visualization, ensuring a smoother and more effective implementation.

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 management, strengthening the network and facilitating the teamwork.



TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

HOMELINK NATIONAL TRAINING

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 Suitable 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.



TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

HUB HOMELINK DIGI TRAINING AT HUB LEVEL

The Homelink National Team conducted training sessions across eight regions to enhance the adoption of the Homelink DIGI. These sessions provided hands-on demonstrations of the web tool, mobile app and Power BI reports, showcasing their role in improving workflows. Discussions also covered the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The act brings protection against misusers of digital data and preventions. This becomes an important aspect of data collection and reporting thus applying minimum data collection practices and key features were discussed. Recognizing the need for a data protection policy for YaR Forum, so inputs were gathered from centres to draft the policy.

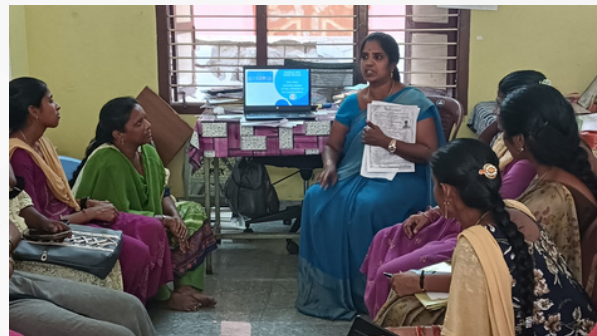
A total of eight training sessions were held nationwide, benefiting 73 organizations and 277 participants. Government officials and child welfare collaborators also attended gaining first-hand insight into the DIGI tool's impact.



TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

NODE HOMELINK TRAINING FOR DATA ENTRY MANAGERS

Hub Coordinators conducted 94 hands-on training sessions for the nodes. These trainings were focused on data entry and Homelink DIGI utilization. Participants found the tool interactive and beneficial. However, some features required further customization to meet diverse organizational needs. Overall, the training enhanced operational efficiency and adoption of the Homelink DIGI.



ORIENTATION FOR SALESIANS AND LAITY JOINING YAR FORUM

In July 2024, a three-day orientation for 45 Salesians and staff members were inducted to facilitate YaR works and services to serve the needy children and vulnerable communities. The session introduced Homelink DIGI, highlighting its role in streamlining documentation. A demonstration was conducted to showcase how DIGI enhances data management and enables real-time reporting.



TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

ORIENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON AI TO CHILDREN

To empower underprivileged children, especially in villages and small cities with limited internet access, the network initiated AI awareness and capacity-building sessions. These sessions introduced emerging technologies and their impact and digital advancements, helping children adapt to the evolving digital landscape. These orientations were designed interactive, emphasising sharing ideas, understanding children's expectations and experiences with digital platforms and AI, and discussing the pros and cons of AI and social media use from the children's perspective. The Hub Coordinators were trained to discuss these with children on these topics in advance and with a collaborative effort to gather insights and make it participatory while focusing on the development of digital literacy. A total of 17 orientations were conducted, and 1179 individuals aged 14 and above benefited.



TRAININGS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS/ NGOS ON HOMELINK DIGI

To strengthen the network and spread the reach for creating a large network, not limited to only the Institutions, the DB YaR Forum initiated the gathering of the civil society and like-minded organizations working for children to protect their rights. The Hub Coordinators conducted seven training sessions for 256 civil society members. These sessions focused on child rights, recent developments and Homelink DIGI fostering partnerships. This training united civil society members to create a collaborative network through the Homelink Network to protect children's rights.



NODE-LEVEL TRAINING BY HUB COORDINATOR

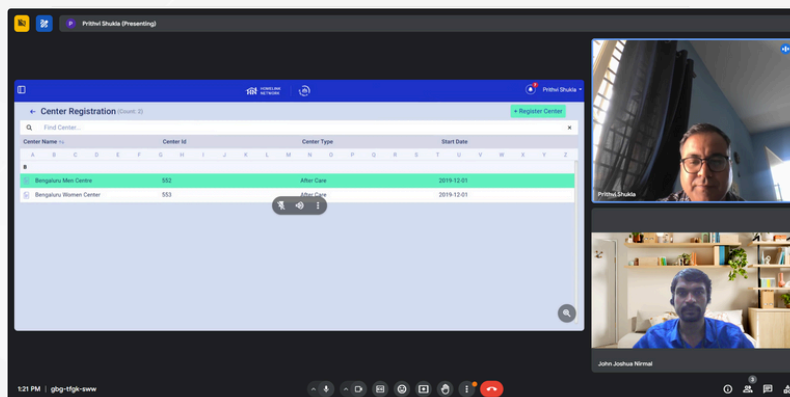
The Hub Coordinator worked closely with nodes and centers to demonstrate and improve the use of Homelink DIGI. A total of 68 training sessions were held, providing 269 staff members with essential skills. Additionally, support was offered for daily documentation and social audits.



VIRTUAL TRAININGS & MEETINGS

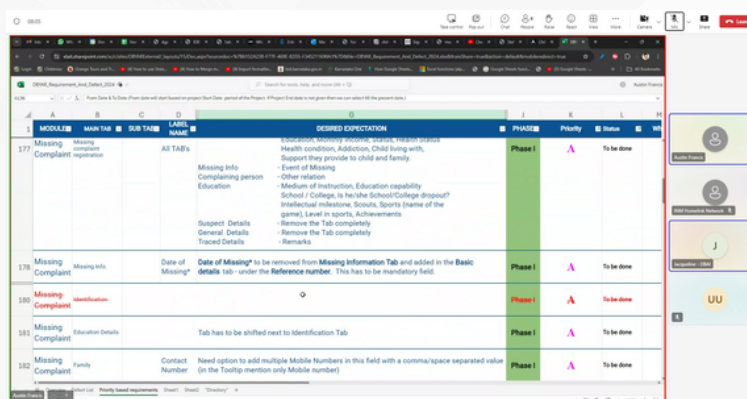
ONLINE TRAINING OF HUB COORDINATORS ON HLK DIGI PROCEDURES

Mr. Austin and the development team conducted several virtual sessions to train Hub Coordinators on Homelink DIGI, enhancing their capacity to implement the system effectively at the grassroots level for smooth adoption and usage.



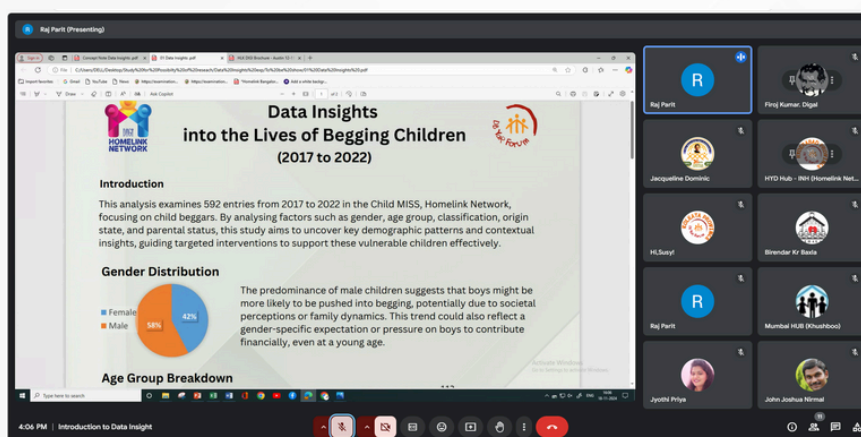
REGISTRATION & TRAINING PROCESS OF HLK DIGI AT THE NODE LEVEL

The 60 nodes were registered and deployed Homelink DIGI, including four newly joined organizations, expanding the Homelink Network. The Homelink team provided hands-on training and support to ensure smooth onboarding and effective system implementation at the grassroots level.



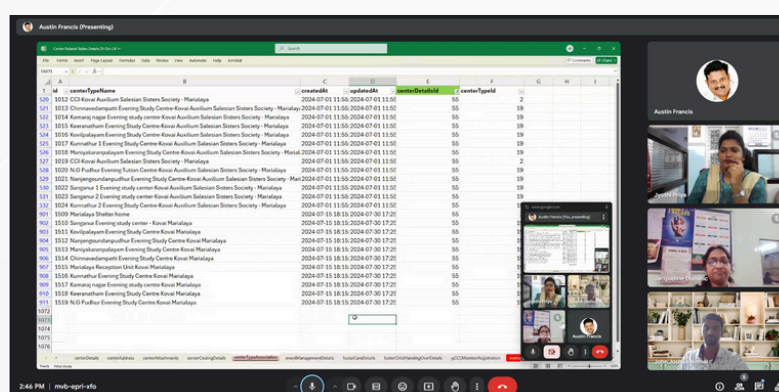
TRAINING ON DATA INSIGHTS

Mr. Raj Parit conducted a Data Insights training, simplifying complex data into stories for better decisions. Using a one-page format with 4-6 charts ensure accessibility for planning and interventions.



GAP ANALYSIS OF HOMELINK DIGI DEVELOPMENT

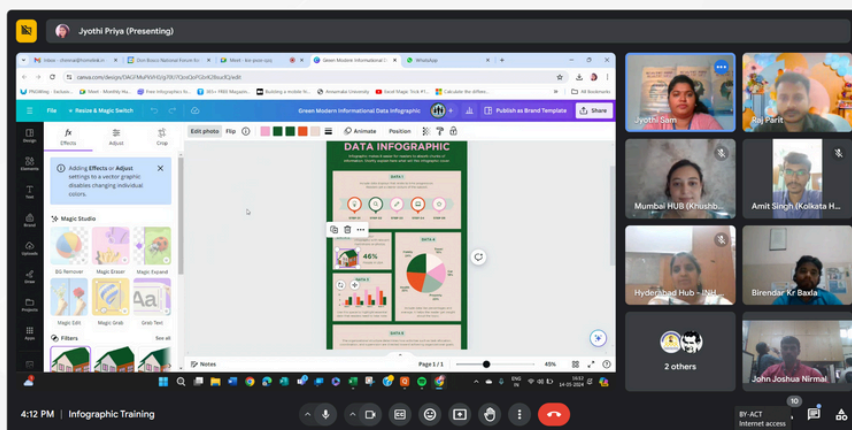
Hub Coordinators tested modules and fields, provided feedback, and refined key service indicators, ensuring Homelink DIGI met field-level needs through gap analysis and restructuring.



VIRTUAL TRAININGS & MEETINGS

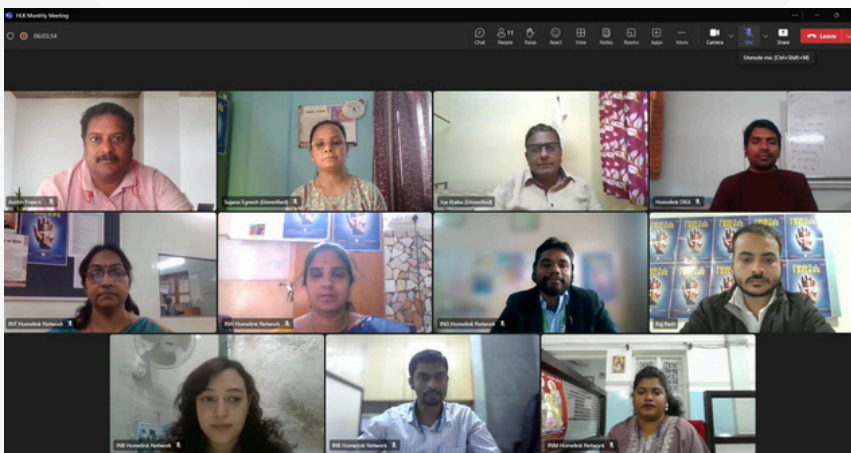
TRAINING ON INFOGRAPHICS

Ms. Jyothi conducted a Canva training on infographic design, helping Hub Coordinators create visually appealing reports while staying updated on the latest trends and features.



10 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Homelink Network held 10 virtual meetings during the year to review activities, plan next steps, and solve challenges together. These meetings helped hub coordinators work as a team and stay focused on shared goals.



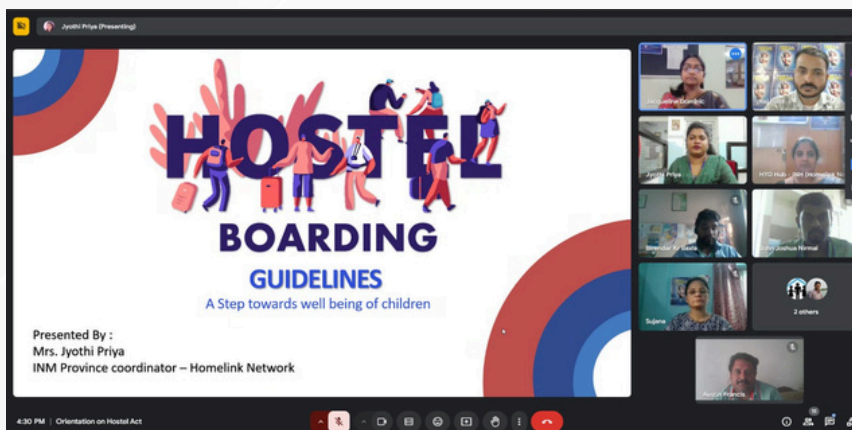
CAPACITY BUILDING ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Ms. Jaqueline and Ms. Khushboo led a virtual session on Child Safeguarding, highlighting policy differences, their impact, and the importance of equity and quality in child protection efforts.



ORIENTATION ON HOSTEL ACT

Ms. Jyothi conducted training on the Hostel Act, covering registration, documentation, compliance requirements, and the necessary infrastructure for establishment of a hostel.



VIRTUAL TRAININGS & MEETINGS

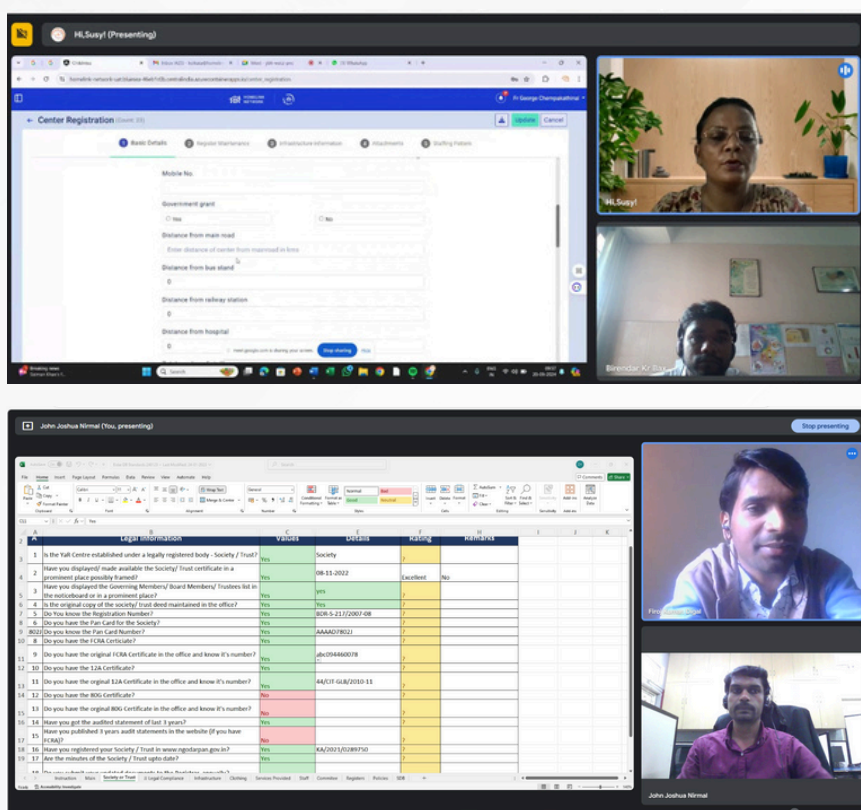
CHILD PARILIMENT

Ms. Jaqueline shared her experiences on the formation and functionality of Child Parliament. She discussed how to approach children and convince parents to allow their kids to participate in the Child Parliament. She also highlighted the achievements of the Child Parliament, providing examples of how children have advocated for toilets in schools and playgrounds, among other initiatives.



TRAINING FOR NEWLY JOINED HUB COORDINATORS

In the financial year 2024-25, two new Hub coordinators, Ms. Sujana Egnesh for the Kolkata Hub, and Mr. Firoj Kumar Digal for the Delhi Hub, were appointed. To equip them for their roles, the national team and existing Hub Coordinators conducted comprehensive training covering all aspects of Child MISS and related tools. This training encompassed essential skills such as utilizing infographics, Canva, and Pivot charts, crucial for effective data analysis and enhancing visibility.



ORIENTATION ON COLLABORATIVE DOCUMENTATION USING HOMELINK DIGI

Ms. Jyothi conducted an orientation for the Homelink Team to facilitate the initiative to engage like-minded organizations for the documentation using the Homelink DIGI. She also highlighted the importance of showcasing the tool's benefits to gain trust and interest from partner organizations.



YAR AWARDS 2024



2024
YaR WARDS

***Homelink Service of Excellence
Best Hub Coordinator Award***

Ms. D. JACQUELINE
Coordinator, Coimbatore Hub



2024
YaR WARDS

***Homelink Service of Excellence
Best Node Award***

MARIALAYA, CHENNAI



2024
YaR WARDS

Homelink Phoenix Award

**RAGPICKERS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME (REDS), BANGALORE**

HOMELINK NETWORK

Homelink Network is an on going initiative started by DB YaR Forum in 2002, to ensure appropriate, timely and real-time response to the needs of the young at risk, based on accurate documentation and data analysis supported by the best of technologies available today.

WE WORK TOWARDS

- a. Developing data driven childcare system through documentation, research, and networking
- b. Systematically documenting the systems, processes, and workflow of the organizations
- c. Data led intervention planning in organizations
- d. Data driven advocacy and engagement with stakeholders and government on children's issues
- e. Harnessing current advances in digital technologies in the service of the work with young at risk

Thank You !



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.

CREDITS

Concept & Text: Mr. Raj Parit


Layout & Design: Mr. Raj Parit





Don Bosco National Forum For the Young at Risk


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

Don Bosco House SPCI, C-991, Sector 7 Dwarka, New Delhi 110077

 www.dbyarfourm.org

 info@dbyarforum.org

 www.homelink.in

 director@homelink.in