

Don Bosco Technical School

In the middle of nowhere, Don Bosco Liluah, in 1937, must have daunted many an enterprising heart but not the first pioneers. Soon after the acquisition of land, Br. Toppo was in search of a suitable shelter to house the workshop. As divine providence would have it, a steel structure, adequate to the needs, was found, piece-by-piece dismantled and brought to Liluah to form the main structure.

The workshop commenced only on 17 April 1939 with thirteen boys being trained in electro-mechanics under the guidance of the first Rector of the school, Fr. Attilio Colussi SDB and Br. Peter Capretti and Br. Joseph Priolo. With the arrival of Fr. Buri on the scene, Don Bosco received its first lathes from USA. The school was functioning well and was in the process of being recognized by the government as a Higher Grade School. Unfortunately with the war clouds of World War II looming large, all activities came to a standstill. The boys were disbanded and the Salesians were herded into concentration camps. Only after four years was the school handed back to the Salesians.

In 1947, the wheel of progress was oiled once more. The progress which seemed an impossibility was brought about by one man - Br. Sylvano Rettore. The number of students was increasing steadily and it was decided to extend the school building. The first stone of the extension of the school building was laid by Fr. Lawrence Buri, Rector on 15 December 1948. Over the next four years, several new machines including two shaping machines, a drill, a grinding and surfacing machine, a boring machine and two milling machines were purchased. The school was progressing capacity wise and one of its first achievements was the making of a cutter-grinder machine and a tile polishing machine by the students themselves.



Archbishop F. Perier blessing the new machines

Br. Sylvano Rettore



Br. James Mampilly teaching the boys



Technical Exhibition in 1967

A batch of 13 students appeared for the City and Guilds Intermediate Exam for the first time in 1959. One student passed in first division and the others in the second division. The boys also appeared for the first time for the Senior Cambridge exam. Nineteen of them passed in the first division, fourteen in the second division and three in the third division.

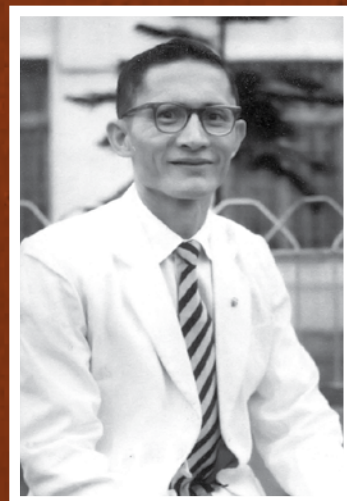
There was a tremendous upsurge between 1956 and 1964. This was a period of growth for the technical department and of re-orientation of the high school. In 1962, there was a proposal to turn the technical school into a Junior Technical Institute. Though the negotiations were later dropped, the school continued to grow. Br. James Mampilly then came in to take charge of the technical section. Sufficient machines (namely lathes, a planer, a shaper, a universal milling machine, a horizontal milling machine, etc.) were bought for the students studying in the four courses. The manufacturing process of these machines enhanced the self-confidence of the boys, thus preparing them to face the world of work.



Fr. M. M. Joy supervising at the workshop

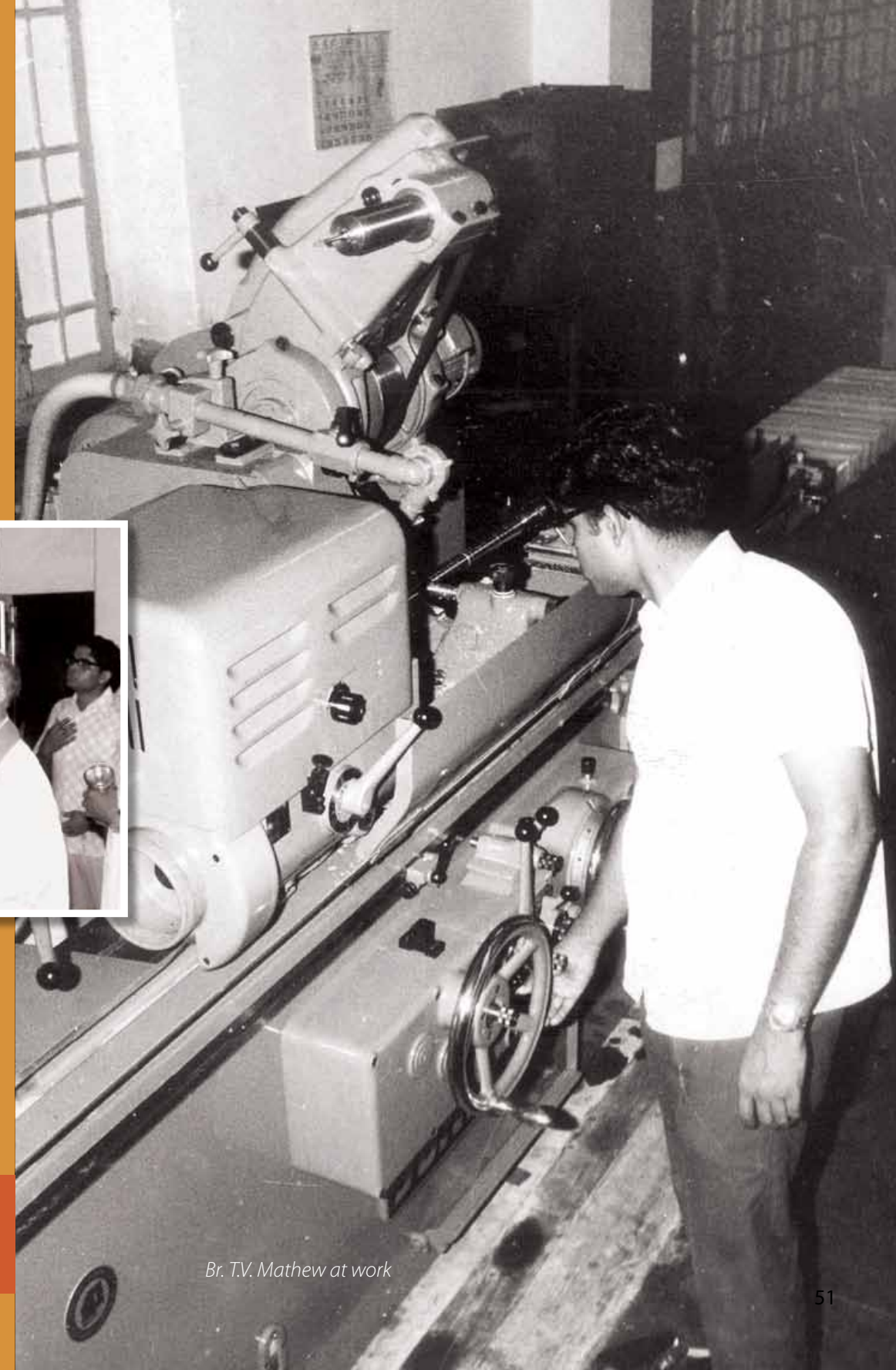
A new phase opened with the arrival of Br. T. V. Mathew who served the institution for twenty three years. Br. Ambrose Nellikal was always beside Br. Mathew, giving him a helping hand, whenever necessary. Some of the older machines were given away to help build technical departments in Krishnagar and Delhi. Eleven indigenous precision lathes were procured from HMT and Kirloskar. In addition, a Shaper machine and a Zayer milling machine were added to the stock of machines.

The technical school has always employed modern and scientific methods of teaching for a more effective learning. The students have participated in several exhibitions and have made several industrial visits over the years. In relation to a Catholic exhibition at St. Xavier's College in 1954, The Herald dated 11 January 1954 published, "...All exhibits on the ground floor and on the first floor, however, paled before the brilliant display of Don Bosco Technical Institute of Lilloah. Show-window effects, bench-work, milling machines and a lathe made by the boys of the school, publications of Don Bosco Press... all these, with helpful guide-work, created a lasting impression on all visitors, building a spirit of hope for the economic future of the youth of the Catholic community for which the Salesians are providing a splendid and necessary service..."



Br. Charles Sein Wein





A three day Arts and Crafts exhibition was conducted by the technical school in 1967. A two-day exhibition of handiworks was also organized in 1969. The technical section started an electronic section in the early 1970s by converting one of the dormitories. Br. Charles Sein Wein was the incharge. When Don Bosco Park Circus built a separate building for the technical section our electronic section was shifted there. Don Bosco Technical School, along with the Self Employment Centre, also participated in a 'Buyers and Sellers' meet organized by the Indian Industrial Materials Management (IIMM) at the Ice Skating Rink in 1987 and won the award for the Best Stall.

For me, my time at Don Bosco Liluah has been the most important phase of my 50 years of life. Right from schooling years till date, it has given me immense knowledge and satisfaction in shaping my life.
Prasand Agarwal, Director, Workwell Engineering (I) Pvt. Ltd.

Br. T.V. Mathew at work



DB TECHNICAL

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The technical school has grown by leaps and bounds adding new capacity to its fold each year. One of its major achievements has been the setting up of a Heat Treatment Plant within the school premises in 2006. However, a year later, a fire broke out in this plant causing immense damage. Luckily everyone escaped uninjured. Till about a decade ago, the technical workshop only had the conventional machines. The horizontal boring, the copy milling machine and two other milling machines were upgraded to become numerically controlled. Today the institution can boast of having four computer numerically controlled machines in its fold- two CNC Machining Centres and two CNC Turning Centres.

In addition to these new machines, the technical section has also expanded in terms of the floor space of the workshop as well as the classrooms. Today, the technical workshop on the ground floor occupies also what was earlier the Assembly Hall of the school, while the Technical classrooms, the technical drawing hall and the technical computer labs on the first floor occupy what was earlier the three dormitories of over two hundred odd boarders. Besides the above, in terms of infrastructure, the following have been added to create an excellent working atmosphere and campus environment: CNC lab with fifteen workstations, digital language lab and a well furnished library.



Don Bosco Technical School has enriched the wealth of my knowledge and given me a goal to move forward. It sets the aim for the youth and helps them to become better people.
James Salvadore, 3rd year Machinist



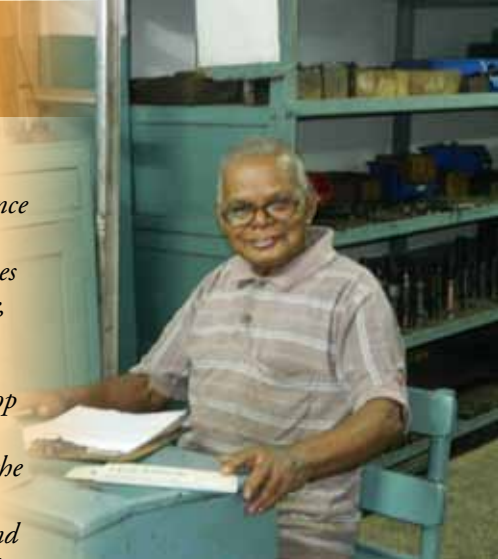


Mr. Aloysius Kujur Support Staff

Mr. Aloysius Kujur, commonly known as DADU, has been a familiar face in DBL since 1955. He was employed as a non-teaching staff, assisting in the refectory and dormitories of the boarding students who would number, in those days, in excess of 250.

He was later shifted to the technical workshop and taught to operate machines. When the need arose, he was made the store keeper of the workshop and has remained in that post till date. Over the years he has become a part and parcel of the workshop, being the first to arrive early in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. He became so indispensable that he was asked to continue his service in the workshop even after he had officially retired 15 years ago.

He is one of the oldest parishioners of St. John Bosco Parish and has been an active member. Though short in stature, he commands great respect from all those who know him, be it the students, teachers, Salesians or his fellow parishioners. DBL is indebted to him for his service and dedication.



The students during the industrial visit to Vizag accompanied by Fr. Tomy Joseph and Mr. Dominic Lee.



The technical school has added yet another feather to its cap, by joining hands with SIEMENS in imparting CNC Programming and Operation. The technology has been recently upgraded with the SINUMERIK 808D controls for Milling and Turning. Kudos to Fr. Jose Podimattam and Fr. Tomy Puthumayil in making most of the above a reality.

Siemens - Don Bosco Liluah is one of the long standing partnerships for CNC operating and programming in eastern part of India. The institute provides hands on experience for various machining operations. Don Bosco also provides vocational education to the students in line with the German method of 'study and practice' which is very much needed for India.
Siemens Ltd.



Being a part of Don Bosco Liluah as a Salesian, imparting training and helping the young to choose a proper trade, thus enabling them to earn a living has been much satisfying.

Fr. Tomy Joseph SDB, Principal, Technical School

Over the years, Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah has offered its young students not only professional qualification but also an integral human education, based on Christian principles of justice and charity.



My association with Don Bosco and his Salesians began from my infancy and continues till this very day. Having attended the oratory at the then COP, at the Catholic Cathedral, done my schooling (including boarding) at DBL, and having served as a teacher for the last 34 years, what I am today, is because of this long association and upbringing..

Mr. Dominic Robert Lee, Teacher



Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah gave me the foundation in technical knowledge with a combination of theory as well as practical skills from which I built a successful career in nuclear, space, defence and commercial aerospace industrials.

Robin Tham, Quickstep Technologies, New South Wales



Over the years, Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah has offered its young students not only professional qualification but also an integral human education, based on Christian principles of justice and charity. The futuristic concept and design, the state-of-the-art facilities and the dedicated faculty synergize to make Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah a symbol of commitment and quality.



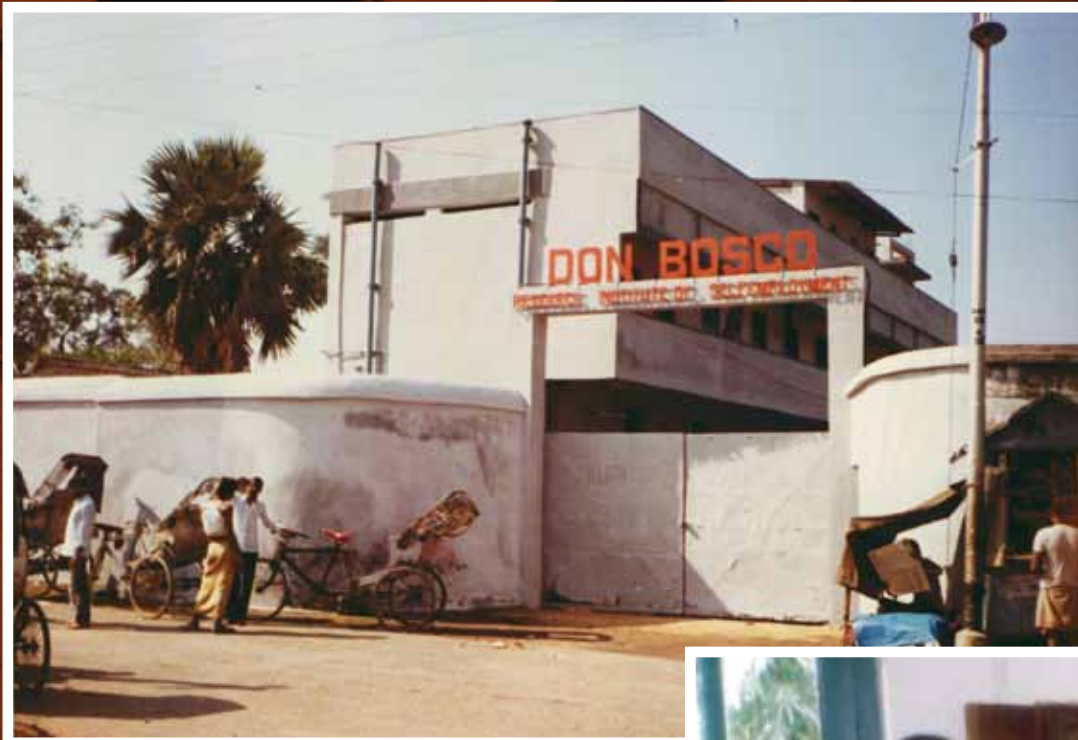
I am very grateful to Don Bosco for what I am today. Don Bosco has an excellent education system, both in academics and technical streams, which gives the students a bright future.
Joy Joseph, Support Staff



DB SERI

At the service of the less privileged youth

The Salesians have always had one mission – to serve the youth of the society. So in 1977, when the Salesians in Liluah saw the plight of school dropouts in the area, they knew instinctively that they had to come up with an answer. Ostracized from the rigid education and training system, these school dropouts had a bleak future ahead for want of learning. To assure a brighter future for these not so privileged youth, a non-formal training programme in trade was begun in 1977, under the guidance of Br. T. V. Mathew. What began with just 6 young men in two rented buildings across the road was in 1988, shifted to a four-acre land at Mirpara, Bhattanagar, Howrah and now stands as the Don Bosco Self Employment Research Institute (DBSERI) imparting training to 350 boys and girls in 15 income generating trades.



The project for imparting non-formal training leading to self employment was started in 1977 with support from Misereor, Germany and the Indian Overseas Bank. Trainees multiplied and the project became a huge success, so much so, that even Archbishop Henry D'Souza, on his first visit to Liluah as the Archbishop of Calcutta, showed interest in sending as many boys as he could, for this programme. In 1986, the project was brought under a scheme from the Centre for Integrated Development and a new workshop was started in a rented shed. Soon, a mini industrial unit was established under the programme at Boat Bagan, to be run by 7 of our new entrepreneurs. The same year, 24 of the trainees received diplomas and another 27 were selected for training under the Integrated Urban Employment Programme (IUEP).

Don Bosco Mirpara 1988





What began with just 6 young men in two rented buildings in 1988, shifted to a four-acre land at Mirpara, Bhattanagar, Howrah and now stands as DBSeri imparting training to 350 boys and girls in 15 income generating trades.

Faced with the need to build a bigger workshop, Fr. M. M. Joy and Br. T. V. Mathew set out in search of land for the purpose. Finally, the present site at Mirpara was acquired in 1988 and on 1 May 1990 the Don Bosco Self Employment Research Institute was inaugurated by Mr. Santi Ranjan Ghatak, the then Labour Minister of West Bengal .

An excerpt from a report in The Statesman dated 1 May 1990 read as follows: "With the inauguration of the Self Employment Research Institute on May Day, the Salesians of Don Bosco will be able to impart entrepreneurship training to 100 boys, mainly school dropouts, in an estimated 60 trades... The excellent track record of the Don Bosco Brothers in helping trained youth secure bank loans to set up their own units and almost 100% repayment record has earned them the goodwill of many... The high standard of their work is reflected in the securing of orders from Hindustan Motors to supply pinions for the glass pane regulators for Contessa cars..."



Br. T. V. Mathew takes practical classes

Since its inception,
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Since its inception, there has been no looking back for the self employment programme. The self employed young boys today produce and market items like automobile parts, plastic and rubber moulded items for industries, household gas stove parts, weighing machine components, pump sets for lubrication and irrigation, conveyor parts for industries, textiles and many other industrial items. They lead respectable lives in the society.