



The annual Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) Fete to support students/children who are receiving informal education was celebrated on 15th December 2019 at DSDI campus in Phulnakhara – Bhubaneswar, Odisha. There were about 300 students/children along with their teachers and families from twelve different informal education centres located in urban slums and leprosy colonies and rural villages in and around Choudwar – Cuttack – Bhubaneswar – Pipili. Families of all DSDI staff members also gathered for the celebration. Leaders and elders from different leprosy colonies, friends of Sacred Hearts ssc brothers and Sisters, and our neighbours also participated in the celebration. In all there were about 450 students/children and guests present. The purpose of the Annual Fete is to bring together students, children and teachers from informal education centres for a day of togetherness, communion and celebration with educational, cultural and talents-show put on by the students/children. The celebration began in the morning with students/children arriving at DSDI campus along with their teachers. They were served breakfast after which the students/children rehearsed their pre-prepared socio-educational skits, dance and singing on stage. Following on from this, all invited guests came together for a festive lunch. After lunch, the Annual Fete program events unfolded on stage. First to open the programme of events were Mr. Dominic Rayan – an educationist, and Fr. Ajith Kumar Antony Dass, ss.cc. –the Regional Superior. They gave their motivational talks to the students/children and to their parents. The students/children were then presented by the speakers and other invited eminent guests with certificates of achievements. In the second part of part of the Annual Fest programme, the students/children performed on stage showing their socio-educational skits, cultural singing and dance, and other entertainment talents. The standard of the performances and shows was excellent and entertaining. Our invited and distinguished guests expressed their appreciation for all the organisation that went into preparing such a wonderful day and a special word of thanks was extended to DSDI for all it does for students and children in informal education, helping them in their holistic and integral human and educational development.