



Don Bosco

## Director's Note

New Year Greetings from BREADS Bangalore! Wish all the stakeholders of BREADS a year with new spirit and enthusiasm to work together and achieve greater heights and new milestones in our journey towards building the future together.

The Government of Karnataka has mandated that every Gram Panchayath should conduct children's parliament at least once a year. The CREAM project activists have facilitated this in the 10 districts we are present. The December Slice will discuss more on it.

With best wishes,

*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB*  
Executive Director  
BREADS Bangalore



## News



### No efforts are spared for the welfare and well-being of the children

Training on Child Marriage Act was held at Thotada Ramaiah Girls High School Hosadurga taluk of Chitradurga district for the Principals of PU Colleges, Head Masters of High Schools and Hostel Wardens of Hosadurga taluk. The training was organized by Ms. Sujatha, Child Development Protection Officer, Hosadurga taluk. Ms. Veena, District Coordinator, CREAM Project and Mr. Manjunath. Social.. [more](#)



### Capacity Building for Gender Equality in Development, Peace and Security at Hospet, Bellary

All rules relevant to gender have an effect on living conditions and access to resources for women and men. This effect is known as "gender impact." Creating awareness about the concept is not just important to enhance the value base but also for social development of the country. The gender equality training for the youth has attempted at its best to impart these values to the youth at Hospet through capacity... [more](#)



### Production skill training for Self-Help Groups in Davangere

BREADS released the annual report 2017- 2018 on 02 November 2018 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Bangalore. Fr. Jose Koyickal, Vice Provincial, Bangalore province, released the report and the first copy was handed over to Fr. MK George, Rector, Don Bosco Provincial House, Bangalore. During the past one year BREADS concentrated on strengthening the community for self-sufficiency through grass... [more](#)



### Awareness is the crust of every action

CHITHRA Don Bosco conducted a legal awareness programme at Vikala Chethana Vidhya Samaste, Matadahatti in Chitradurga on 29th December 2018. The training was organized under the project "Capacity Building for Gender Equality in Development, Peace and Security". The guests who graced the occasion were Ms. Dilshad, Penal Advocate, District Legal Services, Chitradurga... [more](#)

## Events

### December 2018

- Conducted Special *Gram Sabhas* exclusively for children in all CREAM projects
- Organized workshops on Child Protection Policy and Systems for Don Bosco institutions at Vaduthala and Bangalore
- Conducted Christmas celebrations in all Don Bosco Projects and at BREADS
- Had Interns over from St. Thomas, College, Trissur

### January 2019

- Arrival of volunteers from Germany
- Republic Day celebrations on 26th
- Feast of St. John Bosco
- Monitoring visits to the various projects





# Children's Special Gram Sabha 2018

*Driving Democracy through the Enterprise of Children*



Imagine children being onboard Government Institutions. What if they were the decision makers of the country? Can you envision them making agendas for elected representatives? Suppose they were more pragmatic and prudent than adults? How about children challenging the promises of elected representatives made at the time of election?

Sounds far-fetched? Not really, if one considers the fact that children are undoubtedly agents of change! They perceive things objectively and minutely. And they can give unbiased judgments and make realistic demands on issues that affect them and the community

around. That's what the Children's Special Gram Sabhas strive to do at the village level. These Gram Sabhas play a vital role in self-governance, development and functions of the Panchayat at the rural level. It ensures empowerment, participation and accountability of people and the system. The Children's Special Gram Sabhas are meaningful forums to articulate issues at the lowest level, ensuring active participation of children as well as the village community, thereby making democracy a household term.

In the year 2006, the Government of Karnataka made it mandatory that every Gram Panchayat in the state must hold Special Gram Sabhas for Children every year. Since then, Children's Gram Sabhas have served as a platform for children to participate in the democratic system and local governance, encouraging rational thinking and molding them into responsible, value oriented and concerned citizens of the country and their villages.

This year, the Don Bosco schemes, under the CREAM Project in ten districts of Karnataka state, ensured that the Makkala Gram Sabhas in the Gram Panchayats were initiated during the months of November and December. The leaders and members of Child Rights Clubs even carried out a letter campaign in the Panchayats and among district authorities to ensure active and meaningful implementation of the Makkala Gram Sabhas and the presence of the authorities therein. In these forums, the children delved deeply into the finer details of various issues and highlighted those that required reforms and transformation.

The children also called attention to the lack of sufficient and separate toilets for girls and boys in the schools as well as the community. Schools were handicapped with insufficient teachers, the absence of computer and science labs and the dearth of well-furnished libraries. The list of inadequacies also included dilapidated school buildings, non-existent school grounds and compound walls, insufficient bicycle parking areas, potable water, and paucity of benches and desks in the classrooms. Basic hygiene issues such as lack of utensils for mid-day meals and littering in school compounds were brought to the fore.





The children also advocated the need for ecofriendly school campuses, curbing anti-social activities in the school buildings at night, speed breakers in front of schools, hostel accommodation for economically backward children, school development and monitoring committees, new anganwadis and primary health centers, water pipe lines in the villages, starting kitchen gardens, improving bus services to the villages, closure of manholes, installation of street lights and proper maintenance of drainages. They also proposed strict action against child rights violations and violence on women. Commendably, the role of these children was not just limited to raising issues; they were also entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the corrective actions along with the Child Rights Club members and the Panchayat Development Officers until the solutions were effectively implemented.

Through the active efforts of the CREAM project staff, CHILDLINE, CRC members and Government departments, 229 Children's Special Gram Sabhas were conducted across ten districts of Karnataka in 2018, drawing dynamic participation from children, adults, and stakeholders.

Sl No	District	Number of Gram Sabhas	Taluks	Children	Adults	Stakeholders
1	Bangalore	1	1	79	12	5
2	Bidar	20	2	3652	857	351
3	Bellary	68	5	11088	1437	364
4	Chitradurga	42	5	2459	252	204
5	Davangere	14	2	891	198	248
6	Gulbarga	5	3	862	141	72
7	Mysore	9	2	468	122	117
8	Ramnagara	15	4	1330	327	294
9	Raichur	11	2	756	234	113
10	Yadgiri	44	4	6680	869	740
<b>Total</b>		<b>229</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28265</b>	<b>4449</b>	<b>2508</b>

