



## What does the ink on your index finger mean?

The world's largest democratic election is around the corner and the stakes are incredibly high. This election could be one of the most crucial elections being held in India, with around 900 million voters who have begun casting their votes to elect a new government. The Indian General Election 2019 to constitute the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha currently being held in seven phases started from 11<sup>th</sup> April and continues to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The nation is on pins, eagerly awaiting the day of results; 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. Well, we have proudly updated our social media statuses with pictures of e inked index fingers to tell everyone that we have done our duty as responsible citizens. While voting, exercising your right and encouraging others to do the same is great!



## Director's Note

The country's 900million registered voters are voting in national elections between April 11 and May 19 across 1million polling stations in 543 constituencies. According to the Election Commission of India data, about 2.6 crore young people in the age bracket of 18 to 20 years have already been registered in the electoral rolls. It is not just their number that is significant but also their characteristics. First-time voters behave differently. They are often better informed, more educated and tech-savvy than the rest of their family, and they can take a stand that goes against the family's established political leanings.

BREADS through its Don Bosco partners raised awareness among the young people on their right to vote and not to sell their vote for money. This Slice of April will give us more details of the campaigns that we organized in this regard.

With best wishes,

*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB*  
Executive Director  
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## Events

### April 2019

- BREADS participated in the HSBC- Skills for Life Project Workshop by Deloitte Social Impact on 2nd and 3rd April 2019 in Mumbai.
- The Child-Safety Enhancement Workshop for the members of Child Protection Committees in DB Institutions across Karnataka was conducted in two batches from 5-10 April 2019.
- BREADS and BoscoNet conducted an impact survey for the program, Sustained Income for Rural Women through Entrepreneurial Activities and Social Empowerment at project locations in Hospet, Yadgiri, Chitradurga, Angadikadavu and Kollam from 7th to 11th April, 2019.
- Completion of Internship by two students from Christ (Deemed to be University), Bangalore

### May 2019

- Training on Thinking through Philosophy for Teachers from DB Bridge course centres and schools on May 18th to 20th 2019 at BREADS
- Commencing of internship from 1-31<sup>st</sup> May for two students of St. Joseph's College, Thrissur, Kerala
- Internship commencement from 13<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019, for a student of St. Aloysius College, Mangalore
- Extra ordinary visitation of Fr. Guillermo Luis Basanes SDB, the General Councillor for Missions to BREADS and DB BEST Academy on 17th May 2019.
- Arrival of three interns from the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD), Tamil Nadu, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Visits by Child First Foundation to DB communities as part of establishing child safety systems at DB institutions.



## What does the ink on your index finger mean?



Now, the real question is how well and faithfully have you performed your duty? The General Election 2019 has a highly discussed agenda and we do not intend to repeat the same old phrases again. As citizens, elections are our opportunity to delegate the power and responsibility for the security and development of the country, to be precise, choosing the right people who could stand for your needs and welfare. Elections are our right and we have the complete freedom to use it freely. Our decision should be non-biased, uninfluenced and un-persuaded by any factors such as force, political parties, or personal motives. This is a major challenge faced by many voters who are unable to exercise their voting

rights judiciously. To overcome this challenge, we have to shut our ears to fake promises and fake concern. You know who is fit for the position, and according to your choice you can vote for him/her. Making a wise and prudent decision based on the past performances of candidates is crucial at this point.

During the election campaign period, BREADS joined hands with two NGOs namely, 'Concerned for Working children' (CWC) and 'Wada Na Todo Abhiyan' (WNTA) which popularized the idea of judicious voting through their campaign initiatives. CWC initiated the campaign, 'Me and My vote are not for sale' wherein the goal of the campaign was to influence and support the voters to take charge, to feel empowered, to demand accountability from candidates (before elections) and elected representatives thereafter. Secondly, ingrain the realization that by UPHOLDING THE SANCTITY OF THEIR VOTES they were NOT compromising their right to franchise and thirdly, to mobilise communities, especially the most vulnerable, to identify and prioritise their demands.

In the run-up to the general election in 2019, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA- Do not forget your promises), a campaign consisting of above 3500 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working on 'holding the government accountable on the promises made to the people', initiated the process of meeting different sections of people in rural and urban areas to capture their aspirations/expectations for the election in the form of a 'National People's Manifesto'. WNTA is a non-partisan campaign having no affiliation to any political party. Preparation of people's manifesto is a proactive engagement of citizens in the electioneering process by which it influences the manifesto-making process of different political parties.



## “DeshMera, Vote Mera, Mudda Mera” Campaign on 23rd March 2019



The General Election 2019 is already on ! While the country was at this crucial time, the security of the nation was threatened and this had the evident impact of shifting the focus of the people from the original motive of the election. "Desh Mera, Vote Mera, Mudda Mera", which is of national significance, was organised with the motive to bring back the focus of the nation to the real issues of the election; such as, unemployment, farm distress, rising inequality, crimes, condition of marginal communities and deficits in the basic welfare provisions. Public meetings, mass awareness and commemoration of the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were conducted on 23rd March 2019 in 10 districts of Karnataka state as part of the campaign.

While it is for political parties to contest elections and appeal for votes, it is imperative that civil society organisations, social movements and groups who share a commitment to our constitutional values, co-ordinate their energies to restore a democratic balance. With this intention, five awareness programs, two human chain campaigns, two rallies and two public gatherings were conducted across the ten districts of Karnataka.

The table below illustrates the various events, awareness campaigns, rallies, and programs conducted in collaboration with CREAM II in the ten districts of Karnataka on election and voting awareness.

Sl.no	Districts	No. of Programs	Programs	Participants
1	Bidar	18	Public gathering, awareness programs	829
2	Bangalore	7	Awareness programs, press meets, child rights manifesto submission	1325
3	Chitradurga	11	Election awareness, Submission of manifesto to MLA	544
4	Gulbarga	19	Voting awareness rally	3672
5	Raichur	9	Voting awareness campaign	1181
6	Ramanagara	13	Awareness campaigns, rallies	1195
7	Bellary	16	Submission of manifesto, awareness campaign, rally	275
8	Davangere	28	Awareness campaigns, rally	1028
9	Mysore	3	Rally	250
10	Yadgiri	9	Awareness campaign, door to door visits, rally	317
<b>Total</b>		<b>134</b>		<b>10616</b>

### Workshop on Child Safety Enhancement for the Child Protection Committee Members at Bangalore

The three days' workshop for the Child Protection Committee (CPC) members belonging to the various Don Bosco Institutions in Karnataka was conducted in two batches from 5th to 7th April and 8th to 10th April 2019. The training intended to educate the members of the CPC on the duties, responsibilities and the importance of each member in protecting the children who are entrusted at their care in their respective fields. The training was conducted in Don Bosco Provincial House, Bangalore having 27 participants during the first batch... [more](#)



### Orientation workshop for the HSBC Skills for Life project Partners at Mumbai

As part of the HSBC Skills for Life project, implemented in collaboration with Swades foundation and the monitoring partner Deloitte Social Impact had organised two days Partner orientation workshop in Mumbai on the 2nd and 3rd April 2019. The selected 56 partners from the current project cycle across India participated in the workshop. The workshop began with a welcome note by Ms. Aloka Majumdar, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC India. The key note address was delivered by Mr. Surendra Rosha, CEO HSBC... [more](#)



### The children begin their story here

It's summer again! The most awaited time of the year. The life of children revolves around studies, home works, examinations, tests and more throughout the year. Hence no wonder when children deep breathe and respite off their duties and daily studies to enjoy every bit and seconds of their holidays. Children are excited and exploring their wildest dreams, while the parents are chalking out plans on how to engage them fruitfully. As we all know children are infused of energy, liveliness, enthusiasm and great zeal to explore new and the summer... [more](#)



### Leadership Training for the Old CRC Leaders at Davangere

The Leadership training for the old CRCs (Child Rights Club) was organised at Davangere on 25th April 2019 under CREAM II. It was a great honour to have Justice Kengabalaiah on the occasion who inaugurated the training and Mr. L.H. Arunkumar, State Legal Aid Board Member who gave the key note address at Don Bosco Child Labour Mission (DBCLM) Davangere. The committed efforts of the CREAM staff in the district made this training a reality. The leadership training for the old CRC Leaders intended to strengthen the Child Rights... [more](#)

