

Director's Note

It's been a long journey with the Don Bosco Programme for the Young at Risk (DB PYaR) in Kalaburagi. BREADS has supported DB PYaR since 2003 in the various interventions required by the district because of its poor socio-economic and education status. These interventions ranged from child labour rehabilitation and CREAM programmes, bridge school and skill training programmes to construction of rehabilitation centres and an English-medium school. While adequate, quality Kannada-medium education itself is mostly unavailable to the rural poor of these areas, an English-medium education is totally beyond reach. The new school breaks this class/geographical barrier for the marginalised children of this region. It's a dream come true when rehabilitated child labourers and rescued children from the streets get the opportunity to study in the Don Bosco English-medium School in Bablad.

With best wishes,

*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB
Executive Director
BREADS Bangalore*



BREADS Calendar

February 2020

- Arrival of a volunteer from Malta
- Completion of internship by students from NMIMS, Mumbai
- Batch inauguration and certification ceremony at DB BEST Academy, Bangalore
- Visit from representatives of St. Boniface Parish, Wirges, Germany
- External evaluation processes of CREAM II by Catalyst Management Services (CMS)
- Visit to the organic moringa farm in Don Bosco Hassan by Dr. Andreas B.W. Wesselmann, Africrops
- BREADS-organised public lecture by Dr. Andreas B. W. Wesselmann in Don Bosco Provincial House
- BREADS' participation in a two-day training on Drug abuse and De-addiction at Yercaud, Tamil Nadu

March 2020

- Completion of student internship and faculty visit from the Social Work Dept., Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur
- Arrival of volunteer from Ireland
- BREADS' participation in the National Consultation on Salesian Migrants' Ministry in India in Chennai

Bridging the Education Gap in Bablad



Don Bosco Society, Kalaburagi initiated its activities for the poor, marginalised and vulnerable children entrapped by child labour and other exploitation on 7 June 2002 in Kalaburagi, Karnataka. Inspired by St. John Bosco, priest and great friend of poor youth, they wanted to ensure a better tomorrow for these children. The high incidences of child labour, child marriage, school dropouts and children on the streets were frightening and disheartening realities in the district then. The Programme for the Young at Risk (DB PYaR) with BREADS' support began its intervention through community conscientisation and various strategic programmes to help children access their rights.

Perceiving the need for a new rehabilitation centre for the young at risk especially in Bablad village, Don Bosco Kalaburagi and BREADS began construction of the same on 8 December 2013. The centre reached out to the vulnerable and deprived children from Bablad, empowering them to access higher goals in life through education. The bridge school programme reoriented the children from their pasts of child labour, illiteracy and exploitation to access healthy childhood activities of schooling and play in an environment of care and support. The bridge course prepared them to enter the mainstream education system, usually the local government schools. The Bablad centre simultaneously reached out to the community through rescue and rehabilitation, mass awareness, and supplementary education programmes which gradually brought about a change in the attitude of the people. They began to consent to the education and the protection of children from various child rights violations.

To further address the issue of deprivation in education among the marginalised children from the villages and slums of Kalaburagi, the construction of an English-medium school at Bablad began in 2017. The school prioritised dropouts, child labourers and children from the slums, to enhance their childhood through quality education and entitlement to various rights. The first batch of bridge school and preschool education started in 2018 and in its third year, the school had a total of 130 students from LKG to Class V.

Inauguration of the New English-medium School

Growing in strength and recognising the potential, Don Bosco Kalaburagi and BREADS began the construction of a new school building on 25 January 2020 with the capacity to provide quality education to 245 students from Preschool to Class 7. The new Don Bosco English Medium School, Bablad, constructed with the help of Miseen Cara and JEW, Switzerland, has the following infrastructure: 13 classrooms, 1 office room, a Principal's office, conference room, staff room, sports room, sick room, 3 separate toilet blocks for girls and boys, guest room, storeroom and a multipurpose hall with additional amenities and equipment. The school has a very large playground and a spacious veranda around the school building. The bridge school will continue to accommodate 60 school dropouts in each batch and these children will be admitted to the English medium school to access mainstream education.



The school will become a platform for social transformation and community empowerment – through the planning and initiating of collective efforts for the prevention and rescue of child labour and school dropouts, with the Child Welfare Committee, CHILDLINE, the Labour department, UNICEF and other NGOs. Parents and teachers are strengthened through the formation of the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) to facilitate their participation in promoting education and child rights in the district. The school will also ensure the community's awareness on Child Rights through campaigns and public awareness events every year, focussing on making at least 20 villages in Kalaburagi district, child labour-free. The school staff were capacitated for this mission through 10+ trainings on child rights, effective teaching methodologies and child protection policies of Don Bosco institutions. Teachers from Don Bosco School Bablad and as well from 16 other village schools were part of the training. Training of children on child rights and the formation of Child Rights Clubs have been effective strategies to create platforms for children to discuss child-related issues and problems in the villages.



Triple Celebration at Bablad on 25 January 2020



25 January 2020 was a day of celebrations and joy for the Don Bosco School Bablad in Kalaburagi. The day marked the blessing and inauguration of the newly-constructed school building, the feast of St. John Bosco and the fourth Annual Day celebrations. The newly-constructed building was blessed by the most Rev. Robert Miranda- Bishop of Gulbarga and inaugurated by Fr. Joyce Thonikuzhiyil, SDB, Provincial-Salesian Province of Bangalore. The presence of Ms. Ursula Fischer- Project Manager, Don Bosco Mission Bonn, Germany, was an immense pleasure and a gesture of their continued support to BREADS. The other dignitaries who graced the occasion included Fr. Jose Koyickal- Vice Provincial, Fr. Payyamthadathil George- Economist, Fr. Joy Nedumparambil- Executive Director- BREADS, Fr. Pulinilkumkalayil Jaimon-Principal, Don Bosco School Bablad, Fr. Saji Anachalil- Director DB PYAr, Kalaburagi and Ms. Stella Varghese- KAS.

On the occasion of the blessing, the most Rev. Robert Miranda appreciated the Don Bosco Society for the enormous service and development work being carried out in the district for the upliftment of the most downtrodden, especially the children. He promised his continuous support to carry forward the mission of Don Bosco towards the unreached. The celebrations were brightened with the cultural extravaganza of the students titled- 'The Touch'. Children performed various cultural programmes and events as part of the fourth school Annual Day.



Meeting of Don Bosco Children's Forum at FCDP, Kollam

Fishermen Development Community Programme (FCDP) Kollam, Kerala conducted a meeting of the Don Bosco Children's Forum (DBCF) on 8 February 2020. A total of 51 children from the Pallihottam section of DBCF participated in the programme. The Don Bosco Children's Forum is a new initiative of FCDP and Theeradesha Mahila Society (TMS) to organise and train the children of the fishermen community for their integral development. DBCF is divided into various sections geographically and a community organiser... [more](#)



Conscientisation of Rural women on Gender Equality and Equal Access to Entitlements

Two days of training on legal awareness and gender equality for SHG leaders were organised at CHITHRA Don Bosco, Chitradurga on 4 & 5 February 2020, under the Women Empowerment Programme (WEP). The training focused on gender inequalities, its great impact on the lives of rural women, and emerging laws. The inaugural function was presided over by Fr. Sonychen, Director, CHITHRA Don Bosco. Mr. Vishwa Sagar from Vimukthi Vidyasamasthe, and Ms. Dilshad Unnisa, Penal Advocate, District Legal Services Authority... [more](#)



Scripting the Future of 81 Youth through Skilling

The skill training programme of DB BEST Academy has made timely interventions in the lives of 644 youth when their lives were on pause, helping them rescript their stories. The recent Batch 10 of 81 youth was no different. The certification of Batch 10 and the inauguration of Batch 11 of 63 youth were organised on 8 February 2020 at DB BEST Academy, Bangalore. The auspicious event saw the presence of the corporate partners of the skill programme, namely, Mr. Jeetendra- Assistant Manager Deutsche Bank, Ms. Mamtha- Deutsche Bank... [more](#)



Creating a positive ecosystem for the interstate migrants in Kerala

Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT) has been intervening in the lives of the interstate migrants across Kerala by setting up Migrant Help Desks (MHD) in eleven districts to plan and implement development activities. They provide various support services and legal assistance to migrant labourers, mobilising especially those isolated and marginalised. To ensure effective execution of the project, Don Bosco institutions across the selected districts have partnered with BREADS. All the activities... [more](#)



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