

SLICE

Director's Message

In this edition of Slice, we introduce a couple of BREADS' initiatives that address difficult challenges being faced by vulnerable young people today. The DREAM initiative in Kerala seeks to prevent and address addiction among children and youth, while a Migrant Help Desk in Bangalore seeks to address the socioeconomic issues of young migrants in the city. BREADS' initiatives for women -WECAN and WeLiVE -support the overall empowerment of women, something that we consciously celebrate every year on 8 March as Women's Day. Wishing us all an equitable society!

Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB

Executive Director, BREADS Bangalore

Women's Day Celebrations

International Women's Day was observed by partner Don Bosco institutions in a variety of ways across Karnataka and Kerala.



International Women's Day on 8 March, 2021 at Rotary Hall, Kollam was an eventful celebration of women's empowerment. On this day, the COVID warriors i.e., health workers of different departments, mainly women health workers, were honoured in appreciation of their meritorious work during the pandemic.

Licenses were distributed to the women who completed their electric autorickshaw training. The Director of Meditech Laboratory, Shri. K Chandrakumar inaugurated the *Santhanam health cards* which will prove beneficial for cancer and kidney patients in availing discounted medical tests. All these happy achievements were made under the auspices of the Theeradesa Mahila Society (TMS) and Fishermen Community Development Programme (FCDP) Kollam.



Chitradurga Medical Checkup

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2021, CHITHRA Don Bosco partnered with Sri Basaveshwara Medical Education Institute and Hospital, and Gonuru gram panchayat to conduct a free Health Check-up camp in Gonuru Gram Panchayat, Chitradurga.

Staff members of CHITHRA Don Bosco and staff members of Basaveshwara Hospital were present for the camp, which attracted the participation of 200 women. The programme highlighted the idea that one’s health is the greatest wealth and the dignitaries emphasised not only physical fitness but also the components of mental, psychological, and social health of women/ persons.

They also highlighted the need for improving the status of women in society while creating awareness about CHITHRA Don Bosco and its programmes for women’s empowerment.



Women’s Empowerment in a Developing Society—Hospet



Don Bosco Hospet celebrated Women’s Day where around 1200 women and 20 men from SHGs in Hampi, Bailothkeri, Buksagara, Ramsagara, Hospet and Hosur, gathered under the WECAN programme to discuss issues related to women—their roles, well-being, leadership and social equality. Apart from the enjoyable cultural programmes presented by the women, women leaders from various walks of life addressed the gathering on aspects of growth required for women to achieve equal futures in a COVID 19 world.

Mrs Sharanamma, Tahsildar of Hagari Bommanahalli spoke of empowerment arising from the family, and the importance of education, and gender equality. Sri Matha Prabhohini emphasised the need for social, physical, economic, and spiritual well-being for all members in society. Mrs Nagaveni, President of Nagarharhalli GP spoke of the importance of womanhood, and successful women in society. Mrs Hanumanthamma, President of Taruni NGO, in her presidential address shared her success story. Chief guest, Mrs Madhu Jayan, Principal of Gurukulam school Hospet, shared her personal experiences on personality development and communication skills.

DREAM – Helping Young Dreams Flourish

Accepting the dire need to expand the impact and influence of its Drug Rehabilitation, Education and Mentoring (DREAM) programme from two to ten districts in Kerala, the BREADS team met with key stakeholders to discuss the way forward on 27 March 2021 at DB Puthupally. Fr PD Thomas, Rector, DB Palluruthy, introduced the subject matter experts —Mr Sunny (CHASS/RRSC Deaddiction), Mr Benny (Excise Department) and Sr Joan Chunkapura (TRADA).



The discussion included the growth of the menace of various addictions among children and youth in Kerala, where at least 20% of this population has experimented with substances. And therefore, the need to recognise psychological, mental and physical signs and symptoms to identify addicts and intervene earlier and better, as drug addiction is treatable but not simple.

Types of preventive strategies were

discussed for parents, school students, and other stakeholders in the public domain, including volunteers, outreach social workers, the community, teachers, and the Government of Kerala (which has also launched Vimukthi- an anti-narcotics campaign especially for the youth).

Under DREAM, ten counselling centres are planned in 10 districts of Kerala using the existing facilities of Don Bosco

institutions. Around 40-50 panchayats/municipalities would be selected based on the prevalence of drug/alcohol usage among children and youth there. A de-addiction cum rehabilitation centre at Don Bosco Monvilla is likely to be set up to support 20-25 children and youth who are addicted to substances/alcohol. BREADS and its partners hope that this initiative will help children and youth work towards their dreams and not be defeated by any form of addiction.

BREADS' Migrant Help Desk in Bangalore

The Salesians of Don Bosco have always worked with vulnerable youth in various sectors. Increasingly, migrant youth have become a significant population because of the large numbers of young people migrating across the country for employment in the unorganised sectors. They are unskilled, poor, exploited and their rights are grossly violated because of the lack of awareness and access to entitlements.

The Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT) initiative by BREADS and its Don Bosco partners

already touches the lives of thousands of migrant workers in Kerala. *Don Bosco for Migrants* is an all-India initiative of Don Bosco organisations for the safety, well-being and dignity of migrant workers, under which, BREADS is setting up a help desk in Bangalore to support migrant workers access entitlements, rights, dignity, protection and integration into the societies where they migrate. Initial estimates of the geographical reach of the new intervention and operations are in progress.

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BREADS Calendar

MARCH

- Job fair at DB BEST Academy
- WeLiVE programme online review meeting
- DREAM programme strategy consultation

APRIL

- Setting up of BREADS' Migrant Help Desk in Bangalore
- CREAM programme review and training
- KISMAT programme review meeting



A new batch of skill training begins in DB BEST Academy, Bangalore on 18 May, 2021. Contact : 9538976767, 9986256750

BREADS NEWS



Job Fair on 27th March, 21- in Collaboration with BREADS & JPN

On March 27th, 2021- DB BEST, in collaboration with BREADS Bangalore and JPN organized a Job Fair from 10 am-2 pm at Don Bosco Best Academy ..more...



An Anniversary Like No Other

The COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdown in India turns one on March 24 this year. The images of distress and loss of ..more...



Training and Workshops held across March

Various training programs and Income Generation activities were conducted in various parts of Kerala- mainly Alappuzha..more...