

## Director's Message

Traditional wisdom in any sphere, has always advocated prevention over cure. It is no different in the development world. The preventive aspect of social work takes on greater importance in the context of systemic issues that have wide-ranging impact, such as child labour. In this edition of Slice, we report on how BREADS uses sponsorship of children's education as a preventive and developmental strategy in our work with underprivileged and marginalised communities. I take this opportunity to thank our individual and institutional sponsors of children, for their significant contribution to the well-being of children and society.



Fr Rubin Mathew sdb  
Executive Director, BREADS

## Sponsorship of Children's Education: An Effective Means to an Equitable End



You might have been solicited by various social work organisations to sponsor a child's education, especially that of a girl. And many of you might have obliged, with the kind intention of helping a child in need and supporting them to build a better future for themselves. While that is entirely true, there's a lot more to your gesture of generosity.

As a discipline, Social Work addresses the social functioning of persons, individually and

in groups, with activities focused upon the interactions between people and their environment. These activities can be grouped into functions: restoration of impaired capacity, provision of individual and social resources, and prevention of social dysfunction. These functions are intertwined and interdependent. The sponsorship of children extends across the aims of provision of resources and the prevention of social dysfunction.

When we make resources available at individual and social levels, it has a developmental and educational impact on the beneficiaries. Therefore, the sponsorship or scholarship that a child receives, supports his or her education and development as an individual, better equipping him or her to function as an empowered member of society. Simultaneously, sponsorship is also a powerful means to prevent social dysfunction because it directly impacts conditions and situations that could potentially harm society: for example, educating a child from an impoverished family takes away the excuse from the parents that they cannot afford education. It ensures that the parents in marginalised situations are supported through the provision of childcare costs. This in turn prevents parents from forcing their children to work at an

early age to ensure their own upkeep and bolster the family income. Similarly, sponsoring a girl's education discourages the family from planning an early marriage for her to rid themselves of the perceived burden of her upkeep. The more years of education that such children receive, enables them to develop life skills and the means to earn better livelihoods in future. By supporting marginalised families to educate their children, we also prevent the children from leaving home in search of a better situation, only to end up on the streets and in risky situations, or in institutions. For all these reasons, BREADS and its partners have always used sponsorships and scholarships as a strategy to empower marginalised families and their children.

### **Kusuma (12 years) from Hospet shares her story**



*My parents are Ningajja and Nirmala. My family comprises of Dad, Mom, Grandma, my brother, and myself. My dad works as a cook and his income would suffice only to repay debts and provide the family's basic needs. As a result, he found it difficult to offer us quality education. And so, my brother and I had to study in Ambedkar Government Higher*

*Primary School, where the quality of education is very poor. In this discouraging situation, Don Bosco Hospet came forward to sponsor my studies and with their support, I could pursue my studies in Don Bosco ICSE School from class 3 onwards.*

*I am now in class 6, and I have a great passion for sports and dance. I never miss an opportunity to perform on stage in all the cultural programmes in school. I have a craze for sports; especially for throwball, helping my team win the Champions trophy during the annual Sports Day. My loving teachers support and guide me in these aspects.*

*My parents' life has taught me the lesson that without education and hard work, we will gain nothing. Hence, I have determined to pursue my studies wholeheartedly and become a civil engineer one day. I am so grateful to those who are helping me study and move forward in my life.*

Do remember, when you sponsor a child's education or living expenses, you are not merely performing a charitable deed, but you are preventing social ills such as child labour and child marriage and correcting social and economic inequities. [So go ahead and sponsor a child today!](#)

Thank you for your vital contribution to the betterment of our society!

In the districts of north Karnataka, which rank very low in developmental indices of health, education, and income, sponsorship becomes very significant in promoting children’s education, preventing school dropouts and child labour among severely underprivileged communities. BREADS’ partner Don Bosco Social Service Society (DBSS) Devadurga has explored different avenues for the sponsorship of children as reported here.

### Empowering Children Through Alternative Care- Sponsorship

One of the provisions for children in need of care and protection under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015, is the sponsorship scheme implemented through the District Child Protection Unit of the Women & Child Development Department. The sponsorship programme provides supplementary support to families to meet the medical, nutritional, educational and other needs of children with a view to improve their quality of life. In Karnataka, the sponsorship scheme focusses on strengthening the ability of the family as an institution to provide appropriate care and protection for its children. It aims at supporting the child to pursue his or her education in the family—either with the parents or with relatives. Currently, every child selected for the sponsorship programme is supported with INR 1000 monthly and the

amount is transferred to the child’s account.

After becoming aware about the scheme, DBSS Devadurga through the CREAM programme initiated by BREADS, identified children in need in the Raichur, Devadurga and Sirwar taluks. We identified 65 children and did the social investigation report. We also facilitated them in getting all the required documents for the sponsorship. It was quite a difficult task as many children do not have all the required legal documents. Our staff submitted the applications to the DCPO. All the children selected for sponsorship had only single parents (having lost either their father or mother). After six months, we are happy to report that 54 (24 boys and 30 girls) applications were approved, and the children began to receive INR 1000 monthly from July 21.

#### BREADS’ OUTREACH THROUGH EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP



**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

73 children

**SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

50 villages  
10 urban slums  
2620 children



**EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP**

241 children

**EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP DURING COVID**

762 children



**SPONSORSHIP OF SMART DEVICES DURING COVID**

163 devices

**ONLINE EDUCATION SUPPORT THROUGH TUITION CENTRES DURING COVID**

1150 children



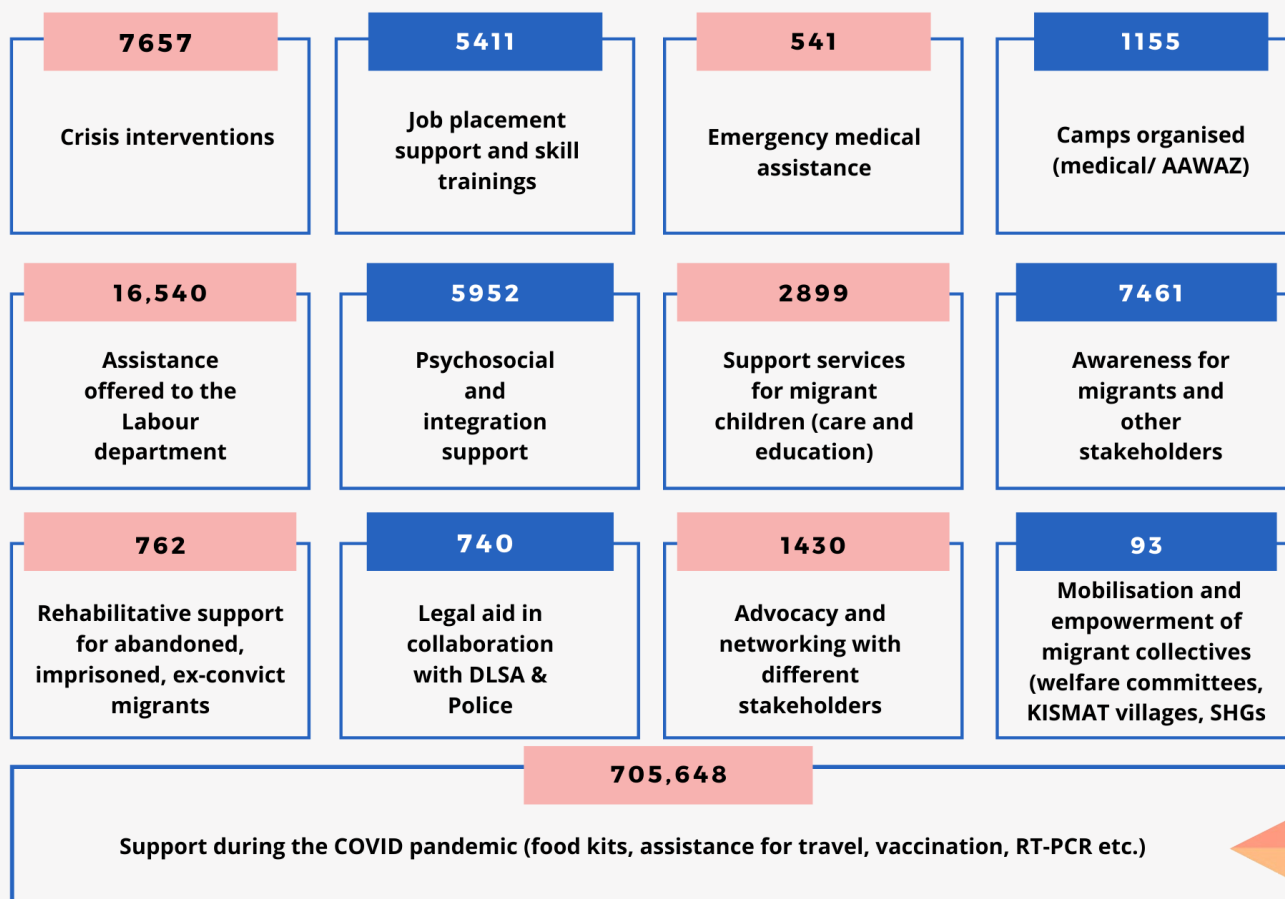
## Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT)

Estimates in 2012 indicated that there were over 25 lakh interstate migrants in Kerala. Every year, this migrant population increases by 2.35 lakh people approximately, making them a sizeable percentage of the state’s population. The life of a migrant worker is very hard in all parts of the country, and Kerala is no different. Though the state has strong workers’ unions, they are silent on the plight of migrant workers as they are not union members even though employed across many major sectors in Kerala. Migrants face problems of stable employment, safe shelter, exploitation, verbal and physical abuse in workplaces, poor access to banking, and government welfare schemes, especially because of their lack of awareness of entitlements. In response to the observed need of migrants, BREADS initiated

KISMAT in 2018, as an integrated network of 12 migrant help desks set up in Don Bosco presences across 11 districts in Kerala, to reach out and support the growing population of young interstate migrants (ISMs). By 2021, at the end of its first phase, KISMAT has evolved as a leading agency in Kerala for migrant-related activities and a sought-after partner by government departments for the implementation of projects and schemes. KISMAT facilitated the settlement of 561 cases of unpaid wages to the tune of INR 2,30,53,899. It created a digital booklet to support migrants with relevant emergency contact details. Through its integrated programmes, rights-based interventions, and lobbying, KISMAT has made a valuable difference in the lives of migrants.

**Children (0-18): 1795 | Youth (19-25): 288,023 | Adults (26 above): 441,493**

KISMAT’s multipronged approach to the protection of migrant rights results in numerous kinds of activities, a few of which are mentioned here.



The KISMAT grassroots approach involved around 8390 visits to homes and worksites to assess the needs of the migrants. As a result, valuable authentic data could be collected for advocacy with relevant stakeholders. A state-level study among 1500 interstate migrant workers across all 14 districts of Kerala, *The Life and Labour of the Interstate Migrants in Kerala* and 2 other micro-studies were also conducted by KISMAT.

KISMAT plans to extend its services to the Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Malappuram districts in future. It will also focus on migrant women, migrants in prison, migrant children, temporary shelters and vocational training among other interventions. Building on its present extensive outreach, KISMAT aims to amplify its networking and lobbying activities on behalf of the migrants with the government and corporate sectors.

### COVID-19 Emergency Relief

COVID-19 continues to weave its way through our societies, infecting people and disrupting lives. BREADS continues to respond actively to help individuals, families and communities affected by the pandemic.

COVID 19 Emergency Response- BREADS Bangalore		
As on 31 August 2021		
Type of Relief Work	Unit	Outreach
Distribution of cooked food	Persons	22236
Ready-to-eat food distributed	Units	60510
Dry ration kits	Kits	10662
Hygiene kits	Kits	4470
Medical kits	Kits	10949
Sanitary materials	Persons	1000
Masks	Masks	15500
Hand sanitisers	Bottles	5900
COVID-19 CARE Helpline / Help desk	Desks	18
Counselling (online / in-person)	Persons	3256
COVID-19 referral services	Persons	290
Assistance for COVID-19 treatment	Persons	60
Assistance for COVID-19 testing	Persons	3680
Assistance for Vaccination	Persons	4122
Awareness on Vaccination / Prevention / etc.	Persons	3000
Blood donation drives	Drives	8
Covid Warriors' support	Volunteers	112
PPE kits	Kits	705
Mobile clinic	Vehicle	1
Ambulance service	Vehicle	1
Oxygen concentrators support	Persons	110
Mobile oxygen unit	Vehicle	1
Infrastructure made available for quarantine	Beds	150
Infrastructure made available for vaccination	Structures	3

## Calendar

### August

- Inauguration of the 15th Skill Training Batch in DB BEST Academy, Lingarajapuram.
- COVID relief activities in Karnataka and Kerala.

### September

- COVID relief activities in Karnataka and Kerala.
- CREAM Programme Staff Training.

## BREADS NEWS



### [KISMAT survey report released by Hon Minister](#)

The study report by KISMAT Kerala (an initiative of BREADS Bangalore in collaboration with Don Bosco institutions in Kerala) on 'The Life and Labour of the Interstate Migrants in Kerala' was released...[more...](#)



### ['The Baking Home'- an Initiative under WELivE Alappuzha](#)

We are happy to introduce 'The Baking Home'! This is another of the initiatives under the WELivE Project by Breads Bangalore and Don Bosco Alappuzha...[more...](#)



### [Yet another Initiative of WELivE Wayanad- Swasraya Biryani Hut](#)

We are delighted to introduce the 'Swasraya Biryani Hut & Catering unit'! This is an initiative under the WELivE Project by BREADS Bangalore...[more...](#)



### [Inauguration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Skill Training batch- DB BEST Academy](#)

After the Covid 19 restrictions and struggles, our 15<sup>th</sup> Skill Training batch at DB BEST Academy (Skill training centre of BREADS Bangalore) was officially inaugurated ...[more...](#)