

Director's Message



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As activities of the Child Rights month get underway, the principle of inclusion automatically draws our attention—inclusion of children and marginalised communities into mainstream deliberations at all levels about their lives and livelihoods. From COP 26 in Scotland to public hearings where children present their grievances in Karnataka, children are looking for a platform to make their voices heard. However, it is not enough to simply tell those traditionally excluded people that they are now included. We need to support them to take their places at the table with opportunities and education, which is what BREADS does in its work on the ground.

The Right to Inclusion

“I invite you to stand with us. And we hope that you will give up the old ways of thinking and the old habits. But let me be clear, when we invite you to join us, we will lead, even if you don't. We will act, even if you delay,” Vinisha Umashankar, 15 years old, from Tamil Nadu, the youngest finalist of the Earthshot Prize, speaking to world leaders, environmentalists and scientists at COP 26.



Vinisha's statement echoed the voices of many young people protesting outside the COP 26 conferences. Climate activists from YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency of UN Climate Change, delivered to the COP leadership, a statement signed by 40,000 young people demanding change and inclusion. The youngsters claim leadership because they feel the current leaders are not doing enough to protect the Earth and their rights to

life on this planet. The children and young people are asking very straight, hard questions of the adults who are currently responsible for preserving their lives. How do we answer?

Communities at high risk from various parts of the developing world, and the children, are rightfully demanding that their voices be heard because they are the ones who bear the drastic consequences of the development choices made by more affluent countries. As champions of the right to be heard and participation in matters that concern one's life, how can we not stand with the children and young people to act against climate change?

In this edition of Slice, we reflect on the critical aspects of Climate Change through the perspective of child rights because climate change is recognised as one of the biggest threats to the welfare of children now and in the coming years.

Child Rights and Climate Change

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis- UNICEF

UNICEF created a Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), using data to generate global evidence on the number of children currently exposed to climate and environmental hazards. The CCRI helps understand and measure the likelihood of impact of climate and environmental shocks or stresses that erode development progress and worsen the deprivation and/or humanitarian situations affecting children, vulnerable households, and groups.

Among the countries where children are most at risk, **India is ranked 26th out of 163 countries, with a CCRI of 7.4** calculated on climate and environmental factors (9.0) and child vulnerability (4.6). Flooding and air pollution are repeated environmental shocks that make India a high-risk country with high socio-economic impact on women and children. Fifteen of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India (IQAir).



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, August 2021 warns:

- The Indian subcontinent will have a 20 percent surge in extreme rainfall events, rainfall will become incessant and erratic leading to floods, depressions will intensify into deep depressions, and cyclonic events will become more frequent across eastern and western coasts.
- Heat extremes and drought events will be the new normal across South Asia and India.
- Sea levels will continue to rise. For India, with a coastline of over 7500 kms, this is a significant threat to people living there. For instance, across six Indian port cities – Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat, and Visakhapatnam – 28.6 million people could be exposed to coastal flooding if sea levels rise by 50 cm and the assets exposed to flooding will be worth about \$4 trillion.

This is not a legacy that children in India and around the world are happy to inherit.

So, what can We do?

Though ranked third in the world for highest CO2 emissions (5% of global emissions), India houses 17% of the world's population and has a per capita footprint of 1.92 tonnes, which is much lesser than the developed nations. In COP 26, India committed by 2030, to increase non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, meet 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy, reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45%, and achieve 'net zero' emissions by 2070.



As individuals and organisations, we can also contribute through our choices in lifestyles, economics, and politics. Make the small decisions and take the small actions that make an impact immediately and in the future. Lead, support, and follow the young in creating climate change. Become Climate Champions.

As schoolboy 14-year-old Finlay Pringle, marching for climate change in Scotland says, "If you really, truly love something and you want to protect it, no matter what it is, it doesn't have to be climate striking, but if there's something that you love and you want to protect it, then you should do that, don't think twice about it."

What are we waiting for?




WE ARE CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

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1. WE SAVE WATER
Of the 75% of the water on earth, only 1% is fresh water. And only 0.007% is available for human use. Turn off the water tap while brushing or shaving! Put a note on the mirror to remind you. Have everything you need on hand and take 5-minute showers!
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6. WE SWITCH OFF THE LIGHTS
Switch off lights and fans when not needed. Open windows and use natural light and breeze as much as possible.
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2. WE AVOID PLASTIC AND ECO-UNFRIENDLY MATERIALS
In India, 80% of the total plastic consumption is discarded as waste. Use recyclable cloth bags. Avoid aluminium foil, thermocol and styrofoam; flex banners; plastic bags, containers, and water bottles.
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7. WE REFUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE
Reduce consumption-consume only what you need. Buy reusable instead of disposable items. For example, glass or steel plates over single-use paper or plastic ones. Refuse if not recyclable! SEGREGATE wet and dry waste to enable efficient recycling.
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3. WE AVOID CREATING GARBAGE
India generates 1,00,000 metric tonnes of waste per day. Stop creating garbage. Stop using disposable paper plates, packages. Avoid packaged items-water, juices, food, snacks, etc.
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8. WE UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE
Up to 10% of electricity consumed in homes is used by electrical appliances in standby mode! Devices in standby mode can use up to the equivalent of 50 large power plants' worth of electricity each year.
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4. WE DO NOT WASTE FOOD
25,000 people die of starvation globally every day. 40% of food produced in India is wasted. Take what you can eat, eat what you take.
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9. WE REDUCE PAPER USAGE
It might be impossible for institutions to completely rid themselves of paper, but go digital wherever possible to cut down on paper consumption. Try to ensure that all the paper used is recycled and if possible, procured from sustainable sources.
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5. WE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
75% of carbon monoxide emissions come from automobiles! Try walking or cycling for shorter distances. It is healthy and the planet benefits too!
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10. WE PLANT A TREE ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS
We need 100 trees per person on earth to manage global carbon emissions. Plant a tree to mark birthdays, anniversaries or important days of the calendar.



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Calendar

OCTOBER

- DB BEST graduation ceremony of Batches 11 to 14
- Job fair conducted by DB BEST Academy
- Monitoring and evaluation visits to BREADS' projects
- Flood relief activities in Kerala
- Capacity-building for BREADS staff
- Release of handbook for Child Rights training- CREAM

NOVEMBER

- CREAM's participation in the KSCPCR public hearing of children
- Children's Day celebrations across Don Bosco institutions
- Child Rights Week observance
- PDO Best Practices- exposure visit to BREADS by other PDOs
- Capacity-building for BREADS staff
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- Launch and induction training- DREAM programme
- Inauguration of 16th skill training batch- DB BEST Academy
- Laying of foundation stone- Don Bosco School, Bidar

BREADS NEWS



[Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene and Distribution of Sanitary pads](#)

When it comes to menstrual hygiene and health, it has been seen that women and girls living in rural areas, urban slums, shelter homes...[more...](#)



[Release of Handbook on Child Rights training](#)

The handbook of Child rights training for CREAM staff was released by Fr Jose Koyickal, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Bangalore in the presence of the Provincial team and all the Rectors ...[more...](#)



[Kerala Flood Relief Activities](#)

Since the beginning of the week, the heavy rainfall and the consequent floods have devastated the state of Kerala claiming the lives of many and displacing thousands. Rescue efforts are in full swing with the help of local administrators everywhere...[more...](#)



[Job Fair at DB BEST Academy](#)

DB BEST Academy (Skill training centre of BREADS Bangalore) organized a job fair in association with seven recruiting companies on 27 October 2021...[more...](#)