



Director's Message

As we celebrated women's manifold contributions on International Women's Day, BREADS pledged to continue its support for gender equality through sustainable development. In this edition of Slice, we report how initiatives from Don Bosco partners across Karnataka and Kerala, support and honour women who are trying to make the world a better place.

Fr Rubin Mathew sdb

Executive Director, BREADS

Break the Bias!

Ten women of the Paniya community in Sulthan Bathery, Kerala celebrated their first harvest of around 350 fish on 7 March 2022. This was the result of seven months of labour invested in an entrepreneurial initiative that was completely new to the community and especially the women; a daring to break the biases in their local society.

Highly marginalised traditionally; the Paniya tribals were originally bonded labourers to landlords. They currently remain landless and mostly uneducated. They usually reside in the hilly regions of Wayanad, Nilgiris, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kodagu, eking out a living from casual labour. During the pandemic, their livelihoods were very badly affected.

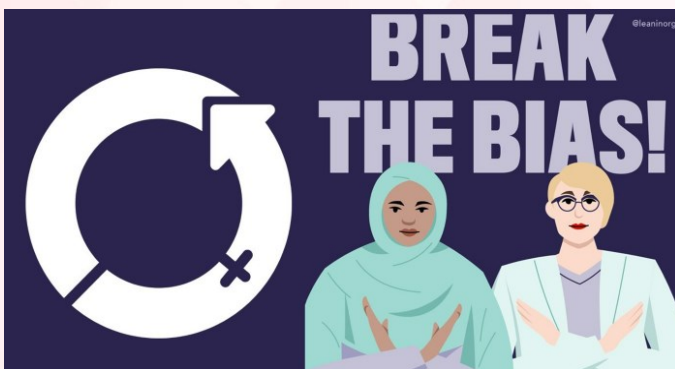
As females from this marginalised community, these women often experienced additional marginalisation, with opportunities being withheld from them, reinforcing their reluctance to come to the forefront. Through consistent training from the Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship (WELivE) programme, traditional taboos that hindered them were weakened. Since



the women had no space in their homes to start gardens or poultry units, their neighbours, the Don Bosco College, supported them with a loan of space, to dig a pond and start a fish farm. The women needed to learn various new skills to bring their fish farm to life, which they did, empowering themselves in the process.

The women fittingly celebrated their harvest with a public function, inaugurated by Mr TK Ramesh, Chairman of the Sulthan Bathery Municipal Corporation, in the presence of Mrs Sumathi, local Councillor, and the Salesians from Don Bosco Sulthan Bathery. Experiencing the successful accomplishment of their enterprise boosted the women's confidence, fuelling their willingness to do more—the clear impact of 'gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. They decided to distribute the harvested fish among all the twenty-two families of their community to encourage other women to also break the bias and become entrepreneurs.

A happy Women's Day indeed!



Know more about the WELivE programme,
 watch: <https://youtu.be/WLPpH463qfk>

Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow (#IWD2022)



International Women's Day, observed on 8 March, is a chance to reflect on the progress and transformations caused by women in the history of their communities and countries. We present a few glimpses of the celebrations and observance of IWD2022 in some BREADS' partner organisations.

International Women's Day Celebrations in Kollam

The International Women's Day celebration on 7 March 2022 at Rotary Hall, Kollam was an enjoyable celebration of women's empowerment. Fourteen women WE-AUTO drivers received their driving licenses on the occasion. The Honourable Mayor of Kollam, Mrs Prasanna Ernest, appreciated the efforts and interventions of Theeradesa Mahila Society (TMS) and Fishermen Community Development Programme (FCDP) for the empowerment of the coastal women. She highlighted the WE-AUTO initiative supported by BREADS Bangalore, as an illustration of innovative entrepreneurship that ensures both a sustainable future and a source of income for women.



International Women's Day Celebrations in Angadikadavu



The Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship (WELivE), Kannur celebrated International Women's Day by conducting a training on poultry farming for 160 women from Angadikadavu, Karikkottakary, Anapanthi, and Charal. After the training, ten chickens were distributed to each of these 160 women for starting their own poultry farm and generating income from the same. The intended outcome of distributing these chickens is to ensure a means of sustainable income for the families and to promote natural, nutritious, and healthy eating habits among them.

KISMAT Celebrates Women's Day with Migrant Women

The Karnataka Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation celebrated International Women's Day by conducting an awareness programme on menstrual hygiene for migrant women and girls in Horamavu, Bangalore. The KISMAT team demonstrated the use of sanitary napkins to the women and girls in the migrant community from Andhra Pradesh. They later distributed biodegradable sanitary napkins, masks, and sanitisers among them, benefitting 86 migrant women and girls in the settlement.



Women Empowerment Through Collective Action and Networks (WECAN)

Empowered women contribute to the health and development of families, communities, and nations. Women attain their full potential when they live in a safe and productive environment, which unfortunately is not often the case. BREADS initiated Women Empowerment through Collective Action and Networks (WECAN) in 2020 in four districts of Karnataka, namely, Bidar, Yadgir, Vijayanagara, and Chitradurga to address gender-related issues in society.

WECAN focuses on women's empowerment and gender equity through awareness and individual actions by the women themselves, which collectively form the networks that support women's rights.

In February 2022, BREADS organised a three-day training for the WECAN programme staff and 20 other key stakeholders such as ASHA workers and Anganwadi teachers; providing them an opportunity to discuss women's rights and share their experiences of putting theory into practice on the ground.

Know more about the WECAN programme, watch: <https://youtu.be/zYcD6v47gLc>



WECAN Promotes Health for Women through Medical Camps

On 5 March 2022, Don Bosco Yadgir partnered with the Yadgir district Health Department to conduct a free health camp at Masemma temple near Gandhi Chowk area. The camp focussed on women, children and the elderly to ensure that they received timely and adequate medical attention. It was also a message to the women to pay sufficient heed to their health to prevent minor issues from becoming serious problems. In total, 250 people were benefitted from the medical camp.

Don Bosco Chitradurga in collaboration with the Government hospital, Holalkere organised a one-day free medical camp for the benefit of the public

in Holalkere on 5 March 2022. Around 200 people benefitted from the camp.

Don Bosco Hospet in association with Chittawadigi PHC organised a free health awareness and medical camp in Hosur gram panchayat on 16 March 2022 as part of their Women's Day celebration. More than 180 people benefitted from the camp.

On 5 March 2022, a free health camp was organised by Don Bosco Bidar in association with the Government Hospital in Chambol village. A total of 180 people from the village were attended to during the camp.



Calendar

March 2022

- Canonical visitation by the Provincial, Salesian Province of Bangalore
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- International Women's Day celebrations
- CREAM III State-level Staff Meeting and Training

April 2022

- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- BREADS' funding partner monitoring visit

BREADS NEWS



Provincial's Canonical Visit to BREADS

Fr. Jose Koyickal SDB, the Provincial of Sacred Heart Province, Bangalore made his annual canonical visit to the Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS) office on 3 March 2022...[more...](#)



Drug Abuse: DREAM Kollam stages street play to raise awareness

The battle against drugs clearly needs to be taken to the street as drug addiction has become all-pervasive in the state of Kerala. To eradicate the scourge of substance abuse from our society and to...[more...](#)



Training programme-WELivE Kannur

The Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship (WELivE) programme at Kannur, Kerala conducted a training on poultry farming for 160 women from Angadikadavu, Karikkottakary...[more...](#)



CREAM III State-level Staff Meeting and Training

Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS) Bangalore organised a two-day staff meeting cum training for the programme staff of its Child Rights Education and Action Movement...[more...](#)