

### Director's Message

As part of the universal action against child labour, the need for social protection is stressed, to ensure that vulnerable families are adequately supported to keep their children out of the labour markets and rightfully in schools, where they belong. It has been BREADS' approach to view child labour in the context of the family and community. For this purpose, various broad-based interventions for both children and adults have always been promoted. Each child's situation is unique and therefore, at times, requires calibrated, personalised interventions. Read on to know more about these interventions...



**Fr Rubin Mathew sdb**  
Executive Director, BREADS

### Casting a Safety Net of Support

*Change is a constant in life but 13-year-old Bhavana's life fell apart because of the drastic upheavals in her young life. Natives of Tamil Nadu, Bhavana's parents settled in Bengaluru after their marriage, working one day at a time to create the life of their dreams. Bhavana's father was a tailor, with his own tailoring shop. His profession earned him enough to comfortably take care of his family. Both Bhavana and her younger brother were studying in English-medium schools, and life was peaceful until their mother was diagnosed with a kidney disease. It did not take long after that for everything her parents had painstakingly built over time, to come crumbling down. The months that followed were consumed by the family's efforts to cure her disease and prolong her life. Bhavana's father spent everything he had on giving his wife the best treatment possible. But despite their best efforts, they could not save her. Bhavana lost her mother 5 years ago, and with that, she lost the childhood that she had once known.*

*Her father's desperate attempts to save her mother cost him his means of income and his life's savings, and at the end of the long battle, he was left with no money, no shop, and no hope. The pandemic worsened his situation and he lost the job that he had taken up to take care of his children. With a crisis brewing on the outside and at home, Bhavana's father was left with no choice but to send his children to a welfare hostel, as neither he nor his wife had extended family for support.*

*Bhavana's father tried two hostels at different times for his daughter. Both didn't work out and BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan (BVB), BREADS' partner for Young at Risk interventions, was his third attempt at giving his daughter a better future. He came to know about the institution through a BOSCO staff member in his church and approached the centre for help. Bhavana joined BVB in November 2021, and ever since, the focus has been to help her make up for the years that she had lost to the uncertainty of shifting circumstances. She*

*had dropped out of school in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. So, she initially did the bridge course at the centre to catch up with the learning she had missed, and was prepared to restart school in the academic year of 2022-23. The centre staff report that*



*Bhavana did not have much trouble adjusting to the environment at BVB. She happily gets along with the other children, enthusiastically embracing every new change and challenge, and participating in all the activities of the centre. She is also good in her studies and is responding well to tutoring. Bhavana's younger brother was also admitted to BOSCO Mane.*

*With his children making new beginnings, Bhavana's father was also encouraged by the BVB staff to make changes in his life that would help restore a sense of belonging and security that his children lost to a complicated childhood. Her father presently works as a security guard in a hospital, living in shared bachelor's quarters with a few other colleagues. The first change he was advised to make was to rent a house where he could bring his children home during the holidays. As the father prepares to start life afresh along with his children, Bhavana has also started out on a new journey, a journey back in time, to the childhood she had once known and forgotten.*

## Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour

Bhavana and her brother are not the typical cases of children thrown into child labour by poverty or disinterested parents or socio-cultural circumstances. They had lived a secure, fairly comfortable life with loving parents that was wrecked by the tsunami of a serious illness, further compounded by the pandemic. Bhavana's family was completely vulnerable against these circumstances, without the buffer of other forms of social protection (in this case, family support as well). Thousands of Indian families in similar circumstances could not provide alternatives for their children, thereby forcing their children to fend for themselves as child labourers.

The ILO and UNICEF report on the Role of Social Protection in the Elimination of Child Labour, states: "Child labour is a violation of every child's right to a childhood – and a breach of every government's most fundamental duty to protect its children. Beginning in 2000, the world was making steady progress in reducing child labour. But over the last few years, conflicts, crises, and since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic have plunged more families into poverty – and forced millions more children into labour. Today, 160 million children are still engaged in child labour – some as young as 5. That's almost one in ten children,

## BREADS' Interventions Against Child Labour

As Bhavana's story illustrates, sometimes we have to support the adults to help their children as they weather the storms in their lives. BREADS' and the Don Bosco preventive approach towards child labour takes a comprehensive view of their situation, intervening at various junctures of risk with both children and adults.

1. **Empowering marginalised adults to access social protection:** Though they might not be direct project interventions, BREADS programmes also support vulnerable people to access social welfare schemes wherever possible. This ensures that people become aware of their rights, access their constitutionally-mandated social protection, thereby creating a demand for these services from the government.

In Karnataka, over the past year, the following services were facilitated through the Women Empowerment through Collective Action and Networks (WECAN) programme:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Aadhaar (government ID) registration   | - 60 women          |
| • e-SHRAM (govt. ID for unorganised labourers) registration                            | - 108 women         |
| • Labour cards   | - 15 women          |
| • Free ration cards registration   | - 7 families        |
| • Two-month tailoring courses  | - 15 women          |
| • Employment opportunities   | - 7 women           |
| • Enrollment to the pension scheme   | - 4 elderly women   |
| • Pradhan Mantri Vandana Yojana (govt. scheme) registration                            | - 3 pregnant women  |
| • Registration under Rashtriya Udhya Kathri Yojana (govt. scheme for microenterprises) | - 3 gram panchayats |
| • Income generation programme assistance and external loans                            | - 5 SHGs            |
| • Hostel facility through CHILDLINE and the Child Welfare Committee                    | - 8 children        |
| • Scholarships for higher studies  | - 2 girls           |

In Kerala, over the past 3 years, the Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT) programme supported **5309** migrant labourers through job placements. KISMAT supported thousands of migrants to register for AWAZ (Kerala govt. health insurance) through **389** camps.

The Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship (WELivE) programme in Kerala and Karnataka supported **2000** women and their families to generate income for themselves.

worldwide. Nearly half of these children are engaged in hazardous work likely to cause physical and emotional harm.

**Providing families with direct assistance to help them weather crises can help reduce negative coping strategies like child labour and child marriage. The report also shows that the impact of social protection measures is even greater if countries also put in place integrated systems that provide social protection benefits across the lifecycle.** However, worldwide, the families of approximately 1.5 billion children 14 and under, receive no family or child cash benefits at all."



**2. Rescuing and rehabilitating the young at risk** through 24-hour street presence, child protection systems like CHILDLINE, counselling and family reunification, rehabilitation centres, residential bridge schools, foster care, skill training, formal schooling, advocacy, networking and public awareness creation. These interventions take children out of child labour situations into safe environments with the opportunity to redesign their futures. Last year, more than **3000** children were rehabilitated. In addition, the **Child Safety Net** programme reached out to **3230** children as well.



**3. Supplementary education centres** in villages/urban settlements provide learning and nutritional support to families who are not equipped to help their children. These centres help first-generational learners stay in school, develop life skills, and learn about child rights as well. Last year, more than **2518** children benefitted from these centres.



**4. Education sponsorships/scholarships** support children from economically-challenged families, who cannot afford to send their children either to school or for higher education. During the past year, **86** children benefitted from the sponsorship and **74** from the scholarship programmes.

**5. Formal schools, colleges and skill training** programmes run by the Don Bosco network in rural areas, provide much-required opportunities for the development of thousands of children and youth.

**6. Rights education and training** enables communities to defend child rights and stand up against violations of the same. Communities and children are empowered to use statutory mechanisms (**170** Children's Special Parliaments) and platforms (**269** Child Protection Committees) to negotiate their rights from the government.



Last year, the Child Rights Education and Action Movement (CREAM) programme empowered **35,611** children through three phases of trainings. Empowered children and communities prevented **17** child marriages, rescued **86** child labourers, readmitted **67** school dropouts, assisted **116** children in other risk situations.

**7. Sensitisation of Government functionaries** through training programmes promote synergy and better implementation of statutory policies. Interaction with sensitised government officials enables better access to rights by empowered communities and children.

**8. Public Awareness and Advocacy campaigns** create a groundswell of awareness among citizens who are motivated to conscious action to protect and promote child rights in their localities. Widespread campaigns on the need for action against child labour (**88** programmes) were organised in **20** districts in Karnataka.



BREADS acknowledges that child labour is a systemic issue that requires various forms of intervention with multiple stakeholders in society, and therefore, its initiatives are also multifaceted and multi-layered.

**Congratulations to the 32 students from the Don Bosco Young at Risk centres who successfully cleared the pre university course (PUC) exams in 2022!**



**World Day Against Child Labour (12 June) Campaigns**

| SI No | Districts                      | Programmes organised | Taluku    | Gram Panchayats | Children Involved |             | Activities  |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---|
|       |                                |                      |           |                 | Boys              | Girls       |   |
| 1     | Ramanagara, Mandya             | 22                   | 8         | 22              | 818               | 842         | Rally, mimes, skits, public awareness, essay, debate and drawing competitions       |
| 2     | Bangalore Urban and Rural      | 12                   | 1         | 2               | 400               | 420         | Public awareness on Government schemes, street plays, rally, shop-to-shop awareness |
| 3     | Bidar                          | 12                   | 4         | 12              | 995               | 980         | Public rally, public awareness  |
| 4     | Chitradurga, Tumakuru          | 2                    | 2         | 2               | 496               | 437         | Rally, public function  |
| 5     | Davanagere, Haveri, Shivamogga | 3                    | 3         | 3               | 534               | 588         | Awareness rally, stage programme, cultural activities by children                   |
| 6     | Kalaburagi, Vijayapura         | 12                   | 11        | 12              | 1575              | 1795        | Public rally, workshop, public awareness  |
| 7     | Mysuru, Chamarajanagar         | 2                    | 2         | 2               | 124               | 188         | Public awareness, rally, signature campaign   |
| 8     | Raichur, Bagalkot              | 14                   | 7         | 14              | 919               | 958         | Rally, public awareness   |
| 9     | Vijayanagara, Koppal, Gadag    | 7                    | 7         | 7               | 563               | 407         | Rally and public function   |
| 10    | Yadagiri                       | 2                    | 2         | 2               | 150               | 426         | Rally, public awareness   |
|       | <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>88</b>            | <b>47</b> | <b>78</b>       | <b>6574</b>       | <b>7041</b> |   |



## Calendar

### June 2022

- World Environment Day campaigns - CREAM programme
- World Day Against Child Labour campaigns – CREAM programme
- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - DREAM
- State-level DREAM Coordinators meeting
- Santoshadindha Shalege—BREADS' campaign to send underprivileged children back to school

### July 2022

- Inauguration of the 18<sup>th</sup> skill training batch—DB BEST Academy
- WECAN state-level Staff Meeting and Training
- State-level DREAM Counsellors training

## BREADS NEWS



### DREAM Beyond Drugs on World No Tobacco Day

Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM) is a rights-based initiative from BREADS that aims to empower children and youth in Kerala to dream beyond drugs. *World No Tobacco Day*, observed on...[more...](#)



### World Environment Day Celebration by DREAM Wayanad

Highlighting the *Only One Earth* theme on World Environment Day, Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM) team Wayanad distributed tree saplings to different stakeholders to ...[more..](#)



### CREAM initiatives on World Day against Child Labour

The month of June highlights alarming social issues, directing our attention towards being socially responsible individuals. World Environment Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> and World Day Against Child Labour...[more...](#)



### Santoshadindha Shalege—BREADS' campaign to send underprivileged children to school

The start of the academic year is difficult for less-privileged children whose parents struggle to provide them with the required materials for school, such as books, stationery, bags, uniforms, and...[more...](#)