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Director's Message

BREADS' Child Rights Education and Action Movement (CREAM), has been promoting child rights activism across Karnataka for over ten years. One of the key objectives of its current phase is the strengthening of government systems; to make them child-friendly, and responsive to children's participation in governance and the attainment of their rights. In this context, BREADS partnered with UNICEF to promote child-friendly local governance in six districts of Karnataka. This edition of Slice reports on this recent collaboration.

All of us at BREADS wish you a happy, healthy New Year!

Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) in Karnataka

As envisaged in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the participation of children in the public domain, in matters that concern them, is one of the four principal rights to which, a child is entitled, besides the rights to survival, protection and development. The CREAM programme has been consistently working over the years, in Karnataka, to build the capacities of children and communities to access and claim these rights.



The UNICEF's vision of child-friendly local governance (CFLG) in Karnataka fully complements the vision of BREADS' CREAM programme, resulting in a collaborative effort in six districts—Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Ramnagara, Mandya, Chitradurga, and Davanagere.

The teams reached out to **2473 children and 240 adult stakeholders across 97 gram panchayats (GPs)** through this initiative.

The CFLG concept provides a strategic framework for governments to incorporate the rights of children into the local government system, structure, policies, and process. It also seeks to empower children to influence decisions about them at various levels of governments by expressing their opinions at available platforms. Child rights clubs, Bala Sabhas (collectives of children at the GP level) and Makkala Grama Sabhas (children's parliaments), are some such platforms. Similar to the CREAM concept, CFLG also supports civil society and government functionaries, through trainings and the formation of standing committees, to bring about responsiveness, accountability, and transparency in public services.



As part of the CFLG programme, the following activities were initiated:

- Training of staff and field functionaries/ Community Mobilisers/Volunteers; to understand and facilitate child-friendly local governance in the selected districts through Bala Sabhas – their formation, composition, roles, responsibilities, objectives, functions, and principles, as well as Makkala Grama Sabhas, and how to organise them effectively



- Full-day training for children on concepts of child rights and Bala Sabhas; facilitation and consolidation of their local issues, in addition to recreational and sports activities



- Formation of Bala Sabhas and leadership development of the child members
- Consolidation of concerns/ plans / solutions to be presented by the Bala Sabhas at the Grama Sabhas for approval
- Convening of Bala Sabhas and facilitation of the discussions among the Grama Sabha, Bala Sabha, GP members, Child Protection Committees, and teachers
- Training on child rights and child budgeting for various civil society and government stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institution (PRI) and other government department representatives, ASHA workers and teachers
- District-level orientation on CFLG for the officials of the Government Executive, such as the District Collector, Zilla Panchayat CEO, Panchayat Asst. Director, District Child Protection Officer, ICDS Project Officers
- Incorporating the Bala Sabha plan into the gram panchayat development plan, ensuring approval and allocation of funds for children's agenda items



- Follow-up and facilitation to ensure implementation, checking child indicators to ensure child-friendly local governance

Capacity-building Processes Conducted

Activity	Mysuru	Chamarajana- gar	Mandya	Ramanagara	Chitradurga	Davanagere	Total
Staff training		1			1		
Grama panchayats reached	15	15	9	21	15	22	97
First GP stakeholder training	5	10	5	10	10	10	50
Second GP stakeholder training	9	6	5	10	10	10	50
First Bala Sabha trainings / meetings	15	15	9	21	15	22	97
Second Bala Sabha meetings	15	15	9	21	15	22	97

The two-phase trainings for both adults and children, helped them understand the concepts of child-friendly local governance and how to use available platforms to effectively implement the concepts of children's participation in child-friendly local governance at the panchayat level.



CFLG Training Processes for Children

District	Male	Female	Total
Chitradurga	164	213	377
Davanagere	255	318	573
Ramanagara	252	274	526
Mandya	107	119	226
Mysuru	173	214	387
Chamarajanagar	177	207	384
TOTAL	1128 (45.6%)	1345 (54.4%)	2473

One of the focal points of the CFLG trainings that was achieved, was to ensure that girls were reached out to in large numbers, as empowered, informed girls and women are known to be crucial to equitable and effective social development.

It is hoped that the CFLG and CREAM initiatives will continue to bear much fruit in the areas that they have been implemented.

International Migrants Day Celebrations

International Migrants' Day is celebrated on 18 December every year as an appreciation of migrant workers, an acknowledgement of their hard work and contribution to society, while also acknowledging the challenges they face as a result of migration across state and country borders. Among others, migrants face challenges to their lives, health, family integrity and livelihoods, including the very difficult challenge of establishing where they belong and therefore where they might access their rights.



The Kerala/Karnataka Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT), is an initiative of BREADS, working across 11 districts in Kerala and in Bangalore city, through 13 migrant help desks, reaching thousands of migrants and their families every year, helping them access their entitlements in their respective states. Thirty-four KISMAT villages (or communities) have been created to further build their collectives and representation locally.



KISMAT Karnataka celebrated International Migrants Day with the migrant community at K. Narayanapura, Bangalore, organising music, recrea-

tional activities and games for around 46 migrant workers and their families. Refreshments and prizes were also distributed.



KISMAT, Kollam celebrated the day on the theme 'Together We Heal And Shine' at Kottiyam, with awareness programmes on mental health and substance abuse and free legal aid, besides organising street plays, and other cultural programmes.



“हमें बहुत खुशी ये बात का है की हमें सपोर्ट करने के लिए किस्मत यहाँ है”

“We are really happy that we have KISMAT to support us”

- Manik Biswas, A KISMAT village leader

Calendar

December 2022

- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- Christmas celebration at BREADS
- Visits from partner agencies

January 2023

- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- Inauguration of the 20th skill training batch—DB BEST Academy
- Celebration of Don Bosco's Feast Day

BREADS NEWS



[Child-Friendly Local Governance \(CFLG\) in Karnataka](#)

Fulfilling the vision of Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) in Karnataka, BREADS joined hands with UNICEF in 6 districts namely Mysuru, Chamara-janagar, Ramanagara, Mandya, Chitradurga, and Davanagere...[more...](#)



[International Migrants Day- KISMAT Karnataka](#)

Karnataka Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT), an initiative of BREADS Bangalore, celebrated International Migrants Day with the migrant community at K. Narayanapura, Bangalore on...[more...](#)



[Inauguration of the 32nd Skill Training Batch – Don Bosco Makkalalaya](#)

The 32nd batch of skill training at Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysuru (implementing partner of BREADS Bangalore) was formally inaugurated on 15 December 2022. The ceremony was attended by the ...[more...](#)



[A Day of Fulfilment](#)

In Bhadravati, BREADS is actively involved in the development and promotion of handicrafts through trainings in tailoring and arecanut plate-making, while also providing marketing opportunities through participation in fairs and...[more...](#)