



BREADS

Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society



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Slice



Director's Message

Investing in our planet, the theme of Earth Day this year, involves the engagement of people, governments and businesses, to recognise our responsibility towards ensuring an equitable green economy for all. To achieve this, we also need to pay close attention to civic education and climate literacy. These are two areas that BREADS has been trying to impact through its community initiatives. This edition of Slice will tell you more.

Fr Rubin Mathew SDB
Executive Director, BREADS

Civic Education & Climate Literacy

As with any rights or change movements, the creation of awareness is both fundamental and crucial. This has been BREADS' experience with its child rights movement, CREAM. It is also our experience with the prevention of addictions among children and youth (the DREAM programme), and it is no different when it comes to environment action.

Civic education teaches citizens how to become active in ensuring their community's well-being. In the context of the environment, the focus is on how to access and use natural resources, preserve and expand natural areas and green space, environmental justice, and climate action planning.

Climate science literacy or climate literacy is an understanding of how humans influence climate and how climate influences us and our societies. For this, we need to develop a basic understanding of the Earth's climate system, know how to assess scientifically credible information about climate, communicate about these things meaningfully, and make informed, responsible decisions about actions that may affect climate.

The two BREADS' centres for organic farming and moringa cultivation in Hassan and Kalaburagi in Karnataka, are centres that disseminate both environmental civic education and climate literacy as one of their core activities.

How do we put Theory into Practice?

Just like in school, we create laboratories to test the theory, to experiment and verify whether the ideas are practicable, scalable and replicable elsewhere. The BREADS' farms set up in Hassan across 20 acres (April 2018), and Kalaburagi across 10 acres (August 2021) respectively, perform this function as demonstration and experimental spaces so that the local farmers can be educated about organic farming and alternative practices that support the environment, and enjoy better food security and health.

The local farmers in these areas are mostly marginalised farmers with small land holdings (less than 5 acres), which have become degraded over the years through unsustainable farming practices such as chemical fertilisation and pest control, and monoculture crops. The plan was to train 600 selected Master Farmers in organic farming, who in turn, could support 20-25

other farmers in the community to produce organic Moringa, vegetables and medicinal plants. Thereby, a total of 12,000 - 15,000 women in self-help groups, youth, and farmers would be educated and motivated to produce organic products which could then be marketed. Additionally, 40,000 farmers/SHG women could be reached indirectly through awareness campaigns and other events.



Promoting Climate Action through Civic Education and Climate Literacy

The local farmer communities are able to verify for themselves which eco-friendly practices are successful and feasible, before deciding to adopt them, by:

- Understanding the difference between organic and non-organic fertilisers/pesticides and their respective impact on the soil, and the larger implications for society and the Earth.
- Learning different methods to manufacture compost onsite from animal manure and leaves.
- Initiating animal husbandry/dairy units to create an ecosystem and also support the production of manure.



- Learning water conservation and irrigation methods.
- Using multi-cropping methods with locally suitable crops: 14 varieties of food and cash crops were cultivated, demonstrating to the farmers, the advantages of better soil utilisation, improved yield per crop and land unit, decreased cost of inputs, reduced attacks from pests and disease.
- Collaborating with various agencies to share technical know-how, seeds and other support.

The Harvest this Year (Results)

- An excellent quality organic Moringa crop of 1520 kgs from 3 acres in Kalaburagi.
- Onions and millets cultivated in a 70:30 organic ratio on the Kalaburagi farm.
- Production of 1000–1500 kgs of vermicompost every three months in Hassan.
- A small scale processing unit for organic Moringa leaves (processed 60 kgs) and fruits in Hassan.
- Production of 11.6 tonnes of paddy, fruit trees, 700 kgs of turmeric, cardamom, 500 kgs of ginger, avocado, and areca nut trees in Hassan.
- Don Bosco Hassan adopted a gradual conversion of land from normal cultivation to organic cultivation.
- In the animal husbandry department, a new cowshed and two buffaloes in Kalaburagi; 6 cows and 2 calves in Hassan.
- Renovation of open wells, groundwater recharging, and drip irrigation systems on both farms.
- Eight 2-day trainings on organic farming conducted for 280 selected farmers (ToT) in Kalaburagi, and two trainings for 80 farmers and students in Hassan.
- Awareness classes for SHG members and youth in 41 villages in Kalaburagi and similar trainings for 250 students and farmers in Hassan.



CREAM III: Review of a Child Rights Movement

BREADS recently organised a concluding review of the Child Rights Education and Action Movement (CREAM) - Phase III, on 22-23 April 2023 in Mysuru. The event, attended by programme directors and staff from twenty districts of Karnataka, and the Project Manager of the funding partner, was a retrospective on the successes of the CREAM programme as well as a time for recollection and reflection.

Fr. Rubin Mathew, Executive Director of BREADS, expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of CREAM since its inception in 2012. The programme's goal was to educate children about their rights so that they could better participate in matters concerning their own development and well-being. Over the course of three phases (2012-2015, 2016-2020, 2020-2023), CREAM has been successful at building awareness of children's rights in 20 districts of Karnataka, allowing them to access their rights from the State in keeping with the UNCRC and state laws.



Mr. Benny Augustine, Manager-Projects, presented an update about the CREAM III programmes from October 2020 to March 2023. Ms. Susanne Arzt, Project Manager from Don Bosco Mondo, Germany, validated the success and impact of the programme over the years in

Reviewing Progress towards De-addiction: DREAM

BREADS also conducted a review of its programme, Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM), on 25 April 2023 in Vaduthala, with the Directors and Co-ordinators of the ten districts in which it operates.

In the presence of Fr. Rubin Mathew, Executive Director of BREADS, Mr. Benny Augustine, Manager-Projects, presented an update on the programme, emphasising the need to enhance its effectiveness and reach in the target areas. Ms. Susanne Arzt, Project Manager from Don Bosco Mondo, Germany, commended the efforts of the BREADS team, and DREAM's impact on the issue of substance abuse among young people.

The participants exchanged views on enhancing the programme's effectiveness by increasing community engagement, strengthening partnerships with local stakeholders, and leveraging technology for programme delivery. Insights from various stakeholders of DREAM, in-

cluding parents, teachers, trained ambassadors, and local corporate partners, were also shared during the meeting.



the lives of children, in making them aware of their rights and child rights violations, and building their capacity to exercise their right to participation.

The programme staff and directors reflected on CREAM's impact on the attitudes and behaviour of children and the community, with respect to children's rights. They also evaluated the advocacy efforts with the government departments to promulgate the formation of Child Rights Clubs (CRCs), and Child Protection Committees (CPCs), and the organisation of Makala Grama Sabhas (MGS).

The impact of CREAM has been enormous over the years. Through child rights education, CREAM III reached out to 83,298 children through 839 trainings in government schools and reached 22,962 stakeholders through advocacy workshops at the taluk and district levels. The formation of CPCs ensures sustainable prioritisation of the protection and promotion of child rights. The programme has made a significant difference in the lives of children in Karnataka.

The BREADS' CREAM programme is a shining example of the positive changes that civic education can bring about in communities, facilitating people to work together to promote and protect the rights of children.

BREADS is committed to empowering young people to live healthy, productive lives free from addiction. A key strategy towards achieving this goal in the DREAM programme is civic education for various stakeholders using different means. We hope the dedicated efforts of the team pays off!

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Calendar

April 2023

- Annual visitation of the Provincial (INK Province)
- Monitoring visit from partner agency
- CREAM state-level review
- DREAM state-level review
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects

May 2023

- Inauguration of Don Bosco School, Bidar
- BREADS' leadership change
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects

BREADS NEWS



Provincial's Canonical Visit to BREADS

On 3 April 2023, 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...[more...](#)



Job Fair at Don Bosco College, Chitradurga

Don Bosco Job Placement Network (JPN) recently conducted a successful job fair on 15 April 2023 at Don Bosco College in Chitradurga, Karnataka. The event attracted a total of 310 job seekers who were...[more...](#)



Inauguration of the 33rd Skill Training Batch – Don Bosco Makkalalaya

On 15 April 2023, Don Bosco Makkalalaya (partner of BREADS Bangalore) inaugurated its 33rd batch of skill training in the retail business management and BPO domains. The event was graced by the presence...[more...](#)



DB Devadurga Children Score against Child Labour

Don Bosco Social Service Centre in Devadurga, Raichur, has been running a Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre with a residential Bridge Course since 2016. Since then, many children have been rescued from...[more...](#)

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