



BREADS
Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society

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Slice

Director's Message



At the core of BREADS' work is the agenda of child rights. We work to ensure that vulnerable children access their rights, and that adults are empowered to ensure that access. During the time of Don Bosco, our founder, the language of child rights was unused but that spirit was very much alive in his approach and continues to this day.

November is the month dedicated to celebrating children's rights; and in this Slice, we report on how our various partners upheld them through their work while also celebrating through events.

As we celebrate Christmas too, the difficult circumstances of the birth of the baby Jesus are an apt reminder that a child has rights: to life, to protection, to development and to participation. Many centuries later, we can still use this occasion to reflect on the progress we have made since the first Christmas, in ensuring that our children enjoy these rights. Are we doing enough?

Warm wishes for a blessed Christmas season and a very happy, healthy new year! Thank you for your partnership in ensuring that children at risk have a healthier and happier life. We look forward to your continued support in 2024 as well!

Fr George PS
Executive Director, BREADS

Season's Greetings from the BREADS team!

Your kindness and generosity make this Christmas season brighter. Here's to a Christmas filled with all the joy and love you deserve. Wishing you all a

**Wonderful
CHRISTMAS &
Prosperous 2024**



I have rights, You have rights, We all have rights



As a refresher, here are the rights of a child as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which came into effect on 20 November 1989.

India is one of the 196 countries across the world, who are signatories to this treaty. In India, besides World Child Rights Day, we additionally celebrate 14 November as Children's Day in honour of Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, who was known as a friend to children.



BREADS' partners across Karnataka and Kerala celebrated children's rights all through the month through events, meetings, child rights awareness programmes, and especially through their work on the ground.

I have the Right to Life

In a rescue mission on 25 November 2023, the Child Safety Net (CSN) team of BOSCO Bangalore (BREADS' partner) rescued a 20 day-old boy from being trafficked by his parents in Bangalore. Upon receiving information that a couple from Tamil Nadu, were attempting to sell their child, the CSN team in collaboration with the local as well as Central Crime Branch police, caught the baby's mother and three other associates involved in the crime.



The illicit operation headed by a woman, targeted childless families, promising them a child for amounts

ranging from 300,000 to 500,000 rupees. They would then identify financially vulnerable families with infants aged 2-3 months and offer them money in exchange for the child.

Following the intervention, the newborn was taken to the Government Vanivilas Hospital for immediate medical attention and care. CSN promptly informed the Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee. On 27 November, the baby was discharged from the hospital under the supervision of appropriate authorities and admitted to Amruth Shishu Nivas in Basawanakudi, Bangalore, following the CWC order.

The timely intervention and collaboration between the CSN team, law enforcement and healthcare professionals led to the rescue of the newborn and the apprehension of the traffickers. This case highlights the vulnerability of children of financially-distressed families and underscores the importance of prompt action and collaboration among various agencies to safeguard the fundamental rights of children.

I have the Right to Protection

Don Bosco CHITHRA (BREADS' partner) prevented an under-age girl from being married off by her family in Karobaiyanahatti village, Chitradurga in Karnataka on November 9, 2023.

The social workers collaborated successfully with the Department of Women and Child Development, Headmaster of the Govt. High School, CHILDLINE, District Child Protection Unit, and the Police, to ensure the prevention of the marriage and that the child continues her education.

This rescue again brings into focus the need for a strong community watch and proactive child protection systems to ensure that all children, especially the vulnerable, are protected from violations of their rights—whether trafficking, child labour, child marriage or neglect. The CREAM initiative by BREADS was particularly responsible for creating thousands of informed children and adults, who are now champions of the rights of children.



I have the Right to Development

Besides the basic needs, children need opportunity—to develop into a full person, able to explore their potential. BREADS together with Social Service Guild, commemorated Children's Day on 12 November 2023 at Kristu Jyoti



College, Krishnarajapuram. The day was a joyous occasion for the 400 children who attend the ten evening supplementary education centres, across the East Bangalore region. Various competitions—group dance, music, mono-act, elocution, and literary events were organised, providing a platform for the children to showcase their talents and creativity. It was an opportunity for the children to interact with new people, and gain experience and exposure. Games, entertainment sessions, chance games etc. were organised by the volunteers of Kristu Jyothi College, Bangalore.

Fr. George PS, Executive Director—BREADS, addressed the children on the optimum and responsible use of child

rights for their own safety and protection, and that of their friends as well. He also distributed prizes to the winners of the competitions.

Similarly, with Don Bosco CHITHRA, a *Makkalotsava* (children's festival), was conducted on 19 November 2023, for 450 children of 15 evening tuition centres in Chitradurga. The children actively participated, played games, and received gifts, contributing to the joyous atmosphere of the event. The programme also featured group singing and dance competitions, allowing the children to showcase their talents and creativity.



Similar programmes were organised across all the partnering organisations of BREADS in both Karnataka and Kerala. These Children's Day celebrations resonated with the core mission of BREADS – to empower children through an educative presence by creating an environment that nurtures their holistic development.

I have the Right to Participate



In a significant initiative led by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department, around 350 children from five villages in Ramasamundra Gram Panchayat, Yadagiri district, actively participated in the *Makkala Grama Sabha* (MGS) (children's parliament) on 22 November 2023.

The MGS encouraged children's involvement in discussions related to village and school developments. During the MGS, children voiced their concerns and demands for improved school infrastructure, essential amenities like plates and glasses for the midday meal, water facilities, school compound walls, playgrounds, and the construction of an anganwadi building in Ashanal tanda. The

officials carefully listened to the children's demands, assuring them that the issues would be addressed in the coming two months.

Don Bosco Centre for Social Action in Yadagiri played an active role in the MGS by organising 40 children from its four activity centres in Ramasamundra and Bangarammanagudi villages.

The children's right to participate in matters that concern them, has been highly promoted by BREADS, because of the proven experience through the CREAM programme, that informed and educated children are tremendous spokespersons for their own rights and the rights of others.



An Opportunity to Share!

Sharing is Caring

Come, spread joy through education for 400 children living in Don Bosco homes in North Karnataka!

Gift them the essentials for schooling. School bags, notebooks, stationery, toiletries etc. or INR 550 per child



United in purpose, caring for our world. Together, we make a meaningful difference through responsible actions by December 31st



Schedule a collection with our volunteers

Call: +91 9945280524
csr@breadsbangalore@gmail.com

www.breadsbangalore.org



Click to donate to BREADS



Calendar

November 2023

- Children's Day and World Child Rights Day celebrations
- Visit of Fr. Rafael Bejarano Revira SDB, Youth Dept. Rome, In-charge of Social Works in the Salesian Congregation
- Project visits by funding and CSR partners
- Visit to DB Hassan Green Acres by JEW Austria
- Participation in an International Conference on 'Back to Nature'
- Inauguration of new skill training batch in DB KGF
- Meeting with Managers and Principals of Don Bosco Colleges of Bangalore Province

- Meeting with the CHILDLINE Directors
- Meeting with the Directors of Young At Risk Centres
- Release of BREADS Annual Report 2022-23

December 2023

- Core team meeting with APF- Empowering children through education and child rights promotion project
- Christmas celebrations in BREADS
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS team
- Employee engagement programmes with CSR partners
- Annual outing of the BREADS team

BREADS NEWS

BREADS welcomes Fr Rafael Bejarano Revira SDB



The BREADS team, led by Fr George-the Executive Director, was happy to welcome special visitors to its office on 16 November 2023. Fr. Rafael Bejarano Revira SDB, In-charge of Social Works under the Youth Services [...more...](#)

BREADS at the B2N Conference with JEW, Austria



BREADS was invited to participate in the international conference on Back-to-Nature organised by SAVE Foundation, Belgium, and Jugend Eine Welt, Austria; in Bangalore on 24-25 November 2023. [...more...](#)

Child Rights day and Parents meeting at Tegghih village Raichur district



On 20 November 2023, Don Bosco Social Service Society, Devadurga, Raichur district, organised a significant event combining Children's Day, the observation of Child Rights Day, and a Parents' Meeting at Tegghih [...more...](#)

International Child Rights Day at Don Bosco PYaR, Kalaburagi



On 20 November 2023, Don Bosco PYaR (Programme for the Young at Risk), Kalaburagi, organised a meaningful celebration for 300 children on the occasion of International Day of the Rights of the Child. [...more...](#)

[Click here for more news about BREADS.](#)