



**BREADS**

Bangalore Rural Educational  
and Development Society



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# Slice

## Director's Message

Child labour is a complex socioeconomic and political problem in India; born out of poverty and perpetuated by weak policy implementation and social injustice. Unless the cycle of child labour is broken, it tends to repeat itself through generations, where parents in difficult circumstances sustain the practice, unaware of its dire consequences on their children's health and lives; because they did not experience the value of education or professional skilling for themselves. That's why, BREADS champions the education and skilling of children out of school, as the only way to develop human potential, and help them and their families break the chains of child labour. World Anti Child Labour Day, observed on 12 June, is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to this cause.



**Fr George PS**  
Executive Director, BREADS

Children trafficked for work, become invisible to many of us because their places of work are very often hidden. The dedicated efforts of our staff members and partners to find these lost children, and their journeys of transformation that we see, continue to motivate us. We, as friends of children, have a great responsibility in restoring their lost childhood and bringing back smiles to their faces. Thank you for being a friend to the children and BREADS. We appreciate all your monetary help to fight against child labour. Together, we can work together to wipe out this inhuman practice of child labour from our country.

## Social Justice for All, End Child Labour

According to the ILO and UNICEF, 160 million children are engaged in labour worldwide and an additional 8.9 million would have been added by the end of 2022. With the recorded increase in child labour across the world, especially after COVID, the aim to end all forms of child labour by 2025 (SDG 8.7) does not seem easy.



Ten-year-old Adil (name changed) from Bihar's East Champaran district was rescued by the Child Safety Net team (a BREADS-supported initiative) from Valmiki Nagar (a low-income area in Bangalore). Adil said that he had four siblings, his father was a casual labourer and his mother, a homemaker. His education ended at class 2 because of financial difficulties at home, and his childhood ended when his parents sent him to work in Bangalore, along with a neighbour. The neighbour employed Adil in his own bag factory. He worked there for four and a half months, typically starting at 9.00 am and ending at 11.00 pm, with an hour's break for lunch. He was paid INR 2000 per month.

After his rescue, Adil was counselled in BOSCO Yuvodaya (a drop-in centre for children at risk). He revealed that no one in his village went to school because the children opted to work as coolies or in small-scale industries. He said that his parents scolded him for not working to support the family. His parents were informed of his rescue and counselled about child protection laws and the harmful consequences of child labour. The bag factory owner was warned against employing children and its legal consequences. A case was also booked against him. The neighbourhood was made aware of child rights, and urged to call 1098 to report children in distress.

Adil is now back with his parents and is going to school. BOSCO follows up with the family to ensure that he continues in school.



Recognising that disempowered adults are important sustainers of the child labour phenomenon, BREADS and its Don Bosco partners engage them in change behaviour through community interventions: formation of SHGs/small groups, capacity building, gender equity, healthcare, microfinance and income generation, etc. These communities are enabled to access the social protection mandated by the Constitution, thereby creating a demand for government services and reinforcing the importance of social support systems.

BREADS and its partners, rescue, rehabilitate and advocate; working with the government and the community, to combat child labour through prescriptive and preventive means: 24-hour street presence, child protection systems- Child Safety Net & CHILDLINE, counselling and family reunification, rehabilitation centres, foster care, skill training, bridge schools, supplementary education centres, formal schools, advocacy, networking, creating public awareness, sensitisation of Government functionaries, and child rights education.

### Why is Education Crucial?

Adil's story clearly exposes the multi-layered nature of child labour: dire economic and social circumstances in many sections of society, disempowered and uneducated adults, unfavourable perception of education and its value, poor school/education systems, poor implementation of State policy, and a widespread lack of awareness regarding child/human rights.

[The Hindustan Times](#) reported that in February 2023, in response to questions from members in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) regarding out of school children (OoSC), Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar presented the following data from the education ministry.



Across all Indian states and union territories, in 2022-23:

- 12,53,019 students were out of school
- 6,97,121 of these children are boys, 5,55,854 are girls, and 44 are transgender children
- 9,30,531 children were at the elementary level and 3,22,488 at the secondary level

It is safe to assume that the numbers are much greater in reality. And what do these numbers imply? If so many children in the 6-14 age group are out of school, when the Constitution guarantees free and compulsory elementary education, what hope do they have of reentering the education system after they are fourteen? It is also highly unlikely that children who drop out at secondary levels will go on to develop high-income generation skills. In essence, we are looking at one more generation of low-skilled, low-earning adults in the future. And the cycle of child labour goes on.

It has been proven across the world and in our experience, that education is key to breaking cycles of poverty and disempowerment. Therefore, [BREADS and its partners promote schooling](#) and skilling as critical initiatives to empower young people in marginalised socioeconomic situations. BREADS supports rescued children through bridge schools to prepare them for school, supplementary education centres, mainstream schools and colleges, and education sponsorships. Formal and non-formal skilling open doors to better opportunities and lives.

Every child rescued from child labour or other adverse circumstances, and educated; is a victory and a hope for the future. We invite you to partner with us in this mission. [Educate or skill a child](#) and break the cycle of child labour.

### Off to a Great Academic Year 2023!

Keeping children in school is a community effort! BREADS supports both individuals and institutions in this effort.



- \* Joyful learning. Education fees for 121 school/college students (April 2023 onwards)
- \* Play school materials for 1 school



- \* Getting there. Cycles for 25 children



- \* Learning loads. School bags for 150+ children



- \* Spark curiosity. Science lab equipment for 2 rural schools
- \* Ignite imagination. 500+ books each for 7 school libraries





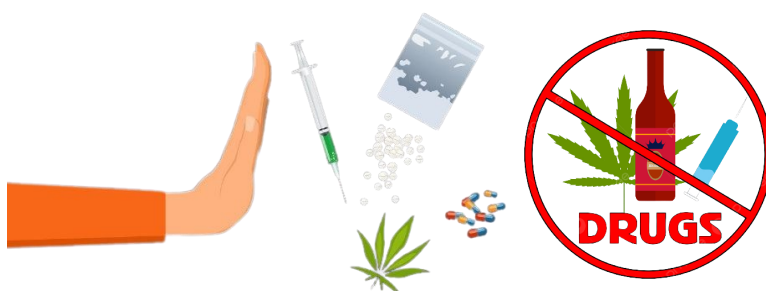


The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or World Drug Day, observed on 26 June, is very significant for BREADS, because of its DREAM initiative. Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM) is a rights-based initiative to prevent drug abuse and other addictions among children and youth in 10 districts of Kerala.

Drug abuse, especially among the young, is a complex issue requiring the concerted efforts of various members of society: the youngsters themselves, parents, educational institutions and their staff, the Government, Police, NGOs, and civil society in general. DREAM works with all of these stakeholders through awareness creation, advocacy, counselling and rehabilitation services.

The theme for World Drug Day 2023, "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention", is a call to promote a more inclusive and supportive approach towards people who use drugs, while also strengthening prevention efforts. Towards this goal, all the DREAM centres in the ten districts, conducted a plethora of events and activities in various locations, involving all members of society. They collaborated creatively with educational institutions, government departments, churches, and other agencies to create awareness about drug abuse through public meetings, rallies, lectures, group discussions, competitions/exhibitions, street plays, musicals, and flash mobs.

People took oaths, recited poems, quizzed, danced, mimed and marched to spread the word about preventing drug abuse in their communities. As the word spreads, and the solidarity and support for the vulnerable young grows, BREADS hopes that the young people in Kerala will be able to dream beyond drugs.



# Calendar

## June 2023

- Employee engagement with CSR partners
- Observance of World Environment Day
- Observance of Anti-Child Labour Day
- Observance of World Drug Day
- Inauguration of the 21<sup>st</sup> skill training batch- DB BEST
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects

## July 2023

- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- Employee engagement with CSR partners
- National Consultation—Don Bosco for Migrants
- Foster Care workshop through BOSCO
- Job fairs in Bidar and Kolar with Job Placement Network
- Plantation drives in support of Karnataka Vanamahotsava

## BREADS NEWS



### Cycling forward with KPMG

Twelve children of Don Bosco Mithra School were treated to a pleasant surprise by KPMG, Bangalore. KPMG, as a part of their company CSR activity, organised an event at The Leela, Bhartiya City, where 400 employees...[more...](#)



### Inauguration of the 21st Skill Training batch- DB BEST Academy

DB BEST Academy, the skill training centre of Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS) in Bangalore, conducted an inaugural cum graduation ceremony for its 21<sup>st</sup> batch of trainees...[more...](#)



### Empowering Lives through Education: Don Bosco Makkalalaya

Don Bosco Makkalalaya, implementing partner of BREADS in Mysuru, was honoured with an "Appreciation Award" during the Anti-Child Labour Day programme organised by the Mysore district administration...[more...](#)



### BREADS and DSV Promote a Green Initiative at Don Bosco College

"Plant a Tree" was a delightful event conducted by BREADS in collaboration with DSV Charitable Foundation and Don Bosco College, Bangalore in the college campus on 29 June 2023. Emphasising the importance of...[more...](#)