

**BREADS**Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society**Slice**

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Executive Director, BREADS

Director's Message

Ratan Tata said, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together." This is indeed true, especially in development work, because the distances and obstacles to achieving our envisioned goals are long and arduous. We cannot do it alone. BREADS is fortunate and grateful to have numerous committed partners, both institutional and individual, who walk with us on this challenging journey to ensure that we can build a better future together, especially for the marginalised. Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society has been one such stalwart partner of BREADS, and this month's Slice tells you more about its activities in Kerala.

Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society

Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society (DB Veedu) is a registered (Reg. No. 963/91) charitable non-governmental organisation working for the welfare and development of the marginalised children/youth in society.

Since 1991, DB Veedu has made a significant contribution in eliminating child begging and reducing child labour in the capital city of Kerala, besides working towards creating a child-friendly environment in collaboration with the government and NGO networks. From 1993, DB Veedu also became actively involved in the development of the slum dwellers of Thiruvananthapuram city, through its various initiatives for these marginalised families.



Children of Don Bosco Home

DB Veedu collaborates with BREADS on numerous programmes in the district of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, that greatly impact children, youth, and women who are at the periphery of society. We provide a glimpse of these ongoing joint initiatives, confident that this partnership between DB Veedu and BREADS will continue to facilitate immense good for vulnerable children, youth, and communities in the coming years.

Rescue and Rehabilitation of Children from the Streets



DB Veedu is well-known in Thiruvananthapuram as a child protection agency working in association with local people, government, and civil society groups for the promotion and protection of child rights. Children come into the streets of Thiruvananthapuram due to migration, natural disasters, poverty, and family issues. The Don Bosco shelter home reaches out through its street presence to provide care and support, counselling, repatriation, education, and life skill training, catering to 40 children at a time, reaching around 300 children annually. The shelter home also offers community outreach and advocacy programmes and helps trace missing children and reunites them with their families.

Education and Empowerment of Children, Youth and Women in MSK Nagar

Based on the successful interventions through the KEEN project in the low-income area of Karimadom in Thiruvananthapuram city, and the severe impact of COVID on the lives and livelihoods of the city's daily wagers, DB Veedu and BREADS took up work in another low-income area — M. Sukumaran Kutty Nagar (MSK Nagar). About 385 families reside in this colony, 90% of the population are daily wagers, 40% of them are literate, there is widespread alcoholism among men, putting the burden of home management on 70% of the women. Unemployment is high among the youth and learning levels low among the children, creating a potent situation ripe for addictions and antisocial activities to flourish.



Among the programmes initiated:

- Evening supplementary education for 100+ children ensures that all of them are enrolled in school and retain their interest in studies while learning life skills and fostering other talents.



- Skill enhancement and employability training for 500+ youth, including English language and life skills training, and career guidance, help them redirect their energies and focus on improving their lives.
- Building capacity for 300-500 women through awareness programmes about health, life skills, parenting, savings etc., and short-term skill trainings for income generation for 80+ women.

- Rehabilitative support for families who were badly affected by COVID.

Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM)

DREAM is a rights-based initiative by BREADS, implemented across 10 districts of Kerala, to prevent substance use and addiction among children and youth. DB Veedu piloted the concept with BREADS in the initial years and continues to implement the programme. Interventions include education and awareness for school children and college youth, counselling and rehabilitation services, advocacy campaigns, training of teacher and parents, leadership skills training for children and youth, and workshops for relevant stakeholders. DREAM involves a lot of collaboration with governmental and non-governmental agencies.



In 2022, DREAM in Thiruvananthapuram conducted awareness sessions in 48 schools (for 21,352 children), 10 colleges (for 4,709 youth), trained 207 mentors, 102 student leaders, and 7,152 parents. Counselling was provided for 147 persons. More than 3,000 people were reached through various public campaigns.

Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT)

KISMAT, an initiative of BREADS, is an integrated network of 12 migrant help desks set up in Don Bosco presences across 11 districts in Kerala, to reach out and support the growing population of young Guest Workers (interstate migrants) since 2018.

As the KISMAT State Coordinating agency, DB Veedu partners passionately with BREADS in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the KISMAT programme across Kerala.



Through an excellent network with government bodies and a strong grassroot presence among the migrant labourers, KISMAT plays an important role in safeguarding the rights of the migrants, offering the following:

- Social inclusion exercises with local communities, advocating use of Hindi in public utilities and transport
- Sensitisation workshops for different stakeholders – banks, health department, Panchayat members, government officials, Police



- Contact, database creation, rapport building and sensitisation of prospective employers
- Advocacy with the government, NGOs, media, civil society groups, and other stakeholders
- Literacy programmes for the migrants – financial/insurance/health
- Entitlement promotion campaigns – camps, awareness, service centre for applications, entitlement distribution
- Grievance redressal forums
- Opportunities for recreation

In 2022, KISMAT reached out to 2,209 migrants through counselling and advocacy, medical, legal and police aid, support for child protection, education, job placement, and last rites. KISMAT conducted 181 camps for various purposes that reached thousands of migrants in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Skill training cum Social Service Centre

BREADS is partnering with DB Veedu to set up a skill training cum social service centre at Don Bosco Manacaud in Thiruvananthapuram city to provide skill training and other development services for the youth, women and children at risk. The centre aims to reach 225 youth and 500 women every year through the following services:

- Employability skill training for the marginalised youth, especially those from backward communities
- 24-hour emergency support and rehabilitation services for children/youth in risk conditions
- Support services for internal migrants



Calendar

March 2023

- WELive (2nd phase) project initiated in 4 districts of Kerala
- Visit of the General Councillor of Youth Ministry in the Salesian Congregation
- Workshop on BREADS' Child Rights Programming for other NGOs
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects
- DREAM state-level staff meeting and training
- Visits from partner agencies
- DB BEST Academy Alumni meeting (16-19 batches)

April 2023

- Annual visitation of the Provincial (INK Province)
- Visit from partner agency
- CREAM state-level staff and Directors' meeting
- DREAM state-level staff and Directors' meeting
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects

BREADS NEWS



Job Fair at Don Bosco College, Mampetta

Don Bosco Job Placement Network (JPN) in collaboration with Don Bosco ITI, Mampetta hosted a highly successful job fair at Don Bosco College, Mampetta, Kozhikode, Kerala on 4 March 2023. The event was attended by around 400 job seekers, [...more...](#)



International Women's Day Celebrations in Kollam

Theeradesa Mahila Society (TMS) along with the Fishermen Community Development Programme, and the Rotary Club of Quilon, celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March 2023. [...more...](#)



Volunteers' Training Programme by DREAM Kottayam

The Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM) programme in Kottayam conducted a volunteer's training programme on 17-18 March 2023 at Don Bosco Central School, Puthupally. [...more...](#)



Training on BREADS' Child Rights Programming

Representatives from the Sahayini Social Development Society (social development wing of the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, Province of Mumbai) participated in a training on BREADS' Child Rights programming [...more...](#)

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