



Director's Note

Don Bosco Veedu, Trivandrum works with the slum community of Karimadom through its KEEN project. Community participation has been an integral part of this project wherein all the stakeholders, especially women, engage in various strategies to empower themselves economically and socially. KEEN has rejuvenated the slum community with various programmes and activities. This first Slice of 2019 with its new look, showcases the KEEN project of Don Bosco Veedu, Trivandrum.

*Fr Joy Nedumparambil SDB
Executive Director
BREADS Bangalore*

Events

January 2019

- Visit of Mr. Cees Tompot from Netherlands on 18th January 2019
- The commencement of Internship by students from NMIMS College, Indore on 28th January 2019
- Organized Capacity Building training on Women's Rights and Gender Equality at Chitradurga and Hospet
- Observance of National Girl Child Day in CREAM project
- Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco Prakashapalaya School on 30th January 2019
- Feast of St. John Bosco on 31st January 2019

February 2019

- Half yearly review meeting of KISMAT at Vaduthala, Kochi on 9th and 10th of February 2019
- National PDO Meet in Goa on 11th and 12th of February 2019
- DB Tech National Convention in Bangalore on 14th to 16th of February 2019
- Exposure visit of Social Work students from Kerala
- Mentoring workshop for BREADS staff by Deloitte on 12th February 2019
- Inauguration of the HSBC Skills for Life Program in Bidar, Davangere and Hospet

KEEN PROJECT

Karimadom Education and Empowerment Network

The KEEN project carried out by BREADS in collaboration with the implementing partner Don Bosco Veedu Society, Trivandrum is breaking new ground in meeting the demands of the needy, less fortunate and the marginalized in the Karimadom slum of Trivandrum city. It has successfully executed various activities for the upliftment of youth, children, women and men during the last one year (2018) with the support of the Mascheski Foundation, through Don Bosco Mondo, Germany.

The various activities initiated under the project will illustrate the powerful impact it has had on the lives of the people in Karimadom slum through their development and upliftment. There were:

1. *Motivation camps for men, youth, women and children*
2. *Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)*
3. *Matching Grants distribution for Economic upliftment of women through Income Generation Activities*
4. *Leadership training for SHG (Self Help Group) Women*
5. *Supplementary education for the children*
6. *Distribution of education materials*
7. *Preliminary household survey*
8. *Family Care Plan*

These activities were planned and executed through the participation of the community and this co-operation played a key role in the success of the project during the implementation period. The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) for women was a 10-day training process which involved training them on various foods processing activities, like making fruit jams, pickles, chocolates, sweets, desserts, squash, etc

After many discussions, scenario studies and analyses, the women trained during the EDP have reached a consensus on starting a few micro enterprises under the guidance of KEEN. The EDP trainings for women empowered them to take decisive steps towards starting their own businesses. There are three women-owned micro enterprise programs, involving marginalized women of the Karimadom slum namely:‘

1. Live#Laugh#Laundry'

The women have collaborated with the major caterers in the city to service their laundry & ironing needs. This service, started as an entrepreneurship program by 25 women in Karimadom slum is a well-established initiative today and generates decent revenues for the women.

2. KEEN Naturals

Another group of women from Karimadom colony started the KEEN Naturals in August 2018 after the EDP training. “KEEN Naturals” is a network of 10 grass-root level food processing units. It is an autonomous society with the producers as the top-level management and Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society as a partner, for liaising with the market.



3. Tailoring Unit

Matching grants and training, under the aegis of KEEN, have helped women tap the market for cloth and paper bags. The women were furthermore trained for a 'work from home' model micro business and subsequently given sewing machines to work with wholesale distributors of pillow covers. Thus, the women received market linkage and financial support for sustainable marketing.

Additionally, KEEN also looked closely into the upliftment of the slum people through holistic development in areas such as health, education, welfare, economic progress and women empowerment. Through the distribution of dry ration, household utensils, toiletries, cupboards, education materials to children and medical support through the family support program, KEEN contributed to this cause.

The Reflection of KEEN Success



“We Grow according to the interest of the world. Yet we live according to the interest of our own desires”

The tuition programmes of Don Bosco KEEN in the slum brought to the fore the bitter reality of dropouts and irregular attendance in the schools. Hence supplementary evening classes were started. KEEN project also conducted a survey to identify the aptitudes of these school dropouts and analyzed that 13 of them were really interested in learning Chenda (an Indian percussion instrument). Then KEEN project brought in Margi (An organization dedicated to the revival of

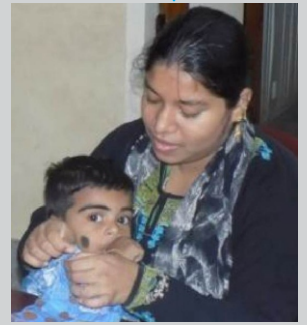
classical art forms of Kerala). Kalamandalam Krishna Das was assigned by Margi to teach the children Chenda Melam.

These children make it a point to not miss school and tuition classes anymore, since KEEN made it mandatory to attend school and tuition classes regularly for Chenda students.

The attendance for chenda classes is maintained in an Android application known as MY class. This helps the KEEN project to keep track of the children. The attendance statistics reveal the passion of the school dropouts for Chenda training which has translated into regular school and tuition class attendance.

Story of Ms. Kumari

Ms. Kumari (name changed) was 25 years of age, married and had a toddler. She lived in the Karimadom colony and belonged to an orthodox minority community. Her family was not enthusiastic about education or skill training for girls. But Kumari always had the desire to learn skills that could make her self-reliant. Through a friend she came to know about the free short term training on making paper and cloth bags. After a lot of persuasion, she finally convinced her family to let her attend the training programme. But there were still challenges. There was no one to take care of her child while she was away. However, she was not deterred; the child accompanied her to the training centre. With her perseverance, strong will and desire, she completed the five day free training at Don Bosco Youth Centre and subsequently joined other trained women to start a paper bag making unit. Today, she earns a decent income from the 'work from home' micro business model and has tie ups in the Chalai market.



Production skill training for Self-Help Groups in Davangere

The Self-Help Groups play a vital role in the economic development and sustainability of women in the rural areas. Its activities are oriented towards empowerment of women in the communities through income generation initiatives and awareness programmes. Through such platform many women have raised to the level of entrepreneurs thus beating poverty, illiteracy and all odds. Don Bosco Child Labour Mission... [more](#)



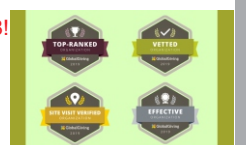
Awareness is the crust of every action

CHITHRA Don Bosco conducted a legal awareness programme at Vikala Chethana Vidhya Samaste, Matadahatti in Chitradurga on 29th December 2018. The training was organized under the project "Capacity Building for Gender Equality in Development, Peace and Security". The guests who graced the occasion were Ms. Dilshad, Penal Advocate, District Legal Services, Chitradurga, Mr Shankarappa from... [more](#)



BREADS earned the top ranked organization recognition and four badges from GlobalGiving for the year 2018!

The year 2019 brought BREADS an honor from the GlobalGiving community. We are happy to celebrate and share the news of honor. BREADS received active member recognition from GlobalGiving Community with a GG Superstar status as of December 31, 2018. We announce this with great pride, the four badges earned as a trusted partner and change maker in the world. BREADS has been vetted by GlobalGiving for being... [more](#)



Exploring new platforms for spreading awareness on the Rights of Women and Children

India is home to the largest number of children in the world and their exposure to vulnerabilities and violations of rights remain multiple in nature. The manifestations of these violations are in various forms like malnutrition, abuse, inadequate health care, foeticide, infanticide, school dropout, child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, beggary and many others. The life of women in the district of Chitradurga is no better when... [more](#)

