

#BalanceForBetter The roads less explored

Let's talk something elegant, bold and beautiful! That's nothing less than a woman. March 8th is celebrated as the International Women's Day and it marks the celebration of womanhood. So let's own this day and truly make a positive difference for women. It also calls the world for urgent action in accelerating gender parity. Gender equality is one of the most ambitious goals that we have ever dreamt of achieving and it remains a far and distant dream. It is just reduced to a dream and not realised, because change is happening at a very slow pace. The passage to gender equality still remains narrow and slow amidst the other fast-moving technologies and advancements. Gender equality is always covered up by showcasing the achievements of a few women worldwide. A deeper glance at the situation in India on the ground reveals a shocking and intense picture of the women's status in India. Women do 2.6 times more unpaid care and domestic work than men, with only 41 percent of the world's mothers with new-borns receiving maternity benefits, according to the UN. Apart from few educated women, the rural scenario in India is still pitiful and suffers inequalities. The role of women has been subjected to tremendous changes since the years where women held positions equal to men in prehistoric times to women bound to the domestic labour within the four walls of their houses.



Director's Note

#BalanceforBetter

Ipsos Mori, a collaborator on the International Women's Day annual study, with the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College in London, has found that the majority of men acknowledge that gender equality can only be achieved with men's support, however around half think that they are being expected to do too much. Two thirds of those surveyed believe that women won't achieve equality in their country unless men take actions to support women's rights too. However, opinion is split on whether too much is being expected of men to help the fight for equality. 43% agree that men are being expected to do too much, compared with 46% who disagree. Agreement is higher among men than women (50% vs 36%).

In BREADS' project for gender equality, we make sure that men are included so that they are aware of the need for gender equality and contribute to the efforts of women for this cause.

March-Slice will showcase the International Women's Day at our various centres.

Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB
Executive Director
BREADS Bangalore

Events

March 2019

- The Child-Safety Enhancement Workshop for the CPC members of Don Bosco Institutions in Kerala was conducted from 5-8 March 2019
- The interns from WMO Arts and Science College, Wayanad, Kerala completed their internship
- Completion of volunteering by Mr. Amadeus and Ms. Sofia from Germany at the Davangere project
- BREADS and SLK CSR Team visited the 'Village adoption for development' project on 14th March 2019 at Don Bosco Ajjanahalli.
- Celebrated International Women's Day at various Don Bosco centres

April 2019

- BREADS participated in the HSBC- Skills for Life Project Workshop in Mumbai by Deloitte Social Impact on 2nd and 3rd April 2019.
- The Child-Safety Enhancement Workshop for the members of Child Protection Committees in DB Institutions across Karnataka, in two batches from 5-10 April 2019.
- Visit by BoscoNet team and BREADS for the IGP Project Impact survey from 7 to 11 April 2019 in the project locations, Hospet, Yadgiri, Chitradurga, Angadikadavu and Kollam.
- Arrival of interns from Christ University, Bangalore on 16th April 2019



Well, are we aware of the torment in the lives of the women in our villages today? The life of women labourers in the sugarcane belt of Maharashtra is a tug of war between life and death during the sugarcane cutting season. They are employed in the fields between October and March and the income they earn then helps them sustain for the rest of the year. The irony of the story is that women with ovaries are not hired by the contractors in this region. *The Hindu Business Line* in its ground report highlighted the sad fact that the women are left with no choice but to resort to hysterectomy than to lose their income. Yes. You read it right. Let's wake up and act. The women should not need to pay for their femininity anymore; instead, men should be taught the art of accepting and appreciating the human female anatomy and traits. The structural oppression clubbed with stigmas dominates the face of the

nation. The woman and the position she holds in India, is perhaps vibrant, colourful, varied and also confusing. While we have great women champions, who have fought the battle against patriarchal systems, stereotypes and traditions; we have women who are controlled and limited by the consent of men. As a nation, we are proud of its achievements and prosperity, yet there are enough and more reasons to feel shame. Let nothing down our spirit from soaring high but remember these words, *"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing"* said by Swami Vivekananda, which we feel is most apt in the current scenario.

International Women's Day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action- whatever it looks like, it continues to grow from strength to strength over time. While we contemplate the dignity and position of women in India, we have made the best efforts to make the lives of women easier and build better forums for the women within our reach, through the support of various projects and capacity building programmes. BREADS has always paved a better path for the women from the rural parts of Karnataka and Kerala through projects such as SVAW (Stop Violence against Women), Skill training for the Marginalized women and Girls, WEP (Women Empowerment Programmes) and IGP (Income Generation Programmes) through Self Help Groups and so on.





The table below lists the special activities carried out to mark the importance of the day in the various Don Bosco centres.

Name of the DB Centre	Districts	No. of Programs	Activities	No. of Participants
DB Bidar	Bidar	4	Rally, Competitions, Games and Session on women empowerment	605
DB CHITHRA	Chitradurga	1	Seminar	800
DB Child Labour Mission (DBCLM)	Davangere	2	Seminar, Capacity Building Programmes and Games	221
DB PYaR	Kalaburagi	10	Rangoli competition and Games	350
DB Hospet	Bellary	2	Competitions and Submission of Memorandums to DYSP, Taluk Panchayath, and Tahsildar	800
FCDP, Kollam	Kollam	2	Two-wheeler rally by women, Awareness Rally with slogans and placards, Theme Dance on women empowerment, Seminar and Public Function	400
DB Centre for Social Action, Deodurga	Raichur	1	Seminar and capacity-building training for women SHGs	200
DB Social Work Centre	Yadgiri	4	Seminar	264
Total		26		3640



Child Safety Enhancement Workshop for the Child Protection Committee Members

As part of the policy making and framing the child protection systems for each Don Bosco Institutions in Kerala and Karnataka, the child safety enhancement training for the Child Protection Committee Members were organised from 5th to 8th March 2019 at Don Bosco Vaduthala, Kerala. The resource person for the training was Ms. Edwina Pereira, Child First Foundation, Bangalore. BREADS has facilitated the implementation of Child protection policy and establishment of the system for child protection in all the Don Bosco centres ... [more](#)



Inauguration of the "HSBC Skills for Life" project at Davangere on 12th March 2019

The skill trainings by BREADS have always strived towards increasing capacity and capability of existing system to ensure equitable access to all the youth in employment. Thus every action and strategic plans were directed towards achieving the same for the marginalized youth of the nation. Don Bosco Child Labour Mission at Davangere (DBCLM) is ready for its new endeavour to impart skill training for the marginalised youth in IT & ITES to create a pool of skilled youth in Davangere district. The new project titled "HSBC skills for life" ... [more](#)



Formation of Child Protection Committee at Kodagnuru Grama panchayath in Davangere

Children acquire different capacities and degrees of maturity as they grow older. But most importantly one must not ignore the fact children are vulnerable and need protection to fulfil their rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. Constitution of India empowers the government to make protective measures through legislation and furtherance Acts like JJ act, Child labour act 1986, Child marriage prohibition act etc have been passed. The adult role is vital in protecting children and realising their rights in practical grounds... [more](#)



Strengthening the backbone of the nation for judicious voting practice

BREADS Bangalore has joined hands with Concerned for Working Children (CWC) and organised the Campaign 'Me & My Vote are NOT for SALE' at Don Bosco BEST Academy, Lingarajpuram, Bangalore on 25th March 2019. This campaign was primarily launched in 2007. The Concerned for Working Children is a not-for-profit secular, democratic development agency based in Bengaluru, India. This campaign is mainly a move by the HakkottayaAndolana (Movement for self-determination of Local governments... [more](#)

