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## Director's Note

In this edition of Slice, we focus on the activities of a grand old organisation, the Fishermen Community Development Programme (FCDP) in Kollam. Though started in 1979, FCDP has continued to remain relevant to the fishing community it serves through its innovative approaches to development. Their *Vishappinu vida* electric auto and its lady driver is a fitting affirmation of the direction in which sustainable development needs to move. Zero hunger, good health and well-being, gender equity, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and climate action; all chugging along in one little e-auto. Wishing FCDP, the e-auto and Ms. Rini, its driver; more power!

*With best wishes,*

*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB  
Executive Director  
BREADS Bangalore*

## BREADS Calendar

### September 2019

- State-level CREAM coordinators meeting cum documentation training on 5 September at BREADS Bangalore
- BREADS participation in the capacity building programme for PDO staff on *Disaster Preparedness* in Yercaud, Tamil Nadu on 9-10 September
- Completion of internship by the students of Mar Augusthinose College, Ramapuram, Kerala
- Campus placement drive 2019 for students of the HSBC Skills for Life project at BREADS Bangalore on 14 September
- Monitoring and evaluation of HSBC Skills for Life project in Bidar by Deloitte on 9 - 10 September
- Orientation to BREADS for MSW Students of Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur on 26 September
- Inauguration of Batch 10 and Certification of Batch 9 of DB BEST Academy on 21 September

### October 2019

- Participation in the National Consultation on Foster Care in Bangalore
- Residential camps during Dusshera holidays for the leaders of Child Rights Clubs, CREAM project
- Monitoring and evaluation of BREADS' projects by Don Bosco JuWe Switzerland

## FISHERMEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FCDP), Kollam



The Don Bosco presence in Thope began in 1975 with the Parish; but witnessing the travails of its parishioners, it began reaching out to the fishing community and in the process, the Fishermen Community Development Programme (FCDP) was formed in 1979. In continuation of its work, Theeradesha Mahila Society (TMS), a society for the coastal women was launched in 1983. Registered in 1984, FCDP has been developing strategic programmes for the fishing community while TMS focusses on enabling economic security, especially for the women from low-income households. Over the past 40 years, FCDP and TMS have worked towards the holistic development of all the fisher folk living in the coastal belt of Kollam, Kerala: helping them improve their education, health, culture, economic status, employment opportunities, social awareness and social action. Their needs-based and rights-based approaches, in an amalgamation of innovation and stratagem have brought notable impact in the lives of these communities. The visionary work continues with zeal, reflected in the evolution of new programmes and activities.



FCDP & TMS have been working hand in hand for the betterment of the fishing community in Kollam, bringing about a paradigm shift in their lives. Experience has provided the confidence to intervene more vibrantly through skill trainings and gender equality programmes; of which, we highlight a few.

• **Micro-finance**

*The Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Fisher folk community through Education, Health and Livelihood Promotion* addresses the lack of access to financial services for the impoverished women and men in Kollam by extending microcredit facilities to the poor fisher folk to enhance their income. From 2016 to 2019, FCDP's revolving fund disbursed Rs. 61940133/- through this programme. Savings of Rs. 71996166/- have been generated and a total of 1590 beneficiaries impacted. This extended microcredit programme intends to reach more than 3000 people every year.



• **Theeradesha Lahari Virudha Vanitha Samiti (TLVVS)**

TLVVS- the Coastal Women's Committee against Drug Abuse- is a strategic intervention in Capacity Building for Gender Equality in Development, Peace and Security; to thwart the increasing menace of drug abuse and alcohol in the coastal regions especially among the fishing community. FCDP and TMS evolved a new taskforce on the Kollam coast, to protect women from the evil effects of drugs and alcohol by preventing and controlling their abuse. The committee works to create awareness against this malady that is eating into the very innards of society. Its 100 trained women volunteers are active from morning till night, to watch and prevent gambling, illegal use of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and violence against women which is the end result of these activities.

• **Skill training programmes**

FCDP executed numerous initiatives for developing the skills of the fishing community over the years. *The Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Fisher folk community through Education, Health and Livelihood Promotion* introduced more training programmes that were an innovative response to circumstances.

- A one-month training in autorickshaw driving exclusively for 90 women introduced the **E-Auto (Electric auto)**, a green energy initiative.
- A three-month course on **home-based nursing and palliative care** trains 45 women per year.
- A 6-month course on **tailoring and embroidery** trains 60 women in a year helping them to be self-sustainable.
- Training for 90 women on **fish and food processing**.
- A 3-month course on **computer skills** for 75 women.





## WAVES OF FCDP & TMS INNOVATION



### Milestones of the FCDP and BREADS Bangalore Partnership

The BREADS and FCDP partnership began in 2001. The following milestones illustrate the long and fruitful collaboration between FCDP Kollam and BREADS over the years.

Year	Projects
2001	Construction of a multi-purpose hall at Thope for the fishermen development programmes (2001- 2002)
2003	Don Bosco career guidance and vocational training programme for the fishermen community (2003 - 2004) Educational programme for the children of fishermen of Thope, Kollam (2003 – 2006)
2005	Rehabilitation of 60 Tsunami-affected children through residential programmes (2005 – 2006) Immediate relief and rehabilitation for Tsunami victims – construction of 10 completely destroyed houses, repair of 70 partially damaged houses, mending of 24 damaged boats and purchase of fishing nets ( 2005 – 2006) Rehabilitation and education of 200 youth and children through Don Bosco institutions across Trivandrum and Kollam for the scholastic year 2005 – 2006
2006	Basic amenities for the coastal community – better shelter and safe drinking water for 185 families affected by the Tsunami (2006 – 2007)
2008	Health awareness and medical services for the coastal community in Thope area of Kollam (2008 – 2010)
2009	Education promotion programme for children of the fishing community, Thope, Kollam (2009 – 2012)
2010	Education promotion programme for children of the fishing community through evening tuition classes at Thope, Kollam (2010 – 2011)
2011	Development of the fishing community through micro-finance, skill training and capacity building programmes for men, women and youth (2011 – 2018)
2014	Construction of houses for poor families in collaboration with the Kerala Aid Trust (2014 – 2015) Boarding and formal education support for orphans/poor children from the fishing community (2014 – 2015)
2017	Sustained income for rural women through entrepreneurial activities and social empowerment (2017 – 2019)
2018	Capacity building for gender equality in development, peace and security in Kerala and Karnataka (2018 – 2019)
2019	Empowerment of women and youth in the fishing community through education, health and livelihood promotion in the coastal district of Kollam (2019 – 2021)

### *Visappinu Vida goes Green with an E-Auto*

The phrase vishappinu vida literally means, goodbye or stop to hunger! This FCDP programme provides a meal to the most economically backward and elderly people in Kollam district. This project, launched on 1 April 2017, has since provided one meal to 106 beneficiaries every day. This initiative has become a source of sustenance for the aged and abandoned people who have no other support. The food is cooked in FCDP's catering unit managed by women; and includes rice, fish curry and sambar. Home delivery by autorickshaw begins at 10 am every day. The initiative is also supported by many volunteers who assist in identifying beneficiaries, preparing and distributing food. In addition to meals, those in need are provided with healthcare, medical assistance and groceries. On 30 September 2019, Mr. Franklin- the erstwhile auto driver of Visappinu Vida, passed on the baton to Ms. Rini, who is trained on the E-Auto. The electric auto is a clean-energy initiative to continue their humanitarian service to the hungry and abandoned while protecting the environment.



**Campus Placement Drive 2019 at BREADS Bangalore**

BREADS Bangalore in association with DB BEST Academy Lingarajapuram and DB Tech organised Campus Placement Drive 2019 for the skill training students from Bidar, Davangere, Ballari and Bangalore Urban districts in Karnataka on 14 September 2019. The companies, namely, Grassroots, Net Ambit and Kotak Mahindra conducted interviews for 60+ candidates trained under the Information Technology and Enabled Services (ITES) domain. The students trained under the HSBC Skills for Life and DB Tech skill training programmes... [more](#)



**Observance of World Clean-Up Day by BOSCO Bangalore**

BOSCO Bangalore organised a clean-up drive under the CREAM project on 14 September 2019. The clean-up drive was kick-started from Bosco Nilaya, Police Road and proceeded to Kalasipalya bus station via Jolly Mohalla and Victoria hospital. The programme was led by Fr. Regi Jacob sdb- Director, Bosco Nilaya, staff and 25 children from the child rights clubs. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Mr. Puttaramaiya-Assistant Sub-Inspector, Kalasipalya; Mr. Veeraiya- Health Inspector, BBMP; Mr. Ravindrakumar... [more](#)



**Capacity Building Programme on Disaster Preparedness for the PDOs in South India**

BREADS participated in the training on Disaster Preparedness organised by BOSCONET for the Executive Directors and staff of the Planning and Development Offices (PDOs) in the southern region (Bengaluru, Chennai, Trichy, Goa, Hyderabad) and Delhi as well. The two-day training was organised at The Retreat, Yercaud, Tamil Nadu on 9-10 September 2019. The training was meant to prepare every PDO for times of emergency, to enable individuals to proactively engage in rescue and relief activities. Fr. Arul Maran,... [more](#)



**The children of Karimadom's Chenda Arangettam**

Trivandrum Don Bosco Society has been working for the upliftment of children and marginalised communities for the past 28 years. They added a new rhythm to their work and the lives of eleven children from Karimadom colony through their Jeevithaalam initiative, which provides free Chenda classes in association with MARGI Thiruvananthapuram. Those children from Karimadom colony with an interest in learning Chenda were given free classes under the guidance of Shri. Kalamandalam Krishnadas, the head of the Chenda segment... [more](#)

