



**BREADS**  
Bangalore Rural Educational  
and Development Society

# SLICE

NEWSLETTER

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BREADS Bangalore

[www.breadsbangalore.org](http://www.breadsbangalore.org)

START



## Director's Message

**FR GEORGE PS**  
Executive Director  
BREADS

More than in the past, children's safety, security, and growth are at stake in the slums and call for attention. They are equally vulnerable to child rights violations as children on the streets. BREADS' interventions with the urban poor take place in city slums as well as in outlying areas, in the states of Karnataka and Kerala. After preliminary surveys, our interventions begin with supplementary education centres, and where needed, creches; which act like nerve centres for child rights initiatives, quality education, skilling and income generation programmes for youth and women. In this edition of Slice, we look at BREADS' micro-level intervention in the Lingarajapuram slum in Bangalore, through the Don Bosco Social Action Centre (DBSAC) that offers early childcare and evening supplementary education for the local children. Skill training programmes, counselling, life skills and self-defense classes, as well as career guidance for the women and youth are on the anvil. We are hopeful that through our active presence, we can form child safety nets in the slums, thereby safeguarding children and their rights; preventing them from leaving their homes and landing on the streets.

# The Lingarajapuram Slum



Lingarajapuram is located near the Banaswadi railway station in Bangalore. The slum dates to the 1950s when migrant labourers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and other districts of Karnataka, were housed there for the construction of Bangalore's *Vidhana Soudha* (Parliament house). The families continued to live there, and more migrant labourers joined them. The residents are mainly Dalits, who are employed as daily wagers, drivers, housekeepers, waste segregators and municipal cleaning staff. The Don Bosco presence in the area started in 1990 with a church and charitable works such as distribution of food, clothes etc., to deserving people. In response to local needs, non-formal skill training was also initiated.

The rapid urbanisation and expansion of the cities to its outskirts has affected the social fabric of slums, including Lingarajapuram, prompting a more extensive involvement from BREADS for its holistic development. Prior to the launch of our activities in Lingarajapuram, the BREADS team systematically mapped out 912 households in selected densely populated areas to assess needs and already available local resources.

# The People of Lingarajapuram



The population is largely Hindu (58%) and mostly (49%) belong to scheduled castes. Both homeowners and renters live in very small spaces of 200 to 400 square feet, which must accommodate 4-6 people. Over the years, the people themselves (few of them with one-time government grants), tried to put up tiny houses. Half of the surveyed population lives in makeshift dwellings. Since the slum is located near well-developed neighborhoods, almost all houses (99%) have electricity and access to water (98%) though not regularly available.

The men are largely daily wagers (42%), auto and taxi drivers, or working at small enterprises. In Bangalore city, it is difficult for a family to survive with only one income, so most of the women work: as housemaids (55%), municipal cleaners and daily wagers, while 30% of women are unemployed homemakers. Of the homemakers, 81% are unable to earn money because of the demands of childcare and household tasks. Most households (62%) have a monthly income less than INR 10,000, 35% earn between INR 10,000-20,000 and around 3% earn more than INR 20,000.

## The Children in Lingarajapuram

The survey found 442 children in the age group of 0-5 years; of whom, 64% did not have access to childcare services, even though there were a few services available. The number of children between 6-18 years was 1370, of whom 1283 were enrolled in school and 137 children were irregular to school.



## Assessment of Needs

Based on the survey findings, BREADS identified the need for quality early childcare services that were affordable for the community. For the older children, enrollment into school and learning support through supplementary education services would be beneficial. Besides, counselling, life skills, self-defense classes, and career guidance as additional programmes would be beneficial during weekends and holidays. For the adults, especially the women, skill training and income generation programmes would help them earn a living and support their families. The support of safe, quality childcare will enable the women to step out with confidence to take up employment opportunities.

# The Outcome of the Assessment

BREADS took up the issue of early childcare as one of the key interventions that would have a ripple effect on the livelihood problems of the community. An existing building in the locality, belonging to Don Bosco Church, was renovated to make it a safe, comfortable and welcoming place for young children. Trained teachers and helpers have been appointed for the preschool. Twenty-five children have been enrolled so far. The attractive environment, well-stocked with playthings and learning materials, is an invitation to the young children and their parents, and new enrollments are on the rise.

Children are engaged in activities that support motor, verbal and cognitive development. They are also prepared for formal schooling through early literacy and numeracy skills training, appropriate to their age. As malnutrition and its ill effects were identified among 35 children during the survey, the teachers keep track of important aspects of the children's health, to identify and take appropriate action. Daily checks of temperature and oxygen levels, and monthly checks on weight and height provide relevant information. Nutritious food supplements and follow-up with the parents help in improving the overall health of the children.

*David Raja is one of the regulars at the Don Bosco creche. A healthy two-year old, David, is normal in every way.*

*David's mother, Shalini, though affected by polio, had worked as a domestic helper to survive in childhood; even undergoing ill-treatment from her employer. When polio began to deform her weakened body, she could not work anymore. Fortunately, she was rescued by a lady, who looked after her. In consensus with doctors as well, in 2020, Shalini married Joseph, who was also physically handicapped. Joseph works as a lift operator in a bank, earning INR 6000 monthly. Together they struggle to make a life, supported by well-wishers.*

*Shalini and her guardian brought David to our creche. He has adapted well and is learning new things, enjoying the colourful playthings and learning aids. This free childcare service monitors his health and prepares him for school, which his parents may not be able to do adequately, creating a more equitable situation for him and other children like him.*

*David is happy proof that strategic interventions can create new futures: free vaccination programmes and nutrition to ensure that children do not suffer from preventable disease, interventions to rescue child labourers to give them a normal chance at life. David is a positive reminder of why BREADS' interventions in promoting child rights and welfare matter. They impact people's lives.*

# Promoting Quality Education

In comparison to their urban counterparts, rural children often miss opportunities because of the lack of investment in their education facilities. At the start of this academic year, BREADS prioritised the upgradation of Don Bosco schools that cater to rural children. Our survey found that schools needed proper computer and science labs, more quality books in the library, school furniture, play materials, and playgrounds. BREADS' support extended to the following rural schools for underprivileged children to improve opportunities for learning.

School	Facilities Provided
Don Bosco Vidhyashektra, Prakashapalya	Science lab, computer lab, school furniture, library books, basketball court
Don Bosco School, Tumakuru	School furniture, library books
Don Bosco School, Hosapete	School furniture
Don Bosco School, Devadurga	School furniture, science lab
Don Bosco Mithra School, Bangalore	School furniture, science lab
Don Bosco School, Yadagiri	School furniture, science lab
Don Bosco School, Bidar	School furniture, computer lab, library books
Don Bosco School, Kalaburagi	School furniture
Don Bosco School, Hassan	Learning and play materials



## Early steps in DB School Hassan



The pre-primary children of Don Bosco School in Hassan were surprised and delighted with the new colourful learning materials in their classrooms, thanks to BREADS. Though the school currently functions in a renovated old building, the children experience first-class care and attention to their well-being and learning, creating great opportunities for these children of farmers, auto rickshaw drivers and daily wage workers from neighbouring villages. The school offers a beautiful wholesome ambience for the children to play and develop.

The school is situated in Rajanahalli, a village 10 km from Hassan, a fast-growing city with a population of more than 350,000 people. Nearby, are over 50 villages with approximately 100 houses each, for whom, this school offers a golden opportunity. After necessary permissions from the Education department, the school has just started in 2024 with 30 students in the pre-primary section, hoping to develop needed facilities that will impact thousands of underserved rural children through quality education.







# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 2024

- DB BEST Academy 25<sup>th</sup> batch inauguration
- Human Rights ToT workshops
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS
- Rehabilitation work in Wayanad
- Social Work students' field work

## OCTOBER 2024

- Presentation on Foster Care at the YaR Annual Seminar
- MINDS initiative – state-level staff induction
- World Mental Health Day observation
- Observation of BREADS by DBC Kottiyam MSW dept.
- Rehabilitation work in Wayanad
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS

## BREADS NEWS



**“Njangalum Ningalodopam” (We too are With You as You Move Forward) Celebrating Onam with the people affected by the Wayanad...**

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**Empowering Voices, Celebrating Democracy**

On 15 September 2024, in celebration of the International Day of Democracy, significant events took place in the..

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Thanks to the team's quick and professional response, the injured could access the medical treatment they required at the earliest!

**Every Second Counts: Quick Responses Matter!**

On 24 August 2024, the mobile clinic team from the Don Bosco Centre for Social Action and Movement in Bidar had...

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**Shaping resumes!**

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On 27 September, as part of their ongoing association with BREADS' DB BEST Academy, fifteen Deutsche Bank...

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