

EVENTS

July 2017

- ☞ Monitoring visits by BREADS team
- ☞ DB Tech state-level meeting in Bangalore
- ☞ Arrival of volunteers from Malta
- ☞ BREADS staff outing
- ☞ New batch of skill training at DB BEST academy
- ☞ One day training programme for FMA sisters

August 2017

- ☞ Official inauguration of the 3rd batch at DB BEST Academy
- ☞ Training for CREAM project staff at DBCLM, Davangere
- ☞ Arrival of interns from Glen University
- ☞ Arrival of volunteers from Austria
- ☞ CREAM Inter-agency advocacy meet in Yadagiri
- ☞ CSR fundraising initiatives at Accenture, Bangalore
- ☞ Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco CHITHRA Training Centre, Chitradurga

Fisherfolk form an important community in Kerala, but remain neglected and marginalised in spite of the higher socio-economic progress the state has made as a whole. Although, Kerala boasts of the highest quality of life in the country as measured by human development indicators, the state's fishing community has largely been left out of the general development experience. For example, the literacy level, educational attainment of fisherfolk is much lower than that of the general population.

Other development related indicators such as lack of income-earning opportunities, poverty and deprivation, insanitary and overcrowded living conditions, lack of access to basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, poor health conditions amongst men and women, higher infant mortality rates, lower sex ratio and lack of access to health facilities, also show evidence of this neglect and marginalization of the fisherfolk in the state.

In this issue of SLICE we cover the strategies and programmes of FCDP in the coastal villages of Kollam district.

With best wishes,

*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB
Executive Director
BREADS Bangalore*



NEWS

Each One Plant One - Celebrating the festival of trees in Chitradurga

The 68th 'Vanamahotsava' - the festival of trees was celebrated throughout Karnataka state. Vanamahotsava is an annual tree-planting festival in India. It was started in the year 1950 by Dr.K.M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for agriculture. Vanamahotsava is celebrated from July 1st to July 7th ... [more](#)



Health for All: Health awareness programme in Chitradurga

It is rightly said that the Health is the actual Wealth that a person can retain. It is important to stay healthy and fit by taking good care of the body. A healthy body keeps away the sicknesses and helps the person to live one's life to its fullest potential. In a bid to provide awareness on health Chitra Don Bosco... [more](#)



Workshop for Government officials and community leaders in Davangere

Don Bosco Child Labour Mission (DBCLM), Davangere organized two days workshop on 16th and 17th of June 2017 for the lawyers, police personnel, Gram Panchayati members, anganwadi staff and social workers. Fr. Cyril Sagayaraj SDB inaugurated the workshop and Ms.Yashodha, trainer... [more](#)



Fishing for a better future



The Fishermen Community Development Programme (FCDP), a project partner of BREADS, was founded in the year 1979 in Kollam, Kerala. FCDP strives for the holistic development of the fisherfolk communities in the coastal villages. Over the years, FCDP has initiated many development programmes in the areas of education, health, culture, micro-credit, livelihood promotion, social awareness and social action for the men, women, youth and children of the fishing community. In the year 1983, “Theeradesa Mahila Society (TMS)” a women’s organization was initiated by FCDP, with an aim to empower the women from the fishing community through microfinance, education and skill training.

Microfinance and Microenterprises to promote Livelihoods in the Fisherfolk Community in Kollam

Since its inception, FCDP has been playing a pivotal role in the lives of people from eight coastal villages of Kollam district. FCDP has formed and strengthened 99 Self Help Groups with 2309 active members. FCDP uses microfinance as a means to stimulate economic growth, entrepreneurial and market-driven business initiatives and livelihood promotion of the fisherfolk community.

In the past one year, FCDP has mobilized Rs.37640271 as savings and disbursed Rs. 23678000 as microcredit to 1030 people, which helped them meet their emergency needs, education and above all, to initiate viable income generation projects. Successful micro-enterprises were started by 190 women entrepreneurs during the last year.

“Vishappinu Vida- Let’s say No to Hunger”

Vishappinu Vida- Let’s say No to Hunger - is the new charitable initiative of FCDP and TMS to alleviate hunger among the aged from the coastal areas of Kollam. 100 nourishing meals per day and nursing care, are provided to the aged and sick people. Because of failing health, the elderly are economically dependent on their children and are left in a state of helplessness. In many households in the coastal areas, the adults go to sea for many days, leaving the aged parents at home with no one to look after them. FCDP is deeply involved in the lives of the elderly making them honoured, respected, cared, and accepted. This happy meal-a-day helps in making their lives nourished and enriched.

Other programmes at FCDP

- ◆ Educational sponsorship
- ◆ Capacity building programmes
- ◆ Don Bosco career guidance and youth development programme
- ◆ Income Generating Programmes (IGP)
- ◆ Costruction of houses and toilets for the homeless
- ◆ Formation and strengthening of Self Help Groups
- ◆ Training in music and arts
- ◆ Youth and women empowerment programmes
- ◆ Fishermen youth group
- ◆ Non-fishermen youth group

Tyres to run the future...

Gopal Krishnan belongs to a small village in the Kollam district of Kerala. He and his wife worked hard to provide a better future for their two kids. Gopal’s wife worked in a Government-run aftercare home as a peon. He started a puncture repair service with the hope to earn a better livelihood. Gopal was not able to gain enough profit from his venture, as he did not have the means to repair heavy duty vehicles. In the year 2011, he heard about FCDP and availed a loan through their microfinance programme. It was a ray of hope in his life. He procured new machinery and thereby increased his business and profit. Later, he employed four helpers in the shop to meet the increasing demand. Soon he was able to build a house of his own. Today, he feels a sense of fulfilment as he could achieve all that he thought was only a dream, eleven years ago. He believes that hard work, systematic planning and achievement of goals are the only way through which one can achieve success—his tyres of fortune.



