

# **Annual Report**

**2020-2021**

**Seva Kendra, Silchar**



## *Message from Bishop*

It brings me immense pleasure to pen my thoughts on the tremendous service delivered by Seva Kendra, Silchar throughout the last one year, April 2020 to March 2021. The last one year has been a turbulent one and the whole world has experienced great pain, lost because of the pandemic. Lives have been lost, people have suffered physically and mentally and the economic condition have deteriorated and we are till date fighting the impacts of the pandemic in all aspects of our lives.

I am glad and proud to see the amount of work done by Seva Kendra, Silchar during the pandemic, providing relief to the people who are most in need and suffering during this time. It was sacrifice to its maximum limit that the Staff and Volunteers under the leadership of Fr.Santiago, inspite of many difficulties and challenges took the initiative to reach out the people, providing food, meeting and interacting with people providing awareness, counselling and even the staff monitoring and mobilising communities to ensure individual and community safety .

Once again I wish the Director Fr.Santiago and all Staff a very good luck to achieve their set goals in future.

Thank you

## *Message from Director*

It gives me immense pleasure to write a few lines for the Annual Magazine of Seva Kendra, Silchar. I take this unique opportunity to appreciate and thank all the staff who are executing different role in realizing the vision of Seva Kendra.

The Annual magazine contains the followings:

- (i) Activities of SKS
- (ii) COVID 19 relief and flood relief done by SKS
- (iii) Few case stories and achievements

Here I would like to take the opportunity to extend my gratitude to all our donors and other stakeholders for their constant support and help. Thank you for journeying together with our targeted people very specially during the pandemic and helping them to ease their burden, fear and anxiety and adding meaning to their lives and helping them to shape their dreams.

I firmly believe that Seva Kendra has done a very good job over a period of 33 years of its existence, in training the mind of people, nurturing their hearts and empowering the poor and marginalized. It is very much committed as it is evident from the reports published in the magazine.

Fr. Santiago

## Self Sufficient Tribal Women and Farmers through Livelihood Enhancement and Market Access.

*Financial independence and self sufficiency is one big component towards change and empowerment. The project self sufficient tribal women and farmers through livelihood enhancement and market access and envisages financial self sufficiency of at least 600 farming households (tribals and adivasis) in 12 villages of Cachar District.*

Meeting with SHG members in Lakhipur regarding the livelihood activities and about the government schemes.



Quiz competition on covid19- it is the small initiative to make the students more clear about covid19 and also to know that how much the students are availed themselves with the information of covid19.

**Seed distribution for kitchen Garden in Udharbond and Lakhipur -**

It is the initiative of encouraging the farmers by distributing seeds. To bridge the gap in productivity levels by using quality seeds. Maintaining sustainability with profitability.





**Management training on Poultry farming**  
The Management training was for Income Generating Activity Poultry Farming. The aim of



this training is to provide SHG members and farmers with all the knowledge and skills needed to raise poultry for meat and eggs and manage a small-scale commercial poultry business.

### **Kruoiler chick Distribution for sustainable livelihood-**

Seva Kendra silchar took the initiative of providing kuroiler chicks to the SHGs Lakhipur block for the sustainable livelihood so that the SHGs could start a poultry farming for their income generating activity. It is the initiative of making the SHG members financial independency.



**Goats and pigs distribution-**  
Seva Kendra silchar has distributed Goats and Pigs for Goatery and Piggery in udharbond and lakhipur for starting a farm so that they could bring more change in their life through better productivity. It is very satisfying to observe their urge to make every possible to increase their way of sources of income.

## Training on making Bio pest and setting up of vermin compost pit in Lakhipur with shg members and with farmers of farmers club.



## Evaluation Visit to Udharbond and Lakhipur by DKA/KFB



## **FARM NORTHEAST Phase III: Empowering Communities For Nutritional Food Intake Through Improving Status Of Food Sovereignty In Cachar District**

**Objective 1:** Farming families in 12 villages of Cachar District will have sufficient food production and nutritional intake as per their cultural food habits.

**Objective 2:** Farming families in 12 villages in Cachar District will have adopted and promoted indigenous seeds for cultivation and consumption.

**Objectice 3:** Marginalised farmers from 12 villages will have control over local market for the sale of excess organic products.

### **Sharing and exchange of indigenous seeds among families.**



### **Identified Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) by farmers of different project villages.**

NTFPs are very rich in nutrition and also help in income generation without much expence. So our farmers from different project villages and field staff identified and documented 25 NTFPs and the work still continues.



### **Sharing knowledge on Traditional Farming system at family level.**

**Promotion of nutritious garden and preparation of Nurseries**



**Awareness and Orientation on Climate change in the schools:**

Along with awareness and orientation tree Plantation and extracurricular activities were organized.



**Green Belt initiated by youth group of Ramgaizang Village**

The youth group selected 2 bigha of community land for the green belt. Ramgaizang youth group collected different cash crops and fruit saplings for the green belt from their village which are not properly taken care by the community. Till now, they planted 850 saplings from which 700 saplings are survived.



## Promotion and Strengthening of local markets through certification of organic products:

Mr. Saurabh Sarma, Subject Matter Specialist of Plant Protection, KVK, Hailakandi gave awareness to the 5 farmers club on organic certification. He discussed on importance of market value of the product and the process of getting certification. Also he talked about Geographical Indication Tag.



## SHGs sharing knowledge with one another:



Lead farmers from Ramgaizang village shared knowledge and demo on bamboo pest repellent to the farmers of Namdailong. This is a traditional technique which helps the plants from harmful insects and it helps to grow plants in a healthy way.

Also, FARM team took the initiative to exchange the traditional knowledge on pest repellent. Lead farmers shared the methods



with other farmers of lakhipur.

### **Promotion of good traditional farming practices through replication and exchange program:**

An exposure visit was organized for the potential farmers of Kalain and Lakhipur Block of Cachar District at KVK, Hailakandi. The purpose of the visit was to avail the farmers with the practical knowledge on different methods, techniques and process of traditional farming. The farmers also exchanged knowledge on seed preservation, pest management and nutrient deficiency of plants and soil.



### **COVID-19 Recovery Intervention in FARM Northeast Programme Areas :**



Enabling Covid 19 affected communities to build resilience through income generation. Under this programme, SKS selected two broad activities-Developing nursery of fast growing cash crops and Promotion of indigenous breed of poultry,duck rearing. For this programme we selected 25 most affected families under lakhipur block of Cachar District. The families

received training on nursery development, livestock rearing and market linkages. Moreover the nursery group received seedlings, seeds, shed nets and ploy bags for developing nursery and the livestock group received goat kids for the goat farming. This support will help the families to generate their income for livelihood.



## Sharing of knowledge on weed compost by lead farmers of one block to another block:



Mr.Paogongai Rongmei lead farmer from Lakhipur Block trained the lead farmers in Kalain block.

## Demonstration on Trellis model for backyard garden :



FARM State Officer, Mr Prabal, during his visit to Silchar oriented the farmers on Trellis model. This model help farmers with limited land, produce maximum products. With the help of Kunapara Farmers club of Lakhipur Block two numbers of trellis model i.e. Square shaped trellis and web shaped trellis were demonstrated.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION FOR WATER, SANITATION AND NUTRITION (HEALTH PHASE –IV)**

*“For he who has health has hope and he who has hope has everything.”*

*~Owen Arthur*

Ensuring access to clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene goes hand in hand with efforts to improve health and nutrition. When clean water and safe sanitation is guaranteed, communities are healthier and become more resilient.

### **Demonstration and practical training on Hand washing and toilet use and cleanliness:**



Awareness on Hand washing and use of Toilet and Cleanliness program conducted in 15 villages, through video clips, lecturing and demonstrations according to WHO. This programme aim to make the people specially the children aware of the importance of hand washing and the effects before and after taking food and after the toilet needs, to give awareness for prevention of diseases including diarrhoea, and typhoid and protection from corona virus.



## Practical demonstration training on nutritious food preparation on weaning and complementary food preparation:

Awareness on Nutritious food preparation on weaning organized in 10 villages, through videos clips. To improve the nutritional status, the people were made aware of what is Nutritional food, how to maintain hygiene and cleanliness, maintain kitchen garden for nutritious food preparation and to stop or reduce the fast food eating among the children.



## Village level health camps on nutrition or children and pregnant/lactating women:

Health camps were conducted in all the 3 health centres at Ramgaizang, Manikbond, Burunga.





## Campaign on nutrition, sanitation and water at village:

Campaign on nutrition, sanitation and water program were organized in 15 villages , The message declared to the participants related to nutrition, sanitation and boiled water for drinking. using the methods of rally , skits and lecturing.





## Motivational training for (VHSNC) leaders:

The training focused on how to improve health status and the different guidelines to follow during the pandemic in order to safeguard ourselves. Encouraged the leaders to monitor the local quarantine centre in the villages so that people follow the norms directed by Health Departments.



## Health centre level monthly meeting:

Monthly meetings were conducted with supervisors and VHWs to share the monthly activities implemented and also to get feedback of the progress of the project in all the target villages.



## Positive Changes after implementing the activities:

- Improved knowledge about exclusive breast feeding and how to practice it
- Became aware of breast cancer and how to detect early breast cancer through breast self examination.
- Children and adults learnt proper hand washing and practicing in daily lives
- Boiled drinking water is used nowadays
- Proper intake of IFA and calcium tablet and monthly check up.
- Now communities are aware about the schemes offered by the government

## Combating Human Trafficking in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (Phase II)

The project, Combating Human Trafficking for Assam and Arunachal Pradesh-second phase covers 15 villagers of Cachar and Karimganj District of Barak Valley. This phase brought about behavioural and attitudinal change among the communities in the target villages. The groups formed started to collectively take part in social activities which was related to their villages and neighbourhood.

It was observed that the communities started to ask questions and also come to a realisation that standing together and fighting for their rights was much more convincing than effective rather than doing anything by oneself. During this phase, there were some activities that the communities has taken up and shown their resilience due to the intervention of the project, Combating human Trafficking in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

### Village level meeting with Village Vigilance Committee, Women group and Youth group, Children group.

- Conducted 10 meetings of VVC. Total participants 730.
- Conducted 20 meetings with 20 women group. Total participants 520.
- Conducted 10 meetings with 15 youth groups. Total participants 150.
- Conducted 4 meetings with 15 children groups. Total participants 180.



### Village Level Child Protection Committee(VLCPC) are formed and trained in target village

- Total 15 VLCPC formed in target villages.
- Organised 2 trainings for the 15 VLCPCs
- Total participants 290.



## Linking women and youth with income generation programme.

- 21 women group availed revolving fund of Rs 25,000 each from NRLM.
- 325 families availed job cards through MNREGA.
- Linked 45 youths for scholarship scheme.
- Now the women learnt the process of how to avail loans and what criteria they should meet up.



## Linking and access to Govt Schemes through the support of Panchayat.

- MNREGA- 325 families availed
- NOAPS- 72 individuals availed
- PM Kisan Scheme- 350 farmers availed Rs 6000 in a year.
- SAUBHAGYA Scheme (Solar)- 14 households availed.
- PMAY- 32 households availed Rs.1, 30,000 each.
- National Food Security Scheme- 12 families availed.
- Widow Pension- 12 widows availed.
- Disability Pension- 4 availed.



## Community action involving in collaboration with Govt and AHTU.

- Organised training on impacts of Drugs and Alcoholism in 10 villages in collaboration with Excise Department.
- Communities collaborated with Childline, police, Ujwala for cases like child labour, child marriage, domestic violence, and child abuse.



## Orientation and Extra-curricular activities:

Conducted orientation and extra-curricular activities in all 15 villages of the target project. The children who participated were oriented on child rights, importance of education. Competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed. Total participants- 275



**The broad statement of process level achievement observed in the project villages:**

1. Cases of Child abuse, child marriage and child labor has been registered and referred.
2. The women and Youth Group are actively and collectively taking up issues.
3. Linking and access to Govt. Schemes through the support of panchayats has improved.

## **Specific Achievements**

Number of cases registered:

- Child abuse case- Total 03 ( From Craigpark, Naraincherra and Kalain)
- Domestic Violence: 03
- Child labour: 03 cases refered to childline
- Child marriage: 02 cases refered to childline
- FIR Filed: Total 04

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## EDUCATE

### **Project Orientation:**

*This orientation program aims to mobilize the village level stakeholders such as the village committee, local body, SHG etc about the project plan. All total 5 new villages are visited and as an educate team of seva Kendra we had discussed several objective related to the setting up of a learning support centre for school drop-out and non school going children for the age group 5-12. The village committee has volunteered themselves and assured support with related to the requirement of land and also raw materials.*



## **Baseline Study for 5 new village:**

Our animator and team collects the record of the village and the numbers of school children, school drop-out and non-school going children also the number of household in the village is noted with government schemes and facilities available. Baseline study is done to have the details of the village so that as a team when we get in-touch with the local government body, SHGs, religious leaders etc we can share with them the details and condition of the village and thereby finalise the result framework.



## Daily learning classes:

All together we have 15 learning support centers. For the daily learning support classes minimum 3 hours teacher teaches the children regularly. The process of teaching is totally basing the technique of joyful learning basing the government academic standard. We have children between the age group of 6-12 some are non-school going while some are school drop-out.



## **Training on Joyful Learning:**

*A two days joyful learning training program is organized at seva Kendra training center. Our target children at the learning support center are basically from the background of school drop-out or non-school going children, hence the process of joyful learning is very much important for the children so as to fulfill our aims of solving or minimizing the problem of school drop-out in the village that we have set the center.*



## Staff Capacity Building-RBM

The training aims to build the capacity of the project management team: Project Coordinator, Accountant and 15 Teachers cum Animators in Result Based Management, Knowledge Management and documentation so that the team can deliver the service efficiently. Monitoring tools formats for progress reports will be prepared and explained to the project team. The training was organized at Seva Kendra training hall.



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## Pathway To Development Through Women And Children

### *Capacity Building on-off farm livelihood activities:*

Many programmes were conducted on capacity building on-off farm livelihood activities during this reporting period. Some of them are on Skill training on cloth bag making. In these programme there were 35 women participants who participated in the training. The second training was conducted on tailoring where 25 women participated. The third training was conducted on handicraft on woollen materials of different types. In this training around 30 participants attended the training.

The three skill trainings conducted developed the skill of the women and now after the training, the groups have been able to start on some livelihood programmes where they have increased their family income of their families. But above all these women who are trained developed self-confidence in themselves as they feel that they are able to contribute to the growth and development of their families.

### Bag making:



### Handloom:



## Capacity building.

*Training on capacity building for teachers and youth volunteers was conducted at Seva Kendra Silchar. The objective of the programme was to enhance the knowledge of the teachers and to develop skills that will help them in dealing with children of different background and mindset. It was also to help the teachers and youth volunteers understand the need to persevere and to contribute in changing the condition of their society.*

*Around fifty (50) participants attended the training. From the training the participants learnt and enhanced their knowledge on, 01. Being teachers in a rural set-up, 02. Role of the teachers and youth volunteers in establishing a just and equal society, 03. Social Evils and Taboos in our prevailing Society and how to counter them in all.*



## Formation of Groups

To ensure that the project is able to reach its objectives, various groups were formed at the community level. These groups were given various trainings and awareness programmes related to women empowerment, child rights, and importance of education, saving habits and networking and linkages with PRIs, banks and government departments.

**The group formation motivated the communities to come together and discuss and solve their issues together. It brought a sense of unity and**

**security among themselves. They have realised the need to help and support one another.**



Sl.no	Groups formed	Number of groups	Total members
1.	Self-Help- Group	13	130
2..	Farmers Club	04	48
3.	Mothers club	03	117
4.	Children group	10	375
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>670</b>



## Youth Group:



## Coaching centres:

### Setting up Coaching Centre/Educational Support Centre:

Total five (05) coaching centres were set up in five working villages. These villages were chosen on the criteria that they were the most remote and most needed for the children. Before setting up the centre, meetings were conducted with the leaders, community and parents of the village. In the meeting the objective of opening the centre, how to start the centre and the roles and responsibilities of the community and specially the parents was discussed in detail with them.



Sl.no	Name of Centre	Total Students		Total
		M	F	
1.	<b>Ailathol centre</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>54</b>
2.	<b>Jallalpur Centre</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>
3.	<b>Menam centre</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>
4.	<b>Majagram centre</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>
5.	<b>Arunaband centre</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>222</b>



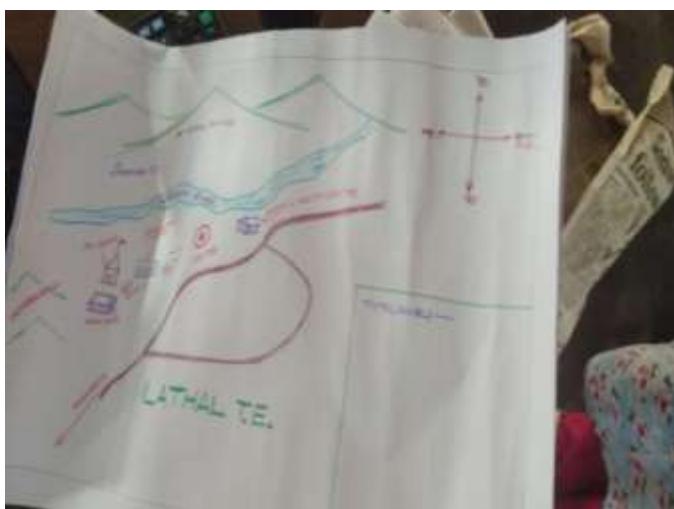
## Interface meeting with Banks, NABARD and other Marketing organization

An interface /networking meeting with banks/NABARD and also RSeti along with the communities was arranged at Seva Kendra Silchar. In this meeting the officials from the different departments made the representatives of the groups and villages aware of the different schemes and skill trainings that are available for the rural people. The bank officials spoke on the loan schemes that are available for the SHG groups and also farmer clubs. Rseti a skill training centre desiminated the information on the different trainings provided at the centre for women and youths of Barak Valley Region.



The interface meet gave the participants a chance to meet the officials of the above department and have a clear idea about the role of the different departments towards the upliftment of the people, understand the process to apply for the different schemes and also know that are various skill training provided for the youth specially the dropouts.

## Survey in the villages





### *Meeting with Animators and Coaching teachers*



## St Paul's School

The new academic year 2020-21 commenced on 20th January 2020 with full zeal and enthusiasm.

For this year we planned to have the annual sports meet in the month of March. So the students and teachers were very much with the practice from the first week of February itself. Students were divided into four houses, namely Pink, Blue, Green and Yellow and each house was entrusted with one teacher. Prior to the sports meet various sports competitions were conducted for the students according to the class wise. It was indeed very interesting to watch their sporting spirit.



On 3rd March St.paul's school was ready with full grandeur to welcome its budding champions and their parents with the guests of the day. Mrs.Seetha Lakshmi Kannan, was the guest of the day. She serves as a volunteer at Cachar cancer Hospital & Research centre. Fr.Joachim Walder, Sisters and parents of our students were present for the day's celebration. Each house

students were so much enthusiastic in their events to ensure the prizes. Once the competition for students were over there were musical chair games for the teachers and bombarding game for the parents. We were happy to have the open school students who had helped us many ways to organize the day beautifully. They also participated in Tug of War competition. All enjoyed the events very much. At the end the prizes were distributed to the Winners.



From March 16th onwards the news about Covid-19 were very much spread all over and the schools were started to close down. On 19th we too got the order to close the school and we had declared holiday for the students and staff. In May the staff were asked to give their suggestion about online classes. And after having a few video conferences with the staff we decided to begin the online session for all classes except nursery. Time schedule were made in such a way that no classes or siblings will have no clashes. Within one month we could make almost 75% of the students to participate in the classes. Then from July onwards we made arrangements for nursery classes also. Some of the students were not able to attend the Zoom classes due to lack of network and smart phones. Slowly we could talk with the parents and convince them about the importance of it. So by August we could succeed in getting almost 95% of the students for the classes. We also conducted the Unit test and Half yearly through online and offline.



By February we decided to bring the students to school with all the precautions. We informed the parents to give the consent letters who like to send the children to school along with masks, sanitizer etc. There was a good response from majority of the parents. So from 1st February itself we started the normal classes for class 1 to 5. Since we had completed the portions early we started with revision for students. So this revision time helped the students who were very weak in studies to pick up well. And from 22nd February, we started the annual exam for our students and completed by 2nd March. The results were published on 5th March and the annual holidays were declared till April 19th 2021.



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# *Nurture and Empower Tea Garden Women- ARISE Foundation and Fundacio*

Change brings development and Seva Kendra Silchar through these projects have strive to bring changes in the lives of the women in the tea garden areas by empowering them through different livelihood activities.

**Women Groups** were provided materials to stitch masks during the lockdown period at Craigpark village. They were also provided Cloth and woolen materials for starting entrepreneurial activities.



**Youth Groups** were trained in making mask and later provided with the needful materials for stitching masks during the lockdown. These masks were sold in local areas.





**Women Group at Kurkuri** were given woolen handicraft items for their income generation.



**Food distribution** for the most needy people. The most needy people are widows, sick and handicapped.





Visit of coordinators at Nagar where they monitored and evaluate their work and gave recommendations and feedback to the groups.



### Income generation activities:

During this period youth and women groups were formed and the following groups had undertaken income generation activities with the aim and objective to increase income and earn livelihood which will further improve standard of living in different aspects of everyday life.

Sl no	Groups	Villages
1	Youth Group	Craigpark
2	Youth Group	Naraincherra
3	Women Group	Kurkuri
4	Women Group	Patbari No 5
5	Youth group	Nagar





### Formation Of Youth Groups:

Sl No	Groups	Villages
1	Youth Groups	Kalain No.4 tilla
2	Youth Groups	Naraincherra
3	Youth Groups	Thaligram
4	Youth Groups	Patbari No.5





### Family level survey on persons migrating to other villages and outside the state



Tailoring course for the dropout Youth Groups was organized for 30 days at Seva Kendra Silchar . There were around thirty girls who attended the training and after the success of the training they were awarded completion certificates.



Meeting with leaders of the village regarding formation of Coaching Centre Management Committee at Patbari, Nagar and Thaligram.



# Community Based Rehabilitation

**Conducted Block Level DPO Governing Body Monthly Meeting:** Block level DPO governing body monthly meeting was conducted where BDPO leaders were selected and their role and responsibilities were discussed. The BDPOs have made a resolution to visit panchayats to check the list of PWDs who have been enrolled for IAY.

**Regular Monthly Meetings of VDPOs:** The coordinator and the core committee has done the assessment of the DPO and have graded them. During the assessment the VDPO members were also asked to apply for the Job Cards and Ration cards.



The core committee has decided to bring the forms from the block and submit to the VDPO.

**Facilitated PWDs for entitlements** like: Job cards, aids and appliances, ID card. 6 numbers of Pwds have availed Aadhaar card from block.



## COVID RESPONSE:

### RESPONSE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (PWDs) DURING COVID-19

SN	State	District	Block	Location/ village/ area	No. of families	No of individuals
1.	ASSAM	Cachar	UDHARBOND	Durganagar PT-VII		04
				Mazargram		06

Durganagar	04
Doyapur	06
Khaspur	02
Chandighat PT-11	02
Kaalinbill	06
Jhapirbond	07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>

**Per individual, 25 kgs rice, 3kg potato, 2 kg onion, 5 mask, 5 soap, 1 kg detergent, 2 litre oil, 5 kg dal, 2 pkts salt, 1 pc sanitiser 100 ml.**



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## Vocational Training

There has been a greater initiative from our part in reaching out to the unemployed youths of our region especially in these times where thousands have lost their jobs and have return back from various parts of the country because of the pandemic. There has been stress and frustration among the youths and their families due to loss of jobs, lack of opportunities in our Barak Valley Region and it has caused lots of strain in family life and social conditions as a whole.

In the last 12 months around youths have been identified from various parts of the region. These youths mostly belong to the tea tribes, Tribals and the other backward class (OBC) who are not in part or do not have the criteria to acquire a job either in government department or in private enterprises.

The training course was designed as usual in batches for better results and productivity and the course selection was given to the trainees depending on their needs and what they could do in their respective localities practically after the course completion.

### **Live stock management**



### ***Tailoring sessions***



### ***Pickle making***



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## Empowerment of Tribal Girls Implemented in Women Empowerment, Srikona

Tribal girls living in rural areas are the most who are in need of upliftment and empowerment as they lack facilities and opportunities as compared to their other contemporaries. The girls are provided with vocational skills to help them develop their skills and further start entrepreneurial activities for better income and living standard. The project also supports 5 coaching centres in rural district of Cachar.



### Open School for drop out students

As the pandemic affected the entire world it affected our open schooling too. Students could not come to the hostel till October. But by 1st of November 2020 eight students came to the hostel (five girls and three boys). Parents were also anxiously waiting for this day.

The aim of our Open school is to empower the Dropout, and different Tribal students (girls and boys) of the area. We give priority to girls' empowerment and we accommodate them and them in all possible way.

Our Women Empowerment Centre Director is Sr. Anne James and she took charge in September. She accompanies the students and has taken efforts to encounter the parents to know their back ground and culture.

On 3 rd November we began our classes as students got settled in the hostel. As we began our academic classes we also concentrated on their all round formation by giving them Value education, health education etc side by side.



## Individual care to academically weak students

St. Paul school principal Sr. Mini and two other staff Mr. Shyan and Ms. Sumitha are also involved in teaching the students to help Sr. Anne.



Students are motivated to be eco-friendly by taking care of the plants, garden and surroundings, and care for the common home.



Co-Curricular activities are included in their Time table like Yoga, meditation, singing, indoor and out door games etc.



*Phynol making and training on Plumbing*

### **Monthly staff meeting**





## RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*Seva Kendra Silchar had started relief distribution work from the 1st phase of national wide lockdown i.e. 25 March - 14 April 2020 after receiving Car pass from the administration. Items included in the relief -rice, dal, salt, oil, soap and masks. We reached out to 4144 families of the two districts.*

*With the help of volunteers we were able get the information of the needy people those who are not getting rations from Government and local authorities. Volunteers identified these under privileged from the remote villages of Cachar and Karimganj districts of Barak Valley, Assam.*

*SKS involved community and women's group for masks stitching for distribution to the community and helped the group as their income generating activity.*

*SKS and volunteer team identified and gave essential goods to the migrant labourers those who were caught due to lockdown in the Cachar district. Also the returnee migrants and their families through rations and also trying to link them with the panchayat to enrol their names for job cards (NREGA)*

*SKS also approached Food Corporation of India (FCI), Cachar for allocation of rice at subsidized rate for free distribution under Open Market Sales scheme (OMSS). We received the grant and distributed to the community.*

*In the worldwide pandemic, SKS reached the population with the support of different organization like Caritas India, Arise Foundation, DKA/KFB, Kinder Mission, Sisters Arising World Wide, ALIGHT Foundation, Feeding India and we used the local funds too.etc.*



## ❖ *Activities undertaken:*

**I. Awareness on covid- 19:-** The volunteer along with SKS staff has given awareness on the covid- 19. Like the use of mask, frequent hand wash and social distancing. The village people are unaware about the use of masks, hand wash and social distancing during the distribution the community were given the awareness.



**II. Distribution of relief materials:** - Distributed relief materials to 4144 families and we are able to help some very needy village. The people like daily wages and widow and PWDs are the people who have been very much needed for the relief materials.



**III. Mobilising resources:** - The youth groups were involved in mobilizing the local resources like masks, donation etc from individuals, NGOs, CBOs etc and distributed to the needy people along with the SKS volunteer.

#### ***IV. Provided a platform for learning in rural areas during lockdown through coaching centres.***

Students suffered a huge loss in education during the lockdown. All educational institutions were closed, and students were confined to their houses.

E-learning was boosted to fill the gap but students from low-income group families were far from availing such alternatives.

Seva Kendra Silchar (SKS), has taken an initiative to start coaching classes in the Villages of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi District, to support the students from low-income families. The coaching centre is run in the morning and evening hours also provide awareness on education, child rights, etc.



#### ***V. Counselling to the communities to deal with the pandemic situation.***



## ❖Major outcome of the action taken:

- SKS gave distribution to the 4144 families till now.
- In the Preventive activities, SKS distributed approximately 5000 masks to the volunteers and the community.
- SKS and team provided psycho - social support to the women, elderly person, disabled persons migrant and their families.
- SKS provided soap and sanitizer to the volunteers and communities.
- Skill training in tailoring given to the youth, women and migrant families.
- SKS gave awareness on hand washing, hygiene and preventive measures for COVID 19 to the community and volunteers so that they can convey this to other community.





## Flood Relief

**Brief Description:** This year along with the Covid-19 pandemic, Assam had been battling with floods all over its districts, due to the heavy monsoon rains. In Barak Valley the situation was quite grave as the water level of the Rivers Barak, Longai, Singla and Kushiara kept on rising and brought much devastation and loss to the people living on the banks of the rivers and other pockets of the three districts. The people lost homes, livestock and since they are mostly from the agrarian class they even lost their livelihoods. People had to be shifted from their homes



to higher level which brought more problems and difficulties especially for the women and children.



### ***Medical camp conducted during flood***





## Capacity Building of Staff:

Sl No	Date	Name of the programme	Organised by	No of Participants
1	07-09-2020	Right Based Approach (Online)	Thalier	05
2	02-11-2020	Project Management (Online)	Thalier	02
3	25-11-2020	Staff Capacity on Marketing Strategy		27
4	01-02-2021	Enterprenuarship Programme	Mr Jobin	25
5	25-03-2021	Counselling (Online)	Ms Jessy	07
6	29-03-2021	Project Management (Online)	KKID	04
7	May, 2020	21 days online Human Rights Certificate Course	Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC)	04

## Observation of Important Days

### International Women's Day

International women's day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Manikbond with around four hundred and fifty (450) participants participating in the auspicious day. The day was celebrated with song, dance skits and motivational talks.



### Laudate Si Week:

Laudate Si-Week, initiated by Caritas India was observed for three days by the communities of our target villages. The women and children observed the days through prayer, planting trees, cleaning drives and promoting of kitchen garden.



### Laudate Si-Week



# WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR



# **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

## **58<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Caritas India**



# International Migrants Day





**Earth Day and World Environment Day**



**World Day against Human Trafficking**



**Lenten Campaign at Guwahati and Seva Kendra, Silchar**



## Christmas Celebration At SKS and Kalakhali

### Promotion and Protection of Children Rights

A campaign was organized for the promotion and protection of children rights covering 10 villages and having around eight hundred (800) children participating. Awareness was given on children rights through rallies, songs, dance, skits, drawing competitions and video clips.



## Case Stories

### An enlightened Milon Ree from Majagram: ( A case Story )

Milon Ree from Majagram TE depended on his petty shop for his survival and livelihood for the last 12 years of his life, barely being able to support his family for the daily basics of life. As it is often seen and observed, in the most rural set-up the people are poor, illiterate and remain ignorant about the affairs and conditions of the state or the government. They themselves remain aloof as they never have the voice to speak for themselves.

So, was the case with Milon Ree who never had the chance to expand himself or improve his financial status as he had never had the information or was aware of the facilities and schemes provided by the government nor was he able or had the confidence to meet the government officials.

On attending an awareness programme conducted by the animator, Uttam Kairi on different schemes provided by the government for the rural poor and also attending the interface meeting with the bank officials, he was overwhelmed with joy to hear about Mudra Loan which is under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana which provides loan to micro enterprises. So on hearing and learning about this, he decided to apply for the loan immediately. In few months, he would avail the loan and expand his business. It is on the process.

Indeed through the intervention of the project, Pathway to Development through women and Children which is supported by MISSIO MUNICH Germany, the chances of the community to avail the facilities provided is becoming wider as they are becoming more aware and knowledgeable. They are very thankful for the generous support.

In the words of Milon Ree, “ For the last 12 years, I have struggled for survival, with my petty shop and now I cannot believe my eyes, that I will get the chance to better myself and my family”

Milon Ree's sentiments and emotions reflects the thoughts of the communities and they believe and hope that they will change for the better in the days to come with Seva Kendra Silchar showing them the way.

### **Case story from Rani Colony:**

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*Rani Colony is a village situated in the hilly terrain of Lakhini Nagar G.P under Lakhipur sub division, in Cachar District. The village consist of 87 families and a population of 456 (approximately). At present, the population under 6 month to 5 years children are 45.*

*Before the implementation of the Community Action Water, Sanitation and Nutrition for North East there was an incident of child death due to Diarrhea, and during the baseline the children affected by Diarrhea cases were around 10. Children and also apart from the children there was many cases among the adults who were regularly suffering and infected from diarrhea from time to time as they were unaware and do not know the causes of diarrhea and the benefits of hand washing. The village people use unsafe water for drinking and cooking. The implementing of health project through the initiative of VHW Mrs. Riangthanliu Rongmei and Supervisor G. Peter Rongmei and coordinator visited the village and the reason for the unfortunate incident in the village was found out through home visits and interaction with the village leaders. It was realized that the community suffer from poor sanitation, poor hygiene and unsafe drinking water.*

*Therefore various health activities such as Demonstration of Hand washing and toilet use , proper sanitation, safe drinking water and focus on use of boil drinking water, and nutrition program were conducted. Besides the mothers were made aware of the monthly immunization in the sub centre.*

*After the implementation of the project we observed behavioral and attitudinal changes among the community. They are now taking keen interest in washing hands, boiling water for drinking and also are very alert for immunization of their children. So in Ranicolony village there has been a decrease in diarrhea cases and there is a tremendous and dramatic change in the village. Mrs. Gaisuiliu Rongmei, a mother of three children said, “ We were very ignorant and never realize that our habits at home and in the village would often make us sick and suffer from various health issues, but now we and also all women in my village have started to change the habits and we can see that our health is improving for the better”.*

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## **Cases of Child abuse, child marriage and child labour has been registered and referred.**

Here is one of the exemplary story where we highlight the change, determination and courage of the tribes in seeking justice.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Reetu (Name changed) a seventeen year old girl from Kalain Bagan area (Tea garden area) as usual went for her tuitions to Kalain ( a mini town ) which is seven Km from her home. After the tuitions her friends left but the teacher Sohil (name changed) asked her to stay back on the pretext of checking her homework. He then closed the door and tried to molest the girl. Luckily she managed to open the door and ran away. The girl was nervous and started to cry while running on the road. Some known onlookers realised that something must have gone they wrong and they immediately informed her parents. On getting the news the parents informed the youth and women's group and rushed to Kalain. In the meantime, Seva Kendra Silchar (SKS) AHT Phase II staffs were also informed. After reaching Kalain, the family, the youth and women group decided that they would file an FIR.

This was a remarkable step but the fight was not over. The teacher coming from an influential family and also coming from a strong political background had lots of power. Even before the arrest, the family and friends of the perpetrator offered seven lakhs for the withdrawal of the case. But with the support of the youth group and women

group the family withstood the temptation and also the threats that followed. And this was how justice was brought and the community who had never dared to fight for their rights, unified with courage to encounter the attempted case of the girl.

It might not be right to say that their fears and submissive habits are vanished completely, but we are glad to see the gradual changes that are taking place. There were several other incidents where the community began to initiate in taking collective actions to address the social issues within the community. Now, they are much more confident to take forward which is contributing in fulfilling the project goal. The community and Seva Kendra Silchar team are thankful to Caritas India for the support. The impact envisions sustainable hope for brighter future henceforth.

## **Women and youth group taking collective action against social issues.**

Acceptance of their plight and the extreme conditions that they feel, they could never come out from, is what every tea tribes of Kalain Zone lived through their generations. From dawn to dusk they are busy in their work which greatly involves the Tea garden and does not think beyond this. But over the years there has been a change even if it seems very little and insignificant for some.

The intervention of SKS through Caritas India in the last two years has seen changes which are very minute in nature but heartening in its own way. The community is beginning to

think and analyse and even trying to take action in the last few months is what we believe the fruit of the intervention.

The women and the youth groups of **Craig park, Kurkuri and Kalainchera** in the last quarter have been targeting the root causes of their problem- Alcoholism and lack of quality education and so they have taken it on themselves that they will go to every target village and even other surrounding villagers to bring awareness to people about the evils of alcoholism and the long term impact it has on their families and society with the support of SKS team and the Excise department. The women groups are also determined that their children will not follow in their legacy, however difficult the path may be. Here the women group and VVC organised a meeting with the children and invited the president of

SMC of Kalainchera LP school in order that their children's problems and issues may be heard by the president of the SMC. This would have been a normal activity for any other communities but not in the case of our people in Craig park, Kurkuri and Kalainchera. But they have decided that they will try to work hard so that their future and the future of their children will be brighter and better.

Swapna Urang a member of the women group says, "We don't have enough, sometimes we are beaten by our husbands, most of our children are drop outs, we go out for work and are ill treated. There are many reasons for this but one of it is alcoholism which is killing us. We will take one step at a time but won't give up". And we hope this spirit remains with them from now on.

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