

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

### SEVA KENDRA SILCHAR



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## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF AIZAWL

The Director and SKS Staff members,

It is indeed a joy for me to write this message for the Seva Kendra, Silchar (SKS). Ever since the starting of Seva Kendra Silchar from the time of our former Bishop Denzil D'Souza since 31 years ago, SKS is playing a crucial role in facilitating and supporting various communities across the Barak Valley Region. The SKS team work relentlessly to achieve their goal of reaching out to those most in need and vulnerable. Many excellent and commendable works have been undertaken by the team, under the leadership of the Director with commitment and dedication.

Apart from addressing the recurring and ongoing needs of the area of the region, as the world is facing the wrath of the pandemic, and its unprecedented outbreak has posed new challenges and difficult dilemma to us. By God's Providence, we are glad to say that SKS was able to respond to the crises, not only by providing most essential items like food, medicines etc. to the community but also ensures that the needed support system and livelihood generation is strengthened. Hence, the support provided by SKS to the vulnerable and the marginalized is very commendable. Many other programmes on health, livelihood, education, water sanitation and hygiene are the priority and focus for the team.

We are truly grateful and are indebted to all those who extend their support to SKS in different ways. May God continue to guide and bless all the Staff and our Collaborators and all our Helpers to carry on the good works to bring life and hope to many more. May God bless you.

**Sincerely yours in the Lord**

**Bp. Stephen Rotluanga CSC**  
**Bishop of Aizawl**



### Message from the Director, Seva Kendra, Silchar

Dear Readers,

Greetings!

I feel elated to present the Annual Report of Seva Kendra, Silchar for 2021-22. This report is the result of strategic thinking, teamwork, effective planning, and implementation of various projects undertaken by SKS in a time bound manner. Here, I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Bishop of Aizawl, for his constant guidance and motivation.

The outbreak of pandemic has changed the scenario of the whole world and has compelled us to think over the challenges that we never thought of. Restrictions in movements, lockdown, closure of institutions like school sethas affected lives of people and children from all strata. SKS has played a crucial role during pandemic, by not only serving the community but also strengthening livelihood opportunities as well as minimizing the digital divide. The remedial classes that SKS initiated, especially for those children, who were unable to attend the online classes, were a boon to many. Through our work we could reach to the most vulnerable and marginalized in hard-to-reach areas. Our dedicated programme for tea community has immensely benefitted the community and contributed towards a decent healthy life.

All the noble initiatives by SKS could be possible only because of the support and faith of our donors and partners like Kindermissionwerk, Srs rising worldwide, KFB Austria, Caritas India, NESDSSS and other donors. We are proud to partner with these organizations and bring positive changes in the lives of the community.

This Annual Report is the major briefs of various programmes, Covid 19 interventions as well as covid 19 vaccine awareness along with various initiatives by our Schools during the FY 2021-22. Each of the project is close to my heart as it has touched lives of many and has contributed to a better life with health and dignity.

Nothing can be achieved in a standalone mode. Behind success of each organization, there stands a robust dedicated loyal team. I am grateful to Sr Sherly Thomas, the chief coordinator and all the coordinators, field staff, accounts team for their committed service, hard work and effective execution of the programme in a time bound manner. Their rich experience and strong networking skills have contributed towards success of each project. I am privilege to have such a dedicated team and I appreciate contributions of each of them.

As its rightly said *“miles to go before I sleep”*, Seva Kendra has a long way to go! With the support and good wishes from each one of you, Seva Kendra will be always serving the community and ensure a society to live with dignity.

May God bestow his blessings on you!

**Director  
Seva Kendra, Silchar**



## ABBREVIATIONS

ASHA- Accredited Social Health Activist

ASRLM – Assam state Rural Livelihood Mission

AWW – Anganwadi worker

CHASE – Catalyzing health amenities for social empowerment

CLF – Cluster Level Federation

CSO – Civil Society Organization

CWD- Children with disability

FC – Farmer’s Club

ICDS – Integrated Child Development Service Scheme

IGA - Income generation activities

MCH – Mother and Child Health

NDRF - National Disaster Response Force

NREGA – National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

NHM – National Health Mission

NIOS- The National Institute of Open Schooling

NRLM – National Rural Livelihood Mission

PWD – Person with disabilities

SHG – Self Help Group

SKS- Seva Kendra Silchar

VO – Village organization



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## Background:

Seva Kendra Silchar, is a registered Society under Societies Registration Act, 1860, Assam having registration no. 206 of 1988-89. It is a Social Service Society in the Barak Valley region consisting of the civil districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi of Assam in Northeast India. Since its inception in 1988, Seva Kendra Silchar (SKS) has been undertaking various developmental activities for the welfare of the poor and the marginalized in the Barak Valley region of Assam without any discrimination based on caste, colour, creed or community affiliation. As a legal body of great reputation in this region, it strives to bridge the gap between government agencies and the rural communities in a true spirit of humanity to ensure better accessibility as well as serviceability.

The Barak Valley is located in the southern region of the Indian state of Assam. The main city of the valley is Silchar. The region is named after the Barak River. The Barak valley consists of three administrative districts of Assam - namely Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. Tea is an important economic activity and Barak Valley have also its proportional share of tea garden in comparison to Brahmaputra valley with a good proportion of tea garden community residing in the valley.



Map of Barak valley, Assam

The valley is geographically isolated not only from mainstream of India but also from the rest of the state of Assam owing to difficult topography of the adjoining areas. It is surrounded by other states of India viz., Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur and a long vulnerable international border with Bangladesh. The topography of the valley is heterogeneous having hills, lowlands, and plain areas. The road connectivity is yet to be developed and to reach the marginalized and vulnerable is one of the challenges. Seva Kendra Silchar despite all the hurdles reach the unreached and serve the community with care and dedication.

Seva Kendra Silchar has been the nodal implementing agency for various national and international organizations and Donors. It has worked on various thematic as well as cross cutting sectors like Health, Education, Nutrition, Livelihood to name a few. It has reached the unreached with utmost dedication and care. SKS implements all the projects with strategic planning leading to achieving the desired outcome in a time bound manner. SKS aids local people to uplift their social and economic status. SKS- the institutions, has supported the farmers in hard-to-reach areas to sustain their livelihood by developing their capacities and provides, seeds, saplings etc. It has played a crucial role during the outbreak of pandemic. SKS with its utmost dedication and care, has served the COVID patients and has ensured that the community in its targeted areas doesn't starve.





## Initiatives of SKS at a glance in 2021-22:

Intervention	Project period/ duration
Nurture and Empower tea garden women and children supported for transformation by Arise Foundation London	Jan 2021 – Dec 2022
Annual Report of transitional Project	August 2021-January 2022
Village level Direct intervention: Disability inclusion	May 2021 - March 2022
Catalyzing Health Amenities for Social Empowerment (CHASE) Assam, Northeast India	Jan – Sep 2021
Combating Human Trafficking in 15 Villages of Cachar and Karimganj Districts of Assam	July 2021- Dec 2021
FARM (Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration Measures)in Northeast (phase III)	2019 -2022
Community action for water sanitation and nutrition in north eastIndia (phase –IV)	Apr – Sep 2021
Self-sufficient tribal women and farmers through livelihood enhancement and market access (5th phase)	July 2019 - June 2021
Path Way to Development through Women and Children in the Diocese of Aizawl.	Apr- Sep 2021
Enhancing Livelihood of Youths and Adolescent Girls through Skill Building and Entrepreneurship Promotion	Jan- June 2021
Educate(Education through creating alternative teaching environment)	Nov 2020 - Oct 2023
Open School -St. Joseph's Convent Srikona	---
Seva Kendra Silchar's interventions during outbreak of covid 19 pandemic	Activities during Covid outbreak in 2020- 2021
Covid 19 vaccination awareness	Jan 2021 - Mar 2022
Srs Rising Worldwide	Apr 2021- March 2022
St. Paul's School	Apr 2021- March 2022
Special day observation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International day against child labour</li> <li>• World environment day</li> <li>• World cancer day</li> <li>• International Women's Day</li> </ul>	Important dates from April 2021 – March 2022
SKS' initiatives in New Year 2022-	Jan 2022 – March 2022

**Project title: Nurture and Empower Tea Garden Women and Children for transformation with support from Arise Foundation, London**

Project period - January 2021 - December 2021

Project Location: Cachar district with focus on 12 remote villages comprising of tea garden community.

Objective: Reduce the number of human trafficking victims and unsafe migration in Barrack Valley region, through livelihood promotion among tea garden communities.

The location is the remote areas of Barrack Valley of Assam State, where there is abject poverty among the Tribal people due to low standards of education. The civil administrative jurisdiction of Cachar district of Barrack Valley was the operational area of the proposed project. 12 villages were covered and served namely Nagar, Uperline, Patbari, Patbari No.5, Thaligram, Thaligram bus stand, Chandighat, Anubabasthi, Craigpark, Kalain 4 No.tilla, Narrancherra, Kurkrri. Though in the Barak Valley region, majority of the population are engaged in agriculture and allied activities, as the community residing in these 12 villages are tea garden workers. Very few may have their agricultural land.



Under the project various activities were organized for children of coaching centers for their all-round development which includes not only studying but also other cocurricular activities like cleaning, drawing competition, singing competition etc. The jovial environment and the positive behavior were loved by all the children, and they regularly attended the coaching centers. The activities taken up under this project are as follows:

- 10 Monthly meeting organized with animators and coaching teachers for supportive supervision and handholding. The meeting also highlighted the importance of having bank accounts and savings.





- Organized 5 meetings with women group at Kumba covering approx. 300 women, focusing on livestock rearing for their income generation. Women Groups were given goats for livelihood generation.
- Distribution of food monthly to 41 most needy persons including poor widows, sick, blind and aged from covering 5 villages. This ensured healthy mind and body of these feeble people.
- 24 Youth from different villages were provided with skill training on fish pickle making for employment and income generation.
- Financial assistance for buying masks were provided to 50 women group and youth group at Nagar reaching to approx. 500 women and youths.
- Training provided to 15 coaching teachers and animators on child right, child protection, exploitation and safety mechanism.
- Organized Medical Camp for regular health checkups reaching to approx. 500 community members.
- Distributed food to approx. 120 villagers at selected villagers.
- Meeting with leaders of the villagers at Naraincherra to re-start remedial classes and meeting with tea garden managers.
- Organized 50 meetings with Women Group and youths for awareness generation on human Trafficking & Unsafe Migration reaching to more than 1000 women and youths.
- Initiatives were taken on human trafficking and Safety Migration at Kumba.
- Handing on savings for Youth Group, Meeting Individual Person and Training on Livelihood at Nagar.
- Meeting with village youth group, women group, remedial class teachers and other beneficiaries at Upperline.
- Petty shops given to the individual beneficiaries



Celebration of children's Day 2021



- Observed Children's Day in 3 important locations at Craigpark, Upperline, Narayan Tilla and Kalain tilla. 25 girls completed tailoring course and they were provided with Certificates.



Distribution of food during pandemic (left) and meeting with women SHGs (right)

Project title : **Transitional Project with support from Arise Foundation**

Project period -August 2021-January 2022

Project Location: Cachar district covering 14 villages namely Craigpark, Hanumonthao, Kurkuri, kalainTila, Sindura, Nagar, Patbari, Patbari No. 5, Kumba, Uttarsonpur, Naraincherra, Uperline, Mahadevbari and Ailathol).

Objective: income generation and livelihood activities

Transitional Project began with the identification of the individual persons in 14 village of Cachar. The tribal population targeted had low standards of education and were living below poverty line. The total direct beneficiaries are 140 from 14 villages. The activities were focused on: -

- Animals for livestock rearing (Goats)-50 persons/ families
- Initial stocks for Petty Shop-25
- Training and supply of handicrafts like woolen items- 20 persons
- Seeds for vegetable growing and vegetable seedings- 45 persons
- Meeting with individual handicraft beneficiaries at Uttarsonpur. Project orientation was given to them by the coordinator of the project. And we selected 16 individuals'



Support to community



beneficiaries from the village. they all are farmers. It was good interaction with the individuals. Yarn handicraft Materials were given to the beneficiaries of the project.

- Woollen and other materials were handed over to three beneficiaries at Nagar and Kurkuri. Orientation of the project was given to them by the coordinators.
- Updating the fanancial report of Petty shop at Mahadevbari.
- Handicraft work began by the individuals at Uttaronpur. They are making saree and towel.
- Seed distribution by the animators for the vegetable growing



Support to petty shops



Support to community



Support to community by providing yarn handicraft materials

Project title: **Village level Direct intervention: Disability inclusion**

Project period – 1st Year: May 2021 to March 2022

Project location - 28 villages under Udharbond block of Cachar district, Assam

The brief activities undertaken in this project were:

- **Programme on Early Intervention with PwDs, mothers of CwDs and community stakeholders**

To promote programme on early Intervention with PwDs, mothers of CwDs and community stakeholders was conducted in Doyapur Pangram where ASHA worker, ICDS worker and community people were present. The importance of early screening of new born child were shared. The CBR team sensitized the service providers and community on certain disabilities that can be cured like club foot, clip lips hearing impairment if they are



Sensitizing PwDs (top) and CwDs (bottom)

identified with a minor operation. The community people were requested to share the information to their neighbour so that their rate of disability can be reduce through the awareness and through early identification.

- **Sensitization of parents of CwDs to promote inclusive education**

The sensitization of parents of CwDs to promote inclusive education was conducted in Ghungurbond where the ICDS worker, ward members and parents of CwDs and PwDs were present for the programme. Discussion on right to education, various programmes under the Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, role of School management committee (SMC), availability of infrastructures which are user friendly for children with special needs.



- **Awareness on children clubs' formation and its role in CBR program**

The program highlighted on formation of children's club, the importance of education and focus on the education of the differently abled people. To educate the CwDs we need to educate them in the general school where the teachers should be trained to handle the CwDs in the school. Children with special needs should be given opportunity in the extra circular activities so that they get interest to go the school and make friends.

- **Awareness on SHG:**

Self Help groups (SHG) comprising of 31 members were formed in 2 villages namely Ghuntibari and Chandighat including both disabled and non-disabled from the villages. It was highlighted that the SHG of PWDs should be formed to work on their issues and should be able to identify the resources and built network with different stakeholder. The participants were given inputs on DPO module I and II. The programmes ended with draft plan to form SHG in the coming months at Ghuntibari and Chandighat.



- **Community meetings on disability inclusion**

25 community members were sensitized on rights of the people and about the inclusive society where the PWDs and CWDs are treated equally in all respect. PWDs are the part of the society and need to be included in all the programmes like social function, education, gram sabha etc.

- **Sensitization of parents of CwDs to promote inclusive education**

The sensitization of parents of CWDs to promote inclusive education was conducted in Chandighat at the community hall where their participants from the ICDs worker, Bagan panchayats and ward members and some disabled people and guardian were present for the sensitization program. Inclusive education for children with special needs were the highlight of the programme.





Project Title - **Catalyzing Health Amenities for Social Empowerment (CHASE) Assam North East India**

Project duration - January 2021 – Sep 2021

Project location – Cachar (20 villages) and Karimganj (7 villages) covering 2030 households with total population of 5231761 from Lakhipurand Kalain Block in Cachar and Lowairpoa block in Karimganj.

The second phase of the project started in January 2021 during COVID -19 pandemic which had very stern impact in Barak valley region. Various initiatives were taken to sensitize the community on COVID 19. Most of the beneficiaries belong to the Tea Garden Tribe one of the most underprivileged communities in the State of Assam. Through this project, the most vulnerable groups were reached. Restrictions in movement and lockdown posed immense challenge in implementing the programme. But with utmost dedication, SKS team has organized and conducted the activities by following the guidelines and SOPs of the government. The activities are highlighted below:

- **Identification of beneficiaries through survey /Participatory rural appraisal:**

At the preliminary state, the team visited all the 20 targeted villages and met the Bagan panchayats and local leaders to discuss the objectives of the Organization (SKS), and project with a vision to discuss the project objectives as well as to build rapport with the community. Training was organized to conduct Survey and Participatory appraisal was given to health workers. Survey and participatory appraisal was conducted in all the villages, after the training.

- **Two days training for women Health Workers:**

Two days training conducted for 32 women health workers and women leaders in collaboration with Assam health department with the vision to



#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 550 people reached through health camps.
- 20 TB patients provided with monthly nutritional supplements resulting to improvement in health.
- Strong linkages with local leaders, Bagan panchayats and community.
- Sensitizing community on various health schemes and benefits.
- Reducing the gaps of serviceability and accessibility of Government health schemes.
- Initiatives have been taken by groups and individuals of the target village for their sustainable livelihoods.
- The organization with three FLTC (First line treatment centre)
- Children learnt proper hand washing.
- Reduced cases of diarrhoea especially in children

reduce the occurrence of Tuberculosis and promote safe motherhood among the target population through community awareness, actions, and constant networking with Government Health care services. In addition to it, awareness on the rapid spread of COVID -19 following of SOP, and giving psychological support to the village people was also part of the project. Emphasis was given on pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants, children and adolescent girls

- **Nutritional supplement for TB patients.**

20 critical TB patients were identified during the survey based on their financial conditions. They were provided with monthly nutritional supplements in the form of cereals and pulses like dal, rice, rajma, eggs etc. (rice -10 to 15 Kgs, Rajma – 2 kgs, Dal -2kgs, Chana -5 kgs, Egg - 30 pcs).



- **Village level health awareness campaign.**

Due to restrictions in movements and gatherings, awareness generation amongst community through meetings were a challenge. But the project team, carried out home visits and focus group discussions with small groups comprising of 20 to 25 participants reaching to more than 250 community members abiding by all Covid protocols. Awareness was given on COVID-19, sign and symptoms and the protocols to follow like washing hands, wearing masks, and to maintain a distance of 1-2 meter. Awareness was also given on water, sanitation and nutrition, Tuberculosis, Cancer, and availability of Social and health schemes.

- **Medical camps and Mobile vaccination in remote villages**

The primary focus was to bring healthcare to the rural and tribal areas. In collaboration with NHM medical and health check –up camp was organized for the villagers

of remote localities. 550 people were reached covering 20 villages through these camps. The majority of the people who attended the camp were suffering from diarrhea, fever, body pain, anemia, and gastritis. All the patients were provided with medicines, vitamin tonics and ORS.

#### **Additional work volunteered by SKS**

- Awareness generation on Covid 19 in 20 target villages reaching to more than 2 lacs community members
- 20 meetings were held with health department of the local areas and collaborated with the ASHA workers for community and health care.
- Distributed relief materials to 3250 families comprising of daily labourers, widows and PWDs.
- Established 3 First Line Treatment Covid care centres in collaboration with Tea Garden Managers, Disease Management and Prevention Sector of Assam government.
- 160 Covid 19 positive cases were treated in these centres, and few were home quarantined.
- Necessary medicines, nutritional support and medical staff were allotted to them under the supervision of SKS leading to recovery of the patients.

The opportunity bridged an effective platform to create awareness amongst locals regarding the COVID -19 pandemic. The health camps were a huge success with overwhelming response from the local people.

- Networking and Interface meeting with Government Health departments / Orientation on maternity benefits and schemes.

An interface /networking meeting with Government health departments / orientation programmes were arranged at Seva Kendra Silchar. NHM representatives made community aware of different schemes and benefits that are available for the rural people strengthening the linkages between the Government schemes and access of those by the community.

### **Training on Mother and Child Health (MCH) for women and men leaders, traditional birth attendants, village Health Committees.**

Training was provided to 120 community members focusing on pregnant women and lactating mothers on MCH services about the antenatal care, danger signs of pregnancy and preparation for emergency labour were observed to be poor among antenatal women. Lacking knowledge about the newborn care, infant feeding practices, immunization, newborn, and childhood illnesses. This would contribute to improving prenatal, reduction in maternal and child mortality and morbidity.



### **Training on Herbal medicine for health workers and women leaders**

Training of 50 health workers and women leaders were organized on herbal medicines which enhanced their capacity to use herbal medicines.



### **Sex education and counselling support to Adolescent girls**

Sex education and counselling for 110 adolescent girls and boys were organized in the villages to give them clarity about their own body and the changes that they undergo during adolescence period. Focus was given on the following:

- Prevent sexually transmitted diseases
- Prevent unwanted pregnancies
- Create understanding of the menstrual cycle



- **Reduce stigma and shame**

Capable of accepting the physical and functional changes calmly and naturally without emotional judgments.

- **Training on menstrual hygiene and distribution of menstrual hygiene kits**

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is an integral part of health and hygiene and its important to provide right information to girls and women on menstruation. The taboos related to menstruation is prevalent in these villages and hence a training was organized for adolescents and adults on MHM. After the training, menstrual hygiene kits were distributed.

- **Capacity Building workshop for implementation team and other key stakeholders.**

Village health workers, Supervisors, and ASHA worker were trained on health-related issues and the challenges faced from community. This will enhance the capacities of the health workers contributing to better health services in villages. The training also focussed on-

- To have better communication skills to deal with complex situation and support patients and their families.
- To share health information with patients/communities.
- To prevent or alleviate their own stress and anxiety.

#### Challenges

- Due to pandemic activities could not be conducted in a smooth and planned manner.
- Restrictions in movements
- Transportation and communication problem
- Daily laborers were hard to reach as they go out for work everyday

- **Refreshment course for health supervisors, teachers and SKS staff.**

Refreshment course was organized by SKS to upgrade the skills & knowledge of health supervisors, teachers, and SKS staff to ensure the skills learned during the initial training, that also provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about changes-in/updates-to the safety approach, it's helps to increase retention capability.

#### Monitoring mechanism:

In the initial stage of the programme we held meetings with local leaders in all target villages to get acquainted and create rapport for smooth conduct of the programme. The Supervisors and village women health workers visited the site every month for monthly meetings and when the need arises for the communities or if they require the support of staff



### CASE STUDY

#### Walking alongside Paulousin battling with TB Spine



When Seva Kendra Silchar (SKS) staff reached Kumbha for distribution of relief material and medical camp on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 they saw Paulous lying on the floor helpless. Seeing the helpless condition of Paulous's and his family the SKS took the initiative to help and go ahead with appropriate investigations. Paulous comes from Kumbha village which is 23 kms away from the main city Silchar and is in Cachar district under Udharbond block Assam.

Paulous is a 16-year-old boy and second child of 4 children. His mother Mrs. Gracy Munda is a labourer at tea garden estate. She consulted the tea garden hospital for his treatment but in vain as there were no proper medical facilities in the tea garden hospital and lack of financial support to avail the treatment. Paulous' father Mr. Patras Munda passed away 2 years ago due to tuberculosis. Now his mother earns only Rs 180 as a daily wage labour in tea garden to support her family.

Paulous was presented with a swelling on the back – Thoraco lumbar region for the past 4 months which gradually increased in size and made him immobilised. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Paulous was taken to Civil Hospital of Silchar, after consultation the doctor prescribed CT scan. The CT scan report showed secondary malignancy and was referred to Cancer hospital at Cachar. After FNAC and colour CT scan at the cancer hospital he was diagnosed that the swelling to be a Psoas abscess with tubercular lesion a size of 5x7 cm. After staying for 1 week in cancer hospital the patient was discharged and was shifted to medical college Silchar for the start of antitubercular drugs and further medical treatment.

The staff of Seva Kendra accompanied Paulous to the hospitals like civil, cancer and Silchar medical college and hospital. Besides this Seva Kendra Silchar have financially supported him for the investigations like FNAC, hospital charges, CT scan etc. Seva Kendra also provided them with nutritional support with food grains, nutritional supplement powder and multi vitamin tablets for his recovery. Seva Kendra staff still follows up the case from the doctors at Medical College Silchar as he is hospitalized over there and hopes that he will come back to normal.



Project Title: **Combating Human Trafficking supported by Caritas India and Caritas Germany.**

Project duration – July – Dec 2021

Project location- 15 villages of Cachar and Karimganj district of Assam

Combating Human Trafficking in Assam is a project implemented by Seva Kendra Silchar through the support of Caritas India and Caritas Germany for the Last two years. The project is implemented in fifteen villages of two districts of Barak Valley, Cachar District and Karimganj District which are vulnerable to trafficking as the community lives below poverty line and lacks in education. The project intervention has sensitized the community on various social issues regarding human trafficking.

Through this project women group, youth group, children club, vigilance committee was formed to strengthen and make the community aware, active, and alert of the situation around them. These groups are now playing very important role in identifying and informing any issues relating to human trafficking. In the last two years apart from the awareness, the team rescued and filed FIRs for cases of molestation,



domestic violence, child marriage and human trafficking. The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of the communities especially during the project period. During this time, incidents of human trafficking have been witnessed in the project area and there was despair and struggle as unemployment increased and many must move out of the village for work.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- 45% child trafficking is prevented through the community led mechanisms in collaboration with VLCP, panchayats, CWC, local police, Childline and local networks
- Trafficked persons are rescued, restored, and rehabilitated through the coordinated efforts by the concerned department and agencies.
- Multi-stakeholder coordination developed and functioning to prevent human trafficking and unsafe migration in the states.

During the project period, SKS initiated various programmes in the community, panchayats, block, and district level. Strengthening linkages with government, key stakeholders and NGOs were emphasized. Due to restrictions in movement during Covid 19, strategies were changed. Coordination and convergence were one of the key strategies. Various strategic activities were conducted with women group, VVCs, youth groups and children group. This enhanced their capacities and brought them in one platform where they could discuss problems, issues, and plan out together how they can address the challenges in their village, blocks and district.

Activities	Participants covered
Training on existing women group, VVC groups on functional literacy and livelihoods and Human Trafficking	175
Training the existing women groups in each village on functional literacy, human trafficking, and livelihood	447
Training for the existing youths and children groups on their rights, entitlements and skills	386
Coordination meeting among village level committees	180
Joint awareness creation through posters and rallies	150
Mapping & linkage of govt Programs/Schemes	1319
Promotion of nutritional gardens and up scaling of existing agricultural practices in villages	115
Meeting with Government Units and NGOs	75
Regular meeting of survivors of human trafficking	21

**Project at a glance:** Detailed interventions during the Project are –

- **Training on existing women group, VVC groups on functional literacy and livelihoods and Human Trafficking:**

Training was conducted for 1750 participants covering 4 target villages for existing women group, and VVC groups on Functional literacy, livelihood, and human trafficking. The community were sensitized on human trafficking and its different trends that were taking place during these covid situations. Various government schemes focusing on livelihood for women, training on bookkeeping and cash and ledger maintenances were emphasized during the training.



- **Training on child rights, human trafficking, and livelihood in each village:** 447 participants from existing women groups were trained on child rights and human trafficking, functional literacy, and livelihood with focus on safety method of migrant's worker. Knowledge sharing on skill development training for the adolescent girls and boys.
- **Training for the existing youths and children's groups on their rights, entitlements and skills:** 386 youth groups and children of eight (08) villages were trained on their rights, entitlements, and skills. Work opportunity in the village and its vicinity were highlighted. Youths were motivated to start setting of petty shops and other shops in the village for income generation. The dropouts were motivated to continue their studies through NIOS or other board.

- **Coordination meeting among the village level committees/groups:**

A coordination meeting was conducted for the village level committee and groups. Networking with police department and other department for human trafficking issues, filing FIR, information on child rights and child marriage and human trafficking were discussed. The leaders and the groups proposed that more SHGs should be formed and through this revolving fund could be availed for income generation activities. Information on skill training which was provided by NRLM and Seva Kendra Silchar was also shared for mobilizing interested individuals.



- **Joint awareness creation through posters and rallies:** Joint awareness through posters and rallies were conducted in both the districts during world day against human trafficking and on world day against child labour covering 150 community members. In both the districts, rallies were organized with the block and the panchayats along with the local CBOs as well as communities.
- **Mapping & linkage of govt Programs/Schemes:**

Mapping and linkage of govt. schemes for better serviceability and accessibility was one of the focus interventions of the project. SKS team has disseminated information about all Government schemes benefitting 1319 individuals and SHGs in the following:

- Linkages of 27 women groups who availed grants from ASRLM.
  - 19 SHGs received INR 25000 each
  - 8 SHGs received INR 1,00,000 each,
  - 1 SHG received INR 6,00,000 for income generation.
  - Linked 340 individuals to MNREGA Scheme
  - Linked 48 households for PMAY
  - Availed PM Kissan scheme for 286 household.
  - 112 LPG Ujjawala scheme availed
  - 8 households were linked with Ayushman Bharat.
  - 16 individuals received individual household toilet under Swachh Bharat Mission
  - 482 availed benefits under Arunodoi Scheme (INR 1000 per month).
- **Promotion of nutritional gardens and up scaling of existing agricultural practices in the project villages:**

115 individuals were benefitted through an initiative of promoting nutritional gardens and scaling up of existing agricultural practices which not only ensured better nutritional intake but also assured income generation.

- **Formation of district level networks of Village Vigilance Committees:**

In both the districts network of village vigilance committee were formed. Trainings and awareness were conducted to strengthen and empower the networks on their roles and responsibilities and how to network with each other on the issue of human trafficking. They were also made aware on how to network with the various government departments who are



dealing with the same issue. In case there is any rescue work they should take the help of all stakeholders so that there is success in the attempted work.

- **Meeting with Government Units and NGOs:**

Meeting with government units and NGOs in the district was held along with the village vigilance committees and representatives from the youth groups. Roles and responsibilities of each department and how to network with each other, were discussed. There were 38 representatives from the VVC and youth group and (07) seven representatives from the district unit.



- **Regular meeting of survivors of human trafficking:**

A total of eight (08) meetings were conducted with the survivors of human trafficking. The meetings were conducted to take stock of their situations and plan out how to help them out in enrolling in the NREGA scheme and to motivate some of them to take up skill training provided by NRLM for livelihood.

- **Village and family visits:**

Group meetings and home visits were made to the targeted villages to take a stock of the status including village leaders. This month the team visited all the fifteen (15) villages and made some family visits. Around seventy (70) families were visited and especially the families whose members were taken for work outside of the state, to gather information about them.



- **Celebration and Observation of World Day against Human Trafficking in Persons:** To mark and observe the world day against human trafficking 2021, Seva Kendra Silchar has organized a one-week awareness campaign on human trafficking, starting from 26th June to 30th June 2021. During this week awareness programmes were held in the fifteen villages including miking, distribution of leaflets and poster in targeted and neighbouring villages. Apart from the awareness campaign, the women group also organized candle lit march which brought about more meaning and the message sent by the women was that they would unite and fight against human trafficking of any forms in their villages and areas. Drawing Competitions were also held for the children on the theme of human trafficking.



- **Linkages with Banks and NRLM:**

SKS have linked 08 women SHGs to NRLM and helped Six (06) SHGs to avail revolving fund of INR 25,000,00 each and one SHG have availed an amount of INR 2,00,000 for income generation programme.

- **Formation of Children Parliament:**

Eight (08) children parliament were formed in Kalainzone. The children were trained on the objectives of children parliament, how to identify issues of the children have started to identify issues and find different strategies for solving issues. The children were also trained on the different rights of children and how to fight for themselves to attain certain rights which is very beneficial for their growth and development.





- **Relief and meeting with returnee migrants and families:**

SKS organized a meeting with the returnee migrants and their families. In the meeting they shared about the problems they faced in the village and how, because of need they had to go out and be cheated in the process. Also discussed about what the returnee migrants will do henceforth. It was also discussed that the returnee migrants will be linked to MNREGA whenever the scheme is opened. On the same day relief was also distributed to the families of the returnees' migrants.



- **Prayer Day for Human Trafficking:** On the feast day of St. Josephine Bakitha, the patron of modern slavery and human trafficking, a small prayer service was conducted by SKS team. Mrs Rani Pdang briefly spoke on the life of St. Bakitha who being the victim of slavery fought for her rights with valour and courage. As SKS are committed to combat and prevent human trafficking, various awareness generation activities were initiated regarding incidents on trafficking that are prevailing in our own society and district.
- **Donor Visit:** Caritas staff members Fr. Jolly, Assistant Executive Director, Thematic Manager Miss Liza, Regional Co-ordinator Miss Ruth visited the villages of combating Human trafficking along with Sr. Sherly Thomas and Coordinator Rani Pdang. They interacted with the villagers to understand their views and support they receive from SKS on the project. The villagers were very delighted to host them and organized a cultural programme as mark of their respect to them.



### Lessons learned within the reporting Period:

Restriction in movement due to Covid 19 posed a threat to the project activity.

- There are many cases of exploitation of migrant's worker who have left for work during this pandemic time. Due to Covid and loss of livelihood many have opt for work in other states have been exploited which may need to be intervene



- Livelihood is a big issue in the working area and there is a sense of panic and pain among the people
- Students are struggling to cope with their studies due to the online classes.
- In the process of filing FIR and handling the cases, there were some incidents of non-cooperation's from the Police.
- If we motivate people to file FIR, then we have to continue to be with them and help them. While rescuing, we should always take the written permission from police department, not going alone and if there is women victims also women staff should also accompany.

### Challenges:

- The staff are not yet well versed with the process of rescuing, about the different laws related to human trafficking and child related issues.
- It was a challenge to complete 12 months activities in six months with the pandemic situation.
- People are reluctant to file FIR.
- Some local leaders are also involved in labour supply to the traffickers, and since they are influencers in their area, it becomes an obstacle for smooth work.
- While rescuing no proper place for keeping the child/victim as Childline not located in the area.
- In the budget there is no allocation for unforeseen situation, so it becomes a challenge while handling the process of rescue

### Planning and monitoring process:

For the planning and monitoring process of the project, there was monthly meeting at the headquarter level to discuss and update the progress of the activities. Initiatives were taken to address the challenges faced in fields through discussion and brainstorming. The interventions of SKS team through this project was successful and supportive to the communities. The project team not only sensitized the community on human trafficking but also supported in getting the victim rescued.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- One week campaign and Observation of World Day Against Human Trafficking.
- Reached 950 community members through protection and promotion of child rights campaign.
- Family Visits of the victims of trafficking
- Meeting and relief to families of human trafficking.
- Medical camp covering twenty families.
- Awareness and mobilising communities for vaccination
- 1356 children reached through Celebration of children's Day

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Various awareness generation activities under the Project

### Missing child rescued

A child was missing in Kalain block and was rescued by the Youth groups. On the 16th of November 2021, an eight (08) year old was loitering around the town and was not aware of where she is. On being informed about the lost child the youth and VVC network brought the child and kept in the house of the president of the network as the Childline was far from the location. Information was disseminated to all the village through the networks and the parents could be traced. the child was handed over to her parents.



## Migrants rescued

On 20th June 2021, 21 individuals from Kalain block were promised jobs and taken to Himachal Pradesh. Mongal Das alias Bapon Das, the local agent along with Vijay Rajput and Manish Thakur from the placement agency influenced the villagers and promised jobs in the biscuit industry with a good sum of salary. On reaching they were deployed for domestic work, and with no pay. While demanding for their wages, they were informed that the agent have sold each of them at INR 50,000 each.

One of the migrants died named Dhiren Munda as informed by the Police. Then the SKS staff intervened and tried to find out the cause of death of the migrant and visited the family members at Konpara and collected the information of the entire twenty-one (21) individuals. The SKS staff contacted the OC of Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh) and enquired the cause of death of Dhiren Munda, and also about the two children of Dhiren Munda name Sukurmoni Munda 11 Years and Bishal Munda age 7 years old but the OC of Hamirpur didn't have any clue of the children. The unfortunate and helplessness of the families prompt the SKS staff to take immediate action and with the help of the family file missing case of the two children and file FIR against Mongal Das alias Bapon Das who had taken Dhiren Munda and his two children and the other eighteen (18) migrants. When Mongal Das the local agent was arrested by Gumra police, he confessed that he had taken them and furnished all the information of the Vijay Rajput and Manish Rajput the agents of the placement agency.

The migrants were sent back to their home but without any wages. They had no money to come back to their home. But with the help of Caritas India, UP AHT Partners were informed and in Lucknow, PC Swaraksha AHT team supported the migrants to return home. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, they reached Guwahati and proceeded to Silchar. 18 migrants are rescued and 3 are yet to return. Though the search is continued, this was a great success which was possible because of the constant collaboration of the communities, the police department, Seva Kendra Silchar and guidance from Caritas India Northeast Region and Caritas Delhi. Now till date eighteen.



Project title - **FARM (Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration Measures) NORTHEAST Phase III**

funded by MISEREOR Germany and supported by Caritas India

Project location – Cachar district, Assam.

Project period- April 2019 to January 2022

### **Objective of the project-**

To empower communities for nutritional food intake through improving status of food Sovereignty in Cachar, Assam.

### **Root zone fertigation in tree plantation-**

Root zone fertigation is one of the eco-friendly measures which was shared by Dr. Haridas. V.R, Manager, Climate Justice, Caritas India during the virtual training on eco-friendly measures under LAUDATO SI. Root zone measure is appropriate for horticulture crops. After receiving the training FARM team executed the process in Ramgaizang village, Lakhimpur. With the help of Ramgaizang farmer's club the measure was demonstrated. Handholding support by the team resulted to a healthy growing plant leading to enhanced capacities and better livelihood opportunities for the farmers.



### **Promotion of backyard garden at family level**

Lobonkhal village is a hilly area, so farmer has less scope for kitchen backyard garden. Therefore, Farmers promote small space kitchen garden by using thermocol container. One of the farmers, Mr.Lalramtha shared “our surrounding area is not good for kitchen gardening and sometimes it's difficult to access our farm land as it is far from my house. So, with the use of waste material me and my siblings planted chilies, pudina, onions, coriander. I will rotate the vegetable varieties as per the season”.



**Farmer's initiated Vermi Compost Bed:** Farmers from Ramgaizang village took the initiative to make a vermi-compost bed for their own usage and also for earning from it. Compost bed was made by locally available resources and earthworms were collected from the Krishi Vigyan



Kendra, Cachar. One of the farmers, Mr. John shared that they have to maintain the compost bed properly till 2 to 3 months for getting the good result and then only they can use this manure in their respective farm.

### **Mushroom cultivation:**

Mr. Bijon Nath is the member of Kunapara Farmer's club under Kunapara village, Lakhimpur. During the period of pandemic, he faced challenges to earn his livelihood. Then he attended the training on Mushroom cultivation organized by Seva Kendra in collaboration with KVK. With his enhanced capacity, he started mushrooms cultivation after reading the people interest of the neighbour communities. Mr. Nath shared "I got around 5-6 kg per week and sell with the price tag of INR 200 per kg and profited with the amount of INR 20,000 during the pandemic period". Following his footsteps, the SKS team observed that other youth farmers got encouraged and started mushroom cultivation which opened opportunities for both livelihood and employment generation.



### **Campaign at Regional and DSSS level**

FARM team participated in Lenten Campaign at Guwahati which was organized by Caritas India. The locally available products by the farmers club supported by SKS, was showcased which got an overwhelming response. Products like local jaggery, bamboo shoot, sticky rice, handloom items, bamboo baskets, broom, organic manure etc were showcased which was a good boost to their income. Following the same, another DSSS level campaign was organized in Seva Kendra premises at Cachar.



### **Seeds Exchange Program among Farmers:**

Seeds exchange program was conducted in 6 project villages. Farmers shared their seeds which was conserved by them and planted it in their backyard kitchen garden. This ensured cross

learning and the wide range of varieties of seeds helped farmers to conserve those varieties, not available with them.



### **Emergency Response Support Team Training attended by registered volunteers**

32 SKS's Volunteer attended three days training program which was basically strengthening the support team for the emergency response. This training is specially for Assam and West Bengal areas. Volunteers get different information and receive simulation exercise on emergency response by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team.



### **Green Belt initiated by youth group of Ramgaizang village**

Green Belt model was initially started in 2020 with 2 bighas land to combat global warming and to increase income for the youth in the village. Under this initiative, 850 saplings were planted, but due to poor fencing, animal destroyed those plants. This year the group and SKS contributed fencing and installed signboard so that other peoples can be aware about the concept and replicate the model.



### **Kisan Mela cum Tribal Market set up at Lalpani Bazar, Lakhipur**

Farmer has no stable place for selling their products, which led to interference by middleman, eating up a big chunk of their profit. Farmers clubs and SKS advocated with market committee to establish a marketshed in Lalpani local market, Lakhipur block of Cachar District. Now the farmers are selling organic vegetables,





wild edibles etc and the product price are fixed by the farmers.

### Small scale fishery by Namdailong Farmers' club –

Namdailong farmers' club started a collective action to generate their income with the help of small-scale fishery leading to income generation. Farmers started by their group savings and they put three different fish seedling for the first round. Farmers Club members urged to SKS for support in fishery. Complying to their demand, SKS provided 2500 fishling through FARM NE III program and 1500 fishlings were being contributed by the farmers from their group savings.



### Farmers Stall at Guwahati

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October, FARM staffs displayed stalls for showcasing farmer's produce. Products like wild vegetables, handcrafts and handlooms items sold and team earned around INR 3500 approx. Ramgaizang farmers' club appreciated the team and shared that regional level platform is needed to exhibit and sale their products.

### Installed Areca leaf plate making machine under FARM project

SKS successfully installed Areca leaf plate making machine at Women Empowerment Center in Srikona, Silchar. Field Animators collected raw materials from the farmers ensuring better use and income generation. The machine has various dices for plate, bowl and spoon. These variety of biodegradable products are in demand and SKS are receiving orders from locals like hostels and dioceses. The project plan to build capacities in operation and maintenance of the machine.



Areca leaf plate manufacturing machine (left) and the products from areca leaf (right)

## Project Title: **Community Action for Water, Sanitation and Nutrition In North East India, (Phase –IV)**

Project period – April – Sep 2021

Project location - Cachar

### Objective of the project:

- to build capacities of health service providers for better service delivery.
- to emphasize preparation of nutritious food using locally available products
- to sensitize community on breast cancer

Various interventions of the project with emphasis on water, sanitation and nutrition are as follows:

- 6 meetings were conducted for supervisors from Diocesan level to enhance their capacities as well as review the implementation of the activities
- 18 meetings were conducted for ASHA workers at Health centre level namely in Agape Community Health centre, St. Joseph's Community Health centre and St. Vianney Health centre. The purpose was to build sensitize health workers on health issues.
- 18 handwashing with soap demonstrations reaching to 560 community members (284 were children between 6-7 years) were organized covering 3 health centres. The objective was to sensitize community with focus on children (6 to 7 years) on benefits of hand washing with soap. Regular handwashing with soap at critical times like before food, after using toilet and after handling child's faeces, will prevent from sickness and to maintain hygiene.



Demonstration on handwashing with soap



Practical demonstrations for preparation of nutritious food

Current knowledge	Challenges	Outcome
<p><b>They are aware/ knowledge about the hand washing but ignorance to practices.</b></p> <p><b>To prevent from infection specially COVID</b></p>	<p>Ignorance/lack of interest among the participants to learn.</p> <p>Lack of water supply</p>	<p>Some Primary schools in the villages have started arranging hand washing compulsory in the school premises</p> <p>People are aware of importance of maintaining hygiene especially hand washing and proper toilet use.</p> <p>Children learnt hand washing and practicing daily</p>



- 11 practical demonstrations for preparation of nutritious food emphasizing on weaning and complementary food were organized in 3 health centers. The programme reached to 335 community members, out of which 118 were in age group 14-15 years. This was organized with the following purpose:
  - to improve the nutritional status.
  - to make aware of the people the importance of nutritional.
  - to maintain kitchen garden for nutritious food preparation
  - to reduce to the consume of fast food

Current knowledge	Challenges	Outcome
Unaware about the proper nutritional supplement's items. Lack of knowledge about the benefits of nutrition	To mobilize the participants  Lack of interest amongst participants.	Maintained of kitchen garden in all the houses.  Reduced the fast-food consumption specially among the children.  Improvement in the nutritional status of the pregnant women and adolescents.

- 3 Village health work (camp) was organized covering 7 villages reaching to 384 villagers.
- Handholding support was provided to ASHAs resulting to regular monthly home visits. They also made need-based visits to some houses twice and thrice.



### Outcome of the intervention:

#### Monthly meeting at health centre

- 50% of the targeted population have adapted better health and hygiene behaviours.
- 50% of the targeted population of women and children are opting for regular immunization and toilet usage.
- Children learnt hand washing and practicing in daily life.
- Regular intake of IFA and calcium tablets and monthly check up
- Community is sensitized on safe drinking water
- Reduced incidences of diarrhoea.
- Better accessibility to Govt schemes
- Enhanced capacities on preparing nutritious foods using locally available products.
- VHSNC/ VHTF taken initiative to maintain cleanliness of the villages.
- Sensitized community on COVID appropriate behaviours and preventive measures.
- Better knowledge on breast cancer and enhanced capacity for self-examination.

#### Challenges

- Restrictions faced for COVID -19
- Lack of transportation
- Poor road connectivity
- Delayed financial support



Village health camp (left) and training on kitchen gardens (right)



Support by SKS during COVID 19 at villages (top) and (bottom)



Project title : **Self sustained community organization for market facilitation and resource mobilization** supported by DKA/KFB

**Period**-1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022

Project location: 3 blocks of Cachar district namely Kalian, Udharbond and Lakhipur

### **Objective of the Project-**

- Enhanced household income of 600 target farming/ tea garden workers households through sustainable farm and off-farm practices and focused marketing strategies.
- Improved skill and capacity of the project team at Seva Kendra, Women Empowerment Centre and SHG federation in project management, M&E and technical handholding in livelihood and marketing.

The outbreak of pandemic has posed severe multidimensional challenges to the community, nationally as well as in gram panchayat level. Cachar is also equally affected socially as well as economically, and the most deprived one are the tribals and tea garden communities who are vulnerable and marginalized. To address these challenges, SKS provided handholding support to farmers to uplift the agricultural sector by distributing various saplings. This has ensured a better future and economic stability. SKS has also supported in green environment for ecological development which directly involves more than 300 families under same umbrella in uplifting our environment ensuring better livelihood, environment, and economic sustainability. SKS focuses on providing assistance to local people to uplift their social and economic status as most of the people suffered adversely because of pandemic which has been prevailing since 2020. Even during pandemic by maintaining all necessary protocols SKS has provided training as well as awareness on different aspects so that beneficiaries keep on working with full courage and earn more by doing the activities. With consistent efforts there are positive changes and the community continued to have sustained livelihoods even during pandemic.

The various interventions during the project are:

### **Vermi-compost pit at Ramgaizang, Lakhipur-**

Farmers and SHG members constructed a compost pit for their kitchen garden. Mr Pougai, a lead farmer of Ramgaizang village led this.



SHGs members making detergent



### **Income generation activity through Making of Detergent Powder by Donthao and Bethel SHG in lakhipur -**

Members of Bethel and Donthao SHG initiated steps for manufacturing of detergent powder with their own brand name for marketing.

### **Meeting of SHG leaders with CRP of lakhipur block –**

CRP of lakhipur block organized a meeting with SHG leaders on grading to get financial assistance through ASRLM/KAMS scheme, the assistance could get by filing up one application form that is related to this scheme.

### **Meeting of VO leaders with block coordinator of lakhipur block**

Block coordinator of ASRLM, had a meeting with several VOs leaders at Alubazar regarding utilization of CIF fund and maintaining of record by SHGs and VOs.

### **Meeting with the SHG members of Udharbond**

The meeting has been conducted with the Anand and Jairam SHG members in Udharbond regarding the revolving fund, the members started the poultry business individually and has been generating good amount of income.

### **Training on child Participation staff capacity building**

The training was conducted to capacitate the teachers with ideas and to suggest them to teach the children in such a manner that could be motivating, engaging, challenging, effective and fun. 37 teachers participated in the training. This game-based learning can make learning more situated and engages the students that can embrace their learning capacity. Some of the game played were-

- Fire in the mountain, run, run, run!
- Knowing the partners
- Eye contact
- Story of a ship almost sinking and journey to the island etc



Training on child participation in progress

### **Awareness Program on Covid19 –**

The resource person of that day was Sr. Sebastiammal, she narrated all the preventive measures and talked about how the second wave of covid got affected to people and how this third wave is going to affect people in a massive way. The session was very informative and sensitized the participants on COVID appropriate behaviour.



### Distribution of fruit plant saplings to SHG members

SHG members has widen their thoughts and decided to plant multiple different crops so that the members could earn more leading to. The SKS animators distributed different fruit saplings to the SHG members which will ensure better livelihood and income.

### Meeting with VO and JeevikaSakhi –

During the meeting the resource person discuss with the beneficiaries about market facilitation and resource utilization. The JeevikaSakhi spoke about the facilities or supportive programmes available for the women groups in the ASRLM office through which the groups can avail and enhance their IGA activity.

### Training on Sales and Marketing for women SHG/federation/farmers Club Leader.

The training is organized to enhance capacities of the participants in sales of their products and the best way to attract consumers. The training also aims to empower the women and farmer to develop better sales strategy for better income generation.

### Training on Value Addition for women SHG/Federation Leaders

The training aims to explain the concept of value addition for the farmers and women. The training is provided by Mr. Jobin Matthew from Johan's Foundation. He told the procedure of adding Value to any Product for better sale and attractiveness of the product. The Participants are train to utilize all the local resources and packaging skills by adding value to it, which will enhance their product quality as well as their income.

### Training on producing pest repellent

115 participants (15 female and 100 male) were trained on making pets repellent. The training was organized in Naamdailong, Lakhipur, by on expert SHG, Donthao SHG who demonstrated the process of manufacturing organic pest repellent which can be used in kitchen garden. Lead



Distribution of fruit saplings to SHGs



Training on Value Addition of products for women SHG



Training on making pest repellent

farmers and SHG members of the village also shared the methods to other farmers and SHG members promoting cross learning

### Training on Detergent making:

The training was organized to mobilize the maximum participants for undertaking these activities as livelihood options. The resource person for the training was Mr. Jobin Matthew from Johan's Foundation, and he trained the participants in detergent making. The procedures and raw materials required was also shared with the participants.



Training on detergent making

### Liquid Dish Wash Making

Members from women SHGs initiated making of liquid dish wash after they received training from SKS on the same. This helped them not only to increase their income but also support their families during pandemic, when there was economic crisis in their families.



Women making liquid dish wash

### Training on farm/off farm enterprises management for SHGs/Federations/Farmers Clubs

The training was organized in SKS premise with a vision to help the SHG, Federations and farmers club of the project area on managing production and process of maintaining good market for their income generation. The women were also trained to attract consumer through the quality of their products as well as rapport building with customers. They were guided in product pricing and profit margin setting for better market and increased income.



Vermi composting (left) and women getting trained on detergent making (right)



## Monitoring & evaluation (M & E) system

M & E was conducted at regular basis to take stock of the activities as well as for mid-course corrections. It was mainly done by the Chief Coordinator along with her team. The field staffs are the responsible persons to conduct monthly meetings with the Farmers' Club (FC) and Self-Help Group (SHG) in their respected areas and villages. During the meetings they take certain decisions and collect money for savings and for loan purpose. The animators attend all the monthly meetings of both SHG's, and FC's and they collect the report from the members of the SHG's and FC's these they submit to the coordinator who consolidates all the reports of the animators and every 3 months the coordinator shows the report to the Chief Coordinator and gets further suggestions. The chief coordinator shares with the Director both orally and shows certain reports for taking any actions or gets suggestions from the Director for implementing the activities. In the same way the coaching teachers report their activities of the coaching centre to the coordinator.



The coordinator makes a personal visit to the FC's, SHG's, kitchen garden and coaching centers. Animators and coaching teachers have monthly meetings with the Coordinator at Seva Kendra, Silchar. The coordinator facilitates the meetings, sometimes the animators are asked to prepare and share certain topics which give more practical knowledge to the others. Sometimes the chief Co-coordinator or Director conducts the meeting or take sessions. When needed extra meetings are also conducted for them

After the intervention of SKS in the villages focusing on self-dependent initiative. At the initial stage SHGs are formed to create a platform for addressing or discussing their need and SKS support through awareness and guidance.

## Outcome of the Project:

- The lasting SHGs enabled them to be relaxed on their financial need without being entrapped by moneylender. Through internal loaning as well as financial aid from government enabled the SHGs for better income generations.
- Income generation activities (IGA) is started in both the blocks, and it helped the woman as well as man SHG members to think better for their next attempt. Earlier the family members were not so co-operative to repay the loan but now it is observed that it became



a responsibility of the family members to repay the timely instalment which is the indicator of their unity and support.

- TSHGs enhanced capacity on financial management – In 12 targeted villages of 7782 population having 22 Self Help Groups (SHGs). It was observed that SHG's and FCs till 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to till 31<sup>st</sup> June 2021, has monthly collection of INR80,610, Cash Balance INR 2,55,257, Bank Balance INR 5,42,027. On June 2021 the consolidated savings of the different groups as recorded by Seva Kendra Silchar stands at INR.7,97,284
- Loan repaid - Ten (10) members took loans total amount of INR 5,31,400 from group savings and this was invested in Income Generation Activities and their other needs, and an amount of INR 61,432 was repaid towards SHG's & FC's revolving fund as principal and an amount of INR 53,075 as interest for both against the new and old loans.
- Distribution of masks, sanitizer from SKS to coaching centers has been made compulsory. Refresher courses were planned for coaching teachers, monthly to use innovative and interesting methods of teaching. Parents were happy with the service of the coaching teachers as well as the protocols maintained for Covid resulting to regular attendance of students.
- Sales of organic products - SKS focuses on the organic farming. There is a vegetable garden in Women Empowerment Centre at Srikona which is the model of organic farming. Its used both for in-house consumptions and sales in market. Apart from the agricultural products, SKS also focuses on other products like detergent, liquid dish wash etc by Women empowerment centre.





Project title- **Path Way to Development through Women and Children in the Diocese of Aizawl**

Project period – April 2021 – September 2021

Project location - 15 villages of Udharbond and Kalain Block of Cachar, Assam.

The second phase of the project started in October 2020 amidst the pandemic and the second wave that has hit India and Barak valley was no different. Most of the beneficiaries belong to the Tea Garden tribe who is one of the most underprivileged communities in the State. In this phase different activities for the women, youth and children were initiated to achieve the desired results. The project covered 3189 families reaching to 11367 communities.



Capacity building of women on off farm livelihood

Restrictions in movements and lockdown posed challenges in implementing the project at grassroot level, but SKS and its staff organized and conducted the activities by following the guidelines and SOPs of the government.

Various interventions undertaken during the project period in the targeted villages are as follows:

#### **Interface networking meeting with Banks/NRLM/and other marketing organizations:**

An interface networking meeting with Banks/NRLM was organized for the communities at Udharbond and Kalain Block respectively. The meetings emphasized the importance of rules & regulations to be followed by each SHGs formed as prescribed under NRLM Scheme. The SHGs must follow the seven steps before being graded and only after being graded and passing out the criteria, the SHGs will avail the financial support of INR 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only). The SHGs were motivated and encouraged to follow the rules for availing the schemes.

#### **Formation of Child Parliament:**

Child Parliament was formed in three (03) centers of the target village. This envisions to empower children in the rural areas about their rights, the challenges faced by them in their families as well as in this society and find solution for the same. The children were entrusted with various responsibilities resulting in confidence building and promoting leadership qualities amongst them.



### Protection and Promotion of Children Rights Campaign:

This campaign was organized at Ailathol village and continued in other villages wherever it was possible to reach out. The campaign started with an awareness session on the rights of children all over the world. The children as well as guardians were explained about the rights of children as granted by the United Nations convention on rights of the child and also the rights of the child as granted by the Government of India.



Rally by children for protection and promotion of child's right

To bring clarity and make it more interesting, stories, competitions and skits

were used to explain the topic. The children were engaged in various activities to boost their confidence and made them realize that even as children they have a voice to stand and speak for themselves and solve issues. Rallies were also organized in the villages to sensitize communities on child rights. The campaign was organized in the 4 villages and coaching centres namely Ailathol, Majagram, Menam, Batulmara reaching to approx. 608 participants.

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

Three (03) capacity building programme was organized on-off farm livelihood activities during this reporting period. The objective of the trainings was that to develop skills for enhancing their capacities leading to employment and income generation. The 3 training programmes were:



Training on pickle making in progress

- Training on pickle making – 27 participants
- Training on detergent making 30 participants
- Training on detergent making for SHGs –20 participants.

### Setting up coaching center/educational support:

Children faced a lot of challenges and hurdles during pandemic especially in education. As all children do not have access to mobile phones, attending online classes were the most challenging one. Poor network connectivity also hinders in child's education. This digital divide was addressed by setting up of 5 coaching centers namely at Ailathol, Jallalpur, Menam, Majagram and Arnuband. The teachers of the Coaching centres contributed greatly towards education of these children. 222 students (116 male and 109 female) benefitted from the

coaching support. The parents acknowledged the support forwarded by the centre during pandemic.

### Capacity building training for teachers/ youth volunteers:

A seminar on effective communication skills was organized for the barefoot teachers on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 at SKS. There were around twenty (20) participants who participated in the programme. This programme was facilitated by Eddie and Rahul Bora from Thoughts to Action. This contributed towards enhanced communications skills of the teachers leading to effective teaching and learning process in the classrooms. Importance of effective communication skills for teachers, communication with students, communication with parents, communicating with colleagues and strategies for effective communication skills like creating safe learning environment with supportive relationships were discussed during the seminar.



### Observation of Important Days:

SKS observed 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as International Day against Child Labour Day. It was observed and celebrated in fifteen (15) target villages reaching to 375 children and parents following COVID 19 protocols. Awareness programmes on the rights of the children, Right to Education Act and Child marriage was highlighted. The parents/ guardians and children participated in the programme.

#### Challenges

- Pandemic posed greatest challenge to work with Govt department due to lockdown and restrictions in movements.
- Pandemic hit the targeted villages which hinders project activity.
- Financial crunch and unemployment in the targeted villages have forced for migration of many youths and villagers.
- Human trafficking due to unemployment and financial crisis was another major

### Linkages and Networking with Panchayats/ Banks/ Government Dept:

9 women groups were linked to ASRLM for availing INR 180,000/- (Rupees one lakh eighty thousand) for income generation.

### Training on marketing and home products:

From the 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Mr. Jobeen Mathews from Johans Foundation Guwahati facilitated a programme on marketing and home products at SKS benefitting 20 (twenty) participants. The training emphasized not only on manufacturing various household products like soaps, dish wash, toilet cleaner, hand wash etc but also strengthened their marketing skills.



### Achievements

- Leveraging funds of INR 180000 for SHG leading to income generation.
- Parents regularly takes part in the parent teacher meet (PTM) and are taking initiatives to help their children in promoting their education
- Strengthening linkages among community, leaders, and PRIs.
- Community initiatives for sustainable livelihoods.
- 21 youths from the target villages have been rescued with support of Government, SKS and other partners.







Project title - **Enhancing Livelihood of Youths and Adolescent Girls through Skill Building and Entrepreneurship Promotion.**

Project duration: January 2021 to June 2021

Project location: Cachar district, Assam

With the initiation of the project, there has been steady improvement in the youths of the targeted area. Youths are finding a platform to realise their dreams through the chance they get to continue their studies and the other youths who participate in the different skill training that is organised to strengthen their capacities, knowledge and to improve their lives and livelihood. Forty-five (45) youths benefitted from the programme. Fourteen (14) drop-out youths enrolled in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and are studying in Srikona and are also undergoing various trainings for personality development and skill development.

The objectives of the project were to train youths on the following areas:

- Livestock (Poultry and cow rearing).
- Detergent making.
- Pickle making training and making and market study.
- Sanitary pad making.
- Tailoring and embroidery training and making.
- Computer education.
- EDP Training in Srikona centre.

Most of the beneficiaries were from the surrounding of Srikona and from the rural villages of the three districts in Barak Valley. The students mostly belong to the low-income group who are categorised as BPL (Below Poverty Line) under the planning commission committee in India belonging to the Bengali (OBC) class, tribals and tea tribes. Out of the total 261, 60% were females and 40% were males. 65% of the youths range from the age group of 14- 18 but in this phase, there were some students who were under the age group from 19 to 23 years old. In this phase, the criteria used for selecting the participants were:

- Preference given to youths from age group 14-18 years
- Family background and need of the participant
- Migrants who have no jobs

To protect the physical, mental and sexual integrity of the children and young children under our care we had taken the following steps-

- Separate dormitories for boys and girls
- Separate washrooms and toilets
- Regular counselling session on mental and sexual health by the team
- Helpline and emergency numbers are displayed in common rooms
- Rules and responsibilities are distributed equally without any gender biases.

- Career Guidance Workshop for NIOS students at Srikona.

A one-day training programme on career guidance was organized for the youth and the students of NIOS Srikona. 120 students participated in it. The resource persons were Fr. Anthony Swamy and Fr. Surjeet Tigga who explained to the group that a career is something that we do during our leisure time. It is our hobbies which can ultimately become our career in the long run. This concept was explained with live examples. The sessions were very relevant. Group sharing added food for the thought. Many interactive games were conducted by our resource persons who added life to days programme. Sumptuous lunch was served for all the students who attended it. The programme came to halt at 4pm.



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The activities initiated under the projects are:

Planned Activities	Output/results
Computer education	14 students learnt basics, internet and photoshop
Tailoring and embroidery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 participants. Out of which 14 students and 86 unemployed youths completed the course on tailoring and embroidery.</li> <li>• Some of the unemployed youths have started small entrepreneurial activities.</li> </ul>
Sanitary pad making	14 dropout – out students completed the training on sanitary pad.
Pickle making	35 participants. Out of which 14 drop-out students 21 unemployed youths completed the course.
Detergent making	14 drop-out students 21 unemployed youths completed the course.
Livestock rearing (poultry and cow rearing)	35 participants. Out which 21 unemployed youths and 14 drop-out students were trained for livestock rearing.
Host training and making.	14 trainees completed the course. The host are being supplied to all the parishes of Barak Valley.
EDP Training	38 participants undergone training on EDP

Skills & qualifications acquired by the youths	Achievements	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Developed entrepreneurship skills</li> <li>➤ Develop knowledge on different raw materials used to prepare different items</li> <li>➤ They have become technically equipped</li> <li>➤ Learnt the skill of marketing and networking</li> <li>➤ Confidence have grown and developed</li> <li>➤ The students learnt to work in teams.</li> <li>➤ Management skills have also developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Despite the pandemic and its hardships, 14 students have enrolled for the distance learning through NIOS at Srikona centre. Taking interest in initiatives to arm themselves with leadership qualities through participating in the various extra activities planned.</li> <li>➤ Students had enhanced communication skills and self-confidence.</li> <li>➤ Enhanced skill development for unemployed youths which will support them to start small entrepreneurship activities for livelihood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Due to restriction in movements for COVID, it was very challenging to implement the activities in field.</li> <li>➤ Community's mindset of being infected by Covid also hindered the progress.</li> </ul>

#### Outcome of the intervention:

- 261 individuals directly benefited from the programme.
- Indirectly the children and youths in their villages were benefited after seeing the positive examples of the trainees.
- The direct and indirect target group have been much more alert and aware of the importance of developing skills to enhance sustainable livelihood.
- After the training some of the trainees have begun to start their small business-like petty shops, rearing of different kind of livestock, tailoring business etc in their local areas.
- Income of families have increased
- Dropouts have again linked back to school and colleges
- Small business enterprises have developed in villages
- Confidence of individual and community have increased in networking and marketing





### ***Monitoring and evaluation:***

Monitoring and evaluation are done at different levels by the entire team. On regular basis the project in charge visits villages for interactions and discussion with communities. Planning, implementation and feedback from instructors, students and guardians are regularly initiated for effective implementation of the programme. The chief coordinator also makes a regular visit and conduct a monthly meeting with students and instructors to understand the progress of the programme.

### **Conclusions**

The project gave opportunity to the drop-out students from the rural areas to come back to school through NIOS and later proceed with their studies. Along with their academic studies they also get the opportunity to learn different life skills and develop their personality which will be of great help for them in their future lives. Unemployed youths of the region got opportunity to undergo different life skill trainings which would greatly help them later, in income generation. The enrolment and engagement of drop- out students and unemployed youths have inspired many to join the programmes.



Project title: **EDUCATE** (Education through creating alternative teaching environment) supported by kinder mission, Germany

Project location: Cachar

Period: 1st Nov 2020 to 30th Oct 2023

Objective of the Project:

- To bond up the school dropout and non-school going children to normal schools through center like learning support center.
- To promote joyful learning.

SKS envisioned to bring back the school dropout and non-school going children to normal schools through centre like learning support centre. The pattern of teaching in learning support centre, is basically joyful learning and hence it's like a bridge to minimize the gap and bring back the non-school going children to normal schools. The initiatives under this noble project are as follows:



### **Daily learning classes**

Daily learning classes was given to the children who have enrolled in learning support center. Minimum three hours of joyful classes were given to children which includes both learning from books, plays or study materials following the normal school curriculum.

### **Games and joyful times for children**

Games and sports is part of teachings for children's as the targeted children are either school drop-out or non-school going. Games and sports being part of activities helped children to actively engaged in the daily classes.



### ***Awareness Meeting with Parents and Guardian***

The learning support centers are located at the far flung from the heart of the city or town. Meeting with parents were important to sensitize them on various social issues like for example the important of education, important of family planning, family income, health and Hygiene, social awareness etc.



### ***Children's creative activity:***

*Children participated in various events to showcase their talent and creativity. This not only enhances their capacities but also boost their self-confidence.*

### ***Committee meeting for Toilet Construction.***

Meeting was conducted at villages to decide where the toilets should be constructed for children of our learning support center. The meeting is joined by the village committee and our school staff at village level. Through this meeting a joint decision is made about the best location for construction of school toilet.





### Human interest story on Covid 19 in FLTC

Mrs. Suraboti Tanti, a widow aged about 65 years Covid tested positive on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. She was suffering from severe cold cough and fever. Her son provided her with medicined from the nearest pharmacist. It continued for a week and but there was no improvement in her health

The neighbour came to know about Suraboti's health issues and suspected her to be covid positive. When the family members were told to undergo her Covid test, the family member could not take her to the hospital due to lack of transportation facilities during the lockdown. Few days later, news broke out that most of the tea garden community have tested positive. The SKS volunteers mobilised the villagers, carried out awareness programmes and encouraged people to go for covid test for those with cough, cold fever, headache, malaise etc. On May 2021 the medical team of Kalain carried out covid test in Craigpark T.E with the help of garden management and SKS staff. 45 tested positive cases out of 100 tests done. Suraboti's family also underwent the test and Suraboti tested positive. She was referred to Silchar Medical College and Hospital but her family members requested the tea garden authority to admit her in FLTC of SKS at Craigpark T.E.

She was admitted in FLTC at Craigpark and was given proper medication and nutritious food. Those patients aged above 58 were continuously monitored by the SKS volunteers and pharmacists.

After a week the health conditions of Suraboti, improved. After 14 days of staying and experiencing medical care at FLTC, Suraboti recovered fully from Covid. She expressed her gratitude to all the members at FLTC and SKS staff who supported her during these crucial times. She mentions that the care and encouragement received from FLTC was well appreciated. Her family members expressed their sincere thanks to SKS for the noble deeds.



Suraboti in the FLTC of SKS



Suraboti is now enjoying a good life at her home

## Human interest story on Tuberculosis

Mrs. Sadhana Seth is a widow aged 45 and resident of Kunapura Lakhicherra village under Lakhinagar G.P Cachar, Assam. She had a family with 5 siblings. Due to her deteriorating health condition, she was unable to work for which she landed up in poverty. She was treated by the local physician earlier, but her health condition didn't improve. During home visit by village health worker of Seva Kendra Silchar, she discussed with her about her health condition, after listening the village health worker initiated her to go for further treatment. In March 2021 she consulted a physician at nearby private hospital Burrow's Memorial Christian Hospital. The doctor referred her for Silchar Medical and was admitted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and treated her for 4 days. She was diagnosed to be positive for tuberculosis and was treated in tuberculosis ward.

She was treated for 11 days and was discharged on 18 March 2021. She is continuing with her medication at this time of her treatment and poor financial status she couldn't afford to have a nutritious diet. She became weak and her health condition didn't improve. Through the intervention of Seva Kendra, Silchar, the health worker enrolled her to receive nutrition on monthly basis. Along with TB medicines, she received protein rich diet comprising of dal, eggs, milk, and rice. At present she has gained weight and her health improved. She thanked SKS for the timely help given to her enabling her to live a healthy life.



Sadhana Seth in her house

## AN EYE VIEW ON OPEN SCHOOL

### St. Joseph's Convent Srikona

The aim of the open school is to empower the dropout and tribal students. Priority is given to girl child, at the same time boys are also being supported in all possible way.

As pandemic affected the entire schooling system last year students' exams were postponed, and 2021-2022 admission also kept pending. By 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, some students were able to come and get admission.

Apart from the regular classes, intensive English coaching and communicative English classes are given to all batches of students, as they come to the hostel. Along with their regular classes Yoga and Meditation, catechism, songs, Rosary, Mass prayers etc. are also taught. Emphasis is also given on value education, Bible study, etc.

Counselling is also provided to students who are in need. Sr. Anne is in charge of the students and she meets them regularly and guides them to achieve their goal.

Occasions like Independence Day, Christmas Day etc were also celebrated with great zeal. Special programs are arranged including games, Quiz etc.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, Rev. Fr. Anthony Swamy has come to Srikona and he is a great help in taking class, organizing programs for students, and for admission work, up loading on computer etc. He takes care of the boys as he stays with them.





### Seva Kendra Silchar's interventions during outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic

SKS has played a crucial role in Barak valley during the outbreak of pandemic in 2020 and 2021. With support from various donor agencies and organizations, SKS could reach out to the vulnerable and marginalized communities of hard-to-reach areas and support them in their need. Various supportive initiatives were taken by SKS, to highlight a few are:

- Sensitized community especially in tea garden areas about Covid appropriate behaviours
- On request of tea Garden management to SKS for support, volunteers of SKS and tea garden managements formed 07 committees to look after the covid care centers.
- The committees comprised of 8 male and 4 female representatives.
- Coordination with district administration, Panchayat, health and local leaders have supported in achieving the desired results
- Patients who were kept in home isolation were monitored and helped by the committee and Seva Kendra
- Total number of Covid patients we have covered - 400
- Total number of vulnerable people helped with dry ration - 35,000
- Supports received from - Caritas India, Arise Foundation, KFB Austria, Sisters Rising Worldwide (SRW), Grand Lancy Swizerland & Catalite 2020.
- Local institutions who supported in buying dry rations for the vulnerable are Holy Cross School Silchar, St. Joseph School Badarpur, Don Bosco School Silchar, St. Mary's School Hailakandi, Holy Cross School Kabugang, St. Viyani School Boruga, St. Joseph of Lyon convent Srikona, Auxilium Convent Dholai, St. Capitanio School, Religious of Jesus and Mary Convent
- INR 1902624 fund raised and utilized for supporting COVID relief activities.
- Many individuals supported in providing materials for mask making and some has supported in stitching the masks and its distribution for maintaining covid appropriate behaviours.

SKS continues with the relief works and livelihood activities for the most vulnerable.



SKS staff offering various services in COVID 19

## Covid 19 vaccination Awareness

Covid 19 a deadly pandemic that has engulfed the entire universe and claimed the lives of many in the last 2 years where Covid 19 and its mutants brought the whole world to a standstill. Studying this need to prevent the further spread of this disease Seva Kendra Silchar came forward to create awareness on Covid 19, its origin, causes , prevention and effective measures to curb the spread of disease in future . As the days rolled by it was found that vaccination is the one and only means to stop the spread of this disease



Training on covid 19 vaccination for health workers

The programme was implemented in mid-September 2021 where Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) studying the need of the pandemic in various parts of our country approached institutions to create awareness on Covid 19 vaccinations. SKS initiated following measures for vaccination awareness:

- Community mobilizers have reached out to 6 villages of Cachar district and have conducted 3 training programmes one for the health workers and two for the volunteers to enlighten the community about Covid 19 by conducting awareness programmes on Covid 19 vaccines
  - 4 community awareness organized reaching to 223 community members.
  - 2 training of volunteers organized covering 93 participants
  - Training of ASHA organized covering 37 ASHAs.
- Conducted interpersonal communication (IPC) through home visits in villages, distributed pamphlets on Covid 19 vaccines.
- All above the age of 18 were encouraged to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest.
- As most of the villagers have received their first dose of vaccine, awareness was made on vaccinating children above the age of 15 which is a must and to be considered urgent need to stop the spread of this deadly pandemic.
- Awareness was also made to the people on the new mutant Omicron regarding the signs and symptoms of this deadly mutant, and severe effects the Omicron creates the community .
- People were also advised to strictly follow the Standard operating procedure given by the state government, and to avoid mass gatherings, frequent washing of hands especially after returning outdoors, and proper usage of mask .
- Regular follow ups have been made by SKS regarding the vaccination of Covid 19

## Sisters Rising Worldwide

Under the Srs rising worldwide the following initiatives were taken by Seva Kendra Silchar:

**Awareness on Covid- 19:** - The volunteer along with staff sensitized community on Covid 19 with emphasis on usage of mask, regular washing hands with soap and maintaining social distance.



**Distribution of relief materials:** Relief material was distributed to 4144 families and to some needy people in the villages like daily wage laborers, widows and PWDs.



**Mobilizing resources:** - The youth groups from the villages were involved in mobilizing the local resources like distribution of masks, donations from individuals, NGOs, CBOs etc and distributed to needy people along with SKS volunteer.

Provided a platform for learning in rural areas during lockdown through coaching centres:

**Remedial classes** - 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 remedial classes in the villages of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi District, to support the students from low-income families. The classes were held in the morning and evening hours. Children were also sensitized on education, child rights, etc.





**Observation of important days:**

- International women's day was celebrated on 8th March 2021 at Manikbond with more than 450 participants from Manikbond and neighboring villages participated to mark this auspicious day. The day was celebrated with song, dance skits and motivational talks.
- Laudate Si-Week, initiated by Caritas India was observed for three days by the communities of our target villages. The women and children observed these days through prayer, planting trees, cleanliness drives and by promoting kitchen garden.
- International Migrants Day
- World Day Against Child Labour
- World Day against Human Trafficking
- Earth Day and World Environment Day
- Lenten Campaign



**Covid 19 interventions**

- Distribution of food materials to 4144 families.
- Distributed approximately 5000 masks to the volunteers and the community.
- Provided psycho - social support to the women, elderly person, disabled persons migrant and their families.
- Provided soap and sanitizer to the volunteers and communities.
- Skill training in tailoring to the youth, women and migrant families.
- Enhancing capacities of volunteers to sensitize community on hand washing with soap, hygiene and preventive measures for COVID 19.

- A campaign for the promotion and protection of children rights was organized covering 10 villages reaching to 800 children. Awareness was given on rights of the children through rallies, songs, dance, skits, drawing competitions and audio visuals.



*Lenten Campaign at Seva Kendra, Silchar*



- Women Groups were provided materials to stitch masks during the lockdown period at Craigpark village. They were also provided cloth and woollen materials for starting entrepreneurial activities.
- Food distribution for the most needy people. The most needy people are widows, sick and handicapped.
- *Youth Groups were trained in making mask and later provided with the accessories for stitching masks during the lockdown. These masks were sold in local areas.*
- Tailoring course for the dropout Youth Groups was organized for 30 days at Seva Kendra Silchar
- *Formation of Youth Groups in 4 villages namely Patbari No.5, Kalain No.4 tilla and Naraincherra Thaligram.*
- **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 the standard of living in different aspects of everyday life.

Groups	Villages
Youth Group	Craigpark
Youth Group	Naraincherra
Women Group	Kurkuri
Women Group	Patbari No 5
Youth group	Nagar

Village level meeting with Village Vigilance Committee (VVC), 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's groups. Total participants 180.

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

- Total 15 VLCPC are formed in target villages.
- Organized 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 Kissan 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, Ujwalla 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
- Training on livestock management to women of target villages
- Training on pickle making to girls
- Phenyl making and training on Plumbing
- Empowerment of Tribal Girls Implemented in Women Empowerment, Srikona – Tribal girls living in rural areas are the ones who are in need of upliftment and empowerment as they lack facilities and opportunities compared to their other contemporaries. The girls are provided with vocational skills as a help to develop their skills and further start entrepreneurial activities for better income and improve their standard of living . The project also supports 5 coaching centres in rural district of Cachar.

### Some initiatives for the community





## Some Initiatives for the community



## Report of St. Paul's School (2021-2022)



The new academic year 2021 started on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. Abiding by Govt's Covid 19 protocol, online classes for Nursery to Class VI were initiated as all the schools were closed till May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 as per Govt order.

The following activities were initiated:

- New routine was prepared for online class timetable from May 2021.
- Till 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the teachers came to school. From May 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that the teachers will take the class from their own homes, since most of the teachers were getting sick.
- The Government had declared summer holidays from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>. But most of the diocesan school decided to have the classes until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June so we decided to declare holidays for 2 weeks and resume the online classes on 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- The exam for the Nursery to Class II was written exam on the paper and shared by parents through WhatsApp and for the Class III – VI, it was to be filled in google form.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, online classes were resumed for the students and by 22<sup>nd</sup> June, first unit test was over. After the exam the students were given the class timetable for the next session.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, a staff meeting with teachers was organized.
- U-DISE Code form filled was submitted in the District Elementary Education Office and a new P.F Code was also created.
- Four webinars were organized in July on –
  - How to conduct online classes effective and interesting using simple tools”
  - The Power of Brain-Based Learning”
  - Multiple Intelligence” and
  - Exploring Life Skills among School Children”.



- Being the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the school celebrated Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> of August the
- School celebrated along with the students, parents, Teachers and with the Open School students. Fr. Anthony Swamy was the chief guest. He hoisted the flag at 8:30 am, followed by cultural program and prize distribution for dance, fancy dress, speech, etc.
- Teachers' day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 virtually. Students recorded their performance and shared.
- According to government order, regular classes for Class I – VI were initiated. Parents' meeting was organized to discuss the challenges of online classes and responsibility of the parents to ensure that children attend online classes regularly and attentively.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November Children's Day was celebrated virtually.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Pre-Christmas was celebrated, Fr. Joel Rosario was the chief guest and Sr. Anne was the guest of honour. There were cultural programmes by students and games were played.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day was celebrated amongst teachers and staff. The flag was hoisted by Sr. Arockia





## SPECIAL DAY OBSERVATION

### *International day against child labour*

12<sup>th</sup> June is observed as International Day against Child Labour. This day mainly aims to create awareness about illegal practice of child labour and thus eradicate child labour. The theme for this year as set by UNICEF was “ACT NOW AND END CHILD LABOUR”

Keeping this theme in background SKS initiated various awareness generation activities to sensitize community on child labour. SKS created awareness amongst the villagers and students of Coaching Centres and BRIDGE School through slogans, flash cards, captions, folk dances. Children were made aware of their rights by explaining on the importance of education and regular attendance in school. This year being the year of pandemic, due to online classes the children are forced to get into child labour for their survival as a result there has been a surge of child labour in India. SKS staff at Coaching Centres encouraged the students to study well and to come up in life with flying colours. Children were asked to motivate their peers and bring them back to school. Education and awareness can only eradicate child labour.



### *World environment day*

June 5, is celebrated as World environment day across the globe. SKS celebrated the day, by planting 50 trees in the office campus, schools, in the targeted villages and in the coaching centers with the students, teachers and the villagers. It was envisioned to spread awareness about environment and how human being is dependent on nature for its well-being and survival. With the motivation from staff and teachers of SKS, students and community too participated and planted trees in their villages so that these small efforts can leave a big impact on the environment.



Plantation by health workers in health centre(left) and plantation by community in villages (right) on World Environment Day 2022

### *World cancer day*

February 4, is celebrated as World Cancer Day. SKS in collaboration with the health department of Assam Cancer care foundation and other NGO's observed World Cancer day. To sensitize



community, a rally was taken from Shillong patty ground to Civil Hospital premises along with slogans on placards. The theme was "Close the care gap ". This was explained to educate the community about cancer which is the second leading cause of death. The 7SKS staff and the village health staff whole heartedly participated in it.

### *International Women's Day:*

March 8, is celebrated as International women's Day. SKS too celebrated the day at Women empowerment Centre, Srikona.. It was based on the UNO theme of 2022 "Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow ". Mrs Jessica Laslim, Assistant District Commissioner, Cachar District was the chief guest for this programme. Miss Elizabeth Singson, Advocate of district court along with SKS governing body member Sr. Anne James and Fr. Anthony Swamy were the



guests of honour. In their address they have encouraged and appreciated women who play a key role be it in the family, community, village, office. 60 women from Cachar were part of this programme. Lively games were conducted by the SKS team and prizes were distributed to the winners. The meeting ended with vote of thanks followed by sumptuous lunch.



Dignitaries and SKS team during International Women's Day celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022



## SKS' initiatives in New Year 2022

**Skill development of mothers from red light area:** On January 2022, SKS came up with a new initiative of starting one month tailoring class for the mothers in the red-light area at Silchar. The objective was to sensitize them on alternative livelihood. It also bridged an opportunity for these women to be self-reliant and enhance their self-dignity and self-confidence. SKS provided them with sewing machines, cloth material, and other accessories required for tailoring. These classes were carried out at afternoon hours and 08 mothers from the red-light area were benefitted from the class. They learned to stitch frocks, saree blouses, salwar kameez and so on.



**Training on Tamul (betel nut) plate making:** Series of trainings were organized for the youth of focus villages of SKS. The purpose was to generate employment, livelihood as well as develop their skills. Fallen leaves of areca serve as a raw material for the preparation of these plate. As tamul plates are eco-friendly in nature, they have a wide range of market. SKS team connected all the farmers to get raw materials and the farmers learned, how to make plates and other products from leaves of betel nuts.



Tamul plate making training in progress (left) and tamul pates, ready for use( right)

**Blood Donation Camp:** On February 2022, SKS in collaboration with the Silchar Medical College organized blood donation camp at Seva Kendra. 22 units of blood was collected in the camp. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Gaurav Singha, Medical officer of NES along with Fr. Joachim Walder, President of SKS, Mr. Abhijeet Bhattacharjee, district health manager of Assam Cancer care foundation and Sr. Sherly Thomas, Assistant Director of Seva Kendra. The chief guest Dr. Abhijeet Bhattacharjee congratulated the donors and all the volunteers who have come forward to serve the humanity for a noble cause. There were stream of volunteers from different villages of Cachar who wholeheartedly participated in this camp.



### ***Vocational training on soup making:***

To enhance capacities on using locally available agricultural and kitchen garden products as well as to increase the consumption of nutritious food, training on soup making was organized at women empowerment centre and SKS' targeted villages. Soups can be a combination of all the herbs and varieties of soups can be prepared which can be consumed by all especially during ailments. The villagers were elated to learn various varieties of soups.



Soup making training (left) and participants and trainers enjoying soups after the class (right)

### ***Visit to Bhairavi – Meidum Reang village:***

Meidum is a village situated near Bhairavi Kolasib, in Mizoram and 120 kms away from Silchar. It is a home for the Reang tribes who have been residing here since decades. Reang, Bru, Mizo are the main languages spoke in the village. The SKS team along with Sr. Sherly, Assistant Director, visited this village to facilitate the youth ( boys & girls ) mainly the drop outs to continue their further studies through NIOS and for some vocational courses like tailoring, electrician, electronics , carpentry etc.

SKS conducted, a Medical Camp, and distributed relief materials at Meidum Reang village Bhairavi. Dr. Sr. Anita DMello, gave an awareness talk on the new variant of Covid 19 OMICRON and about booster dose that has been initiated by the government for the ones above the age of 60 and also for the vaccination of children. 118 people were treated for various other ailments and medicines were given free of cost. Besides this, food grains like dal, oil and biscuits were distributed by the SKS teams.

### ***Donor visits to SKS:***

On March 2022, Mr. Jose, Indian representative of AIFO, visited SKS along with Fr. Joachim Walder, President of Seva Kendra. He met the team and Senior Staff members of SKS. He highlighted on the various Government health projects for strengthening linkages with the government. He also highlighted on collaborating with Government for leprosy and disability.



## PHOTO GALLERY

### Sensitizing community





## Construction of sanitary toilet in progress



Toilet construction at LSC with Seva Kendra Silchar



## Engagement with children for enhanced knowledge and improved lives



## Capacity building for better service delivery





## Services during Covid





## Strengthening Livelihood





## Team members of Seva Kendra, Silchar

Designation	Name
Assistant Director	Sr. Sherly
Project Coordinator	Bonani Bhattacharjee
Project Coordinator	Wandor Pdang
Project Coordinator	Raphael Munda
Project Coordinator	Sr Seba
Project Coordinator	Livingson Pohlong
Project Coordinator	Rani Pdang
Project Coordinator	Sr. Arockia Mary
Project Coordinator	Sr. Nirmala Ekka
Community Mobilizer	Sr Anita

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4. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barak\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barak_Valley)

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