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Reaping & Weaving the threads of life



The relief team in Tezpur has toiled hard since July 2012 to respond and assist the flood affected families of Sootea block of Assam. With the relief phase coming to an end, the program ventured into rehabilitating the people of Sonitpur. In the midst of freezing weather of December 2012 the dynamic relief team began rolling the recovery initiatives with great passion to complete the work within the planned time so that future plan for the rehabilitations could be planned.

With three major areas of intervention, Caritas India began distribution of seeds, wool threads, setting up of petty shops and construction of fully damaged houses.

Around 55,556 kgs of potato seeds were distributed to 3814 families who own small portion of agricultural land. The beneficiary lists were collected by the committees of respective villages and submitted to the project staff. The process of distribution and its modalities were discussed and explained elaborately so that there is minimum chaos and confusion.

The beneficiaries of Sonitpur appreciated and thanked Caritas India and Tezpur Social Service Society for their support and initiatives due to which they are able to manage their own living and earn a decent income for their family.

Mr. Girin Barman son of Lt. Kusha Barman of Ghiladharimukh had his own land for vegetable garden but he could not afford to plan because he had no other means to get the seed for plantation therefore the land was barren since November. Knowing the fact of his helplessness the committee members of Ghiladharimukh included his name in the beneficiary list of seed distribution. As per the requirement he was given 11kgs of potato seeds to start off his vegetable gardening. The green land is the upshot of the project and the hard work done by Mr. Girin Barman. Now he is a happy man to see his vegetable garden with green plants of potato.



Mrs. Mira Bharali had received thread wool worth Rs. 1000/- from the project to start off her home production of Megkhala Chadhar that is used by the ladies. Mira is quite happy as this intervention has helped her produce products that she can now sell for a good amount.



WITH₂OUT

FOR 1 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE
WORLD, SAFE WATER IS SCARCE

Water (H₂O) is the most remarkable substance. However, water is often perceived to be pretty ordinary—so ordinary that we often tend to take it for granted. Many areas in India are experiencing water shortages due to drier than usual winters, longer periods of hotter weather this summer, lack of water harvesting and recharging measures, poorly maintained water pipes and infrastructure, and lack of effort in reducing water use for both domestic and irrigation purposes. In this context of extreme water scarcity and irregular water distribution system, United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. 2003 was the international year of fresh water. It is understood that there is water crisis today. But the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly, that billions of people - and the environment - suffer. Just a quick review of the necessity of water to us humans: It is the most important prerequisite for sustaining human life and achieving sustainable development. Water is the lifeblood of our planet, state, city and community. Yet it is being depleted and used far more quickly than it is being replenished. The origin of life is from water; so the end also may be, given the present scenario. In our primary science books, the various benefits of water were taught to us, when we were little children, as well as the imperative need to conserve it. Water is an essential component of our body without which we can't survive. Next to oxygen, water is the most vital element to continued life. Without water, people die in about seven days.

In India, we are witness to the absurdity of surplus water as well as a dearth of water at various times of the year. Drought or a scarcity of water is the flip side of floods-excessive water. Year after year we battle these two watery twins. Yet how often do we

delve into the crux of the problem—i.e. the causes of drought and floods? Just doing relief work is not enough, getting to the bottom of it is necessary to prevent its recurrence. The need of the hour is conservation and management of this Liquid Gold, as termed by Sir Arthur Cotton in 1950. India receives a lot of rainfall at some times of the year yet at other times reels under the impact of drought. So it's important to remember that water conservation is not just for times of water shortage. Sound water use practices reduce the amount of stress that we place on our resources, both by limiting water withdrawals and by decreasing wastewater discharges. Using less water helps us to become more flexible during times when there is a water shortage. Just by making a few small changes and being wiser with the water use you could save money off your water and energy bills. You'll also be doing your bit for the environment. Why not make a start with our following top tips to save drops.

- Catch rainwater where it falls instead of letting water flow on the surface
- Remember to turn off the tap while brushing teeth/shave
- Start practicing the judicious use of water: The Liquid Gold
- Reduce the use of water for shower/bath
- Wash your vegetables/fruits in a bowl, not in running water
- When washing dishes, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one vessel with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Collect rainwater falling on your roof for drinking and for your garden
- Use the used water for vegetable kitchen garden
- Fit a save-a-flush device to your toilet cistern
- Ensure having full load before using the washing machine
- Water plants in the evening to reduce evaporation loss
- Use bucket and sponge to wash car/bike rather than hosepipe
- Use a broom, not hose to clean verandas and pavements
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help discover leaks.

-Dr. Haridas

Challenges & options for the excluded in the Indian context



A WORKSHOP ON LIVELIHOOD

A half day workshop on Livelihood : Challenges and options for the excluded in the emerging Indian context was organized by Caritas India on February 20, 2013 in New Delhi. It was well attended by the representatives from CBCI offices, Project Selection Committee members of Caritas India, along with other network partners. Mr. Suryamani Raul, ACCESS Development Services and Suneel Padale, Aga Khan Foundation lead the discussions during the panel discussion.

Fr. Paul Moonjely, Assistant Executive Director, Caritas India facilitated the session by welcoming the guest speakers and the gathering. He shared about the infrastructure development aspects, technological advancements, credit linkages and marketing options.

Leading the discussion on the livelihood approaches, Mr. Suryamani explained livelihood as mere a basic need of food, shelter and clothing along with quality of life, education and good healthy life. He brought forward the

fact that unorganized or informal sector accounts to 91% in our economy which has occupational patter that is completely distributed and diversified. He focused on the economic aspect of livelihood. Livelihood pattern of a family or a village or a geographical areas are diversified, it has seasonality, unpredictable source of income with unpredictable expenditure. When we see the diversity, the rural household has multiple source of income. He stressed that the access to market is a major challenge. He shared about ACCESS Development Services being the pan India organisation reaches to the people for learning from the field, and villages.

He shared Organising, Aggregation and Integration as the three prongs for sustainable livelihood which is the core of Livelihoods Strategy followed by ACCESS. Citing various examples of the initiatives of ACCESS, he explained about various aspects of sustainable livelihoods approaches and opportunities.

Mr. Suneel Padale, shared the major learnings from the recently concluded Sustainable Community Based Approaches to Livelihood Enhancement Project (SCALE) Co-financed by European Commission.

He shared about the major features and components of the programme, This has resulted in Community leadership, empancipation of 20,000 households from extreme poverty, increase of Agricultural incomes for more than 75,000 households increased by 25% and above. eg. Meghal river basin and access to Safe drinking water to more than 47,000 households across 350 villages. He also shared that a longer period of continuous facilitation and engagement with the community is required to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

At the conclusion, Fr. Paul thanked both the speakers for giving their valuable time to enlighten the gathering about various aspects of livelihood.

- Patrick



Books of Change

“Winning over Disasters” book was released by Most. Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, Chairman of Caritas India. It is a cumulative effort of making a comparative assessment to understand how the 2009 preparedness program under the aegis of DIPECHO and Caritas Germany in Assam has contributed towards bringing changes in the level of resilience and preparedness, especially in the current backdrop of 2012 floods.

The second book “Pathway towards Harmonizing Peace” is a window to the 6 month span of collaborative efforts undertaken, towards rehabilitating the Rabha and Garo communities through safe shelter and livelihood rejuvenation. This program was supported by ECHO and Caritas Germany. The first copies were presented to Mr. Peter Seidel, Caritas Germany and Mr. Arjun Claire, ECHO respectively.

Development Dynamics Course



Caritas India invited participants from all over India as well as South Asian countries to participate in the 41st Development Dynamics Course (DDC) from January 7-31, 2013 at Seva Kendar, Kolkata. It is one of the prestigious course conducted under the flagship of Caritas India. 43 participants from six Asian countries actively attended and benefitted from the course.

The Development Dynamics Course aimed to enhance knowledge, skills and attitude that is essentially required in social work. Enhancement of knowledge level of the participants on Development, Poverty, Thematic sectors like Health, Education, Disaster Management, Natural Resource Management and Management of Development Organisations including the Spirituality of Development was the focus of the 26 days dynamics. The resources persons for this course were the Thematic team leaders of Caritas India and professionals from the field.

As the priority of Caritas is community mobilization in order to empower

people through right based approach leading to inclusive development, the Development Dynamics was oriented towards the skill development of the participants in social analysis and community mobilization. Participants showed their active interest through various group activities, field visits and interactive sessions.

“The management process of the course by which all the participants were managing the programme in a democratic manner as a practical experience of the theory input is very effective. As social workers we are expected to have a wide range of knowledge. And so this dynamic course

is helping us with its various inputs and the field experiences.” said Sr. Smita, a course participant from Nepal.

Sr. Ann Moyalan, Coordinator, Sister of Charity of Nazareth expressed “DDC has helped me in my transformation.”

The participants expressed that this course proved to be very useful and informative to develop their skills and concepts in the field of social work. They also expressed that they would need their proper guidance. Towards the concluding session certificates were awarded to the participants for successfully completing the course.

- Lukose P.J

I am possible

Shiva Ram Kisan lost his parents at the age of 14. Losing his parents completely shattered him coupled with lots of difficulties in his life. His condition was deteriorating day by day, the community members were really concerned about him and tried to help him through various means to give a moral support. Villagers appointed him as village point person for Caritas India supported Agrarian prosperity program at Palkot, Gumla, Jharkhand. He received a pair of piglets from Naya Sawera Vikas Kendra, Palkot so that he could support his livelihood. Last year, the village community helped him to get married. He received lot of guidance and moral support through the project. Along with his wife he has started livestock (piglets, goat, cow) raising. He does not intend to sell any livestock as he is trying to increase the number to have his own livestock farm. He attended various trainings programs organized by Naya Sawera Vikas Kendra Palkot for livestock and cultivation. Today he is one of the most successful person who is recognized for systematic livestock raising and Lac production. After joining the project he is able to save a considerable amount of money that he acquired after selling Lac for Rs. 80, 000. He used Rs. 26,000 of this money to purchase 600 hundred kg's of fencing wire to fence his whole area to start systematic cultivation and livestock rising. Now, he is one of the best examples of dedication and confidence. While sharing his experience he said, “nothing is Impossible here infact it is I..M..Possible. If you have confidence, you can make it possible.”

- Pradipta Chand

◀ ADHIKAR ▶

Progress Review

Second review meeting of Adhikar coordinators and animators was held from February 6-7, February at Meerut for effectively managing the projects and programs. 10 program coordinators and 24 animators from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan attended this review along with Caritas India Zonal manager, State officers and consultants. The participants improved their presentation skills and Trainers skills and reviewed the status of the Adhikar program and learnt from the feedback given by the group.

The Chief Guest Fr. Francis Borgia, founder of Meerut Seva Samaj in his inaugural speech mentioned that social work should not be taken as a job and should have the kindness and concern for the suffering people to realize the actual meaning of social work. The reward will come from God, for the work we are doing for the people who needs our services.

Fr. John Chinman, Director of Meerut Seva Samaj welcomed all the participants and stressed the need of such projects in addressing the issues related to Rights & Entitlements.

Mr. P.U.Francis explained the need of cross learning and capacitating to bring the results in Adhikar. Mr. Ashok Sinha, Consultant for Adhikar program enlightened the group on the steps to be taken under MGNREGA PDS Services, Education and Health.

The Government officials like Mr. V. K. Srivastav, DDM NABARD; Meerut and Mr. Aloknadh Chowdary, Chief Medical officer, Meerut came to address the group. Mr. Srivastav shared about different schemes which can be implemented by NGOs in collaboration with National Agriculture & Rural Development Bank (NABARD).

Chief Medical Officer, Mr. Aloknadh Chowdary, Meerut enlightened the group with the various health entitlements available for the poor and marginalized people and he requested



the participants to play a mediator role between the people and government.

The participants presented the progress of Adhikar which also gave an opportunity for the rest of the participants to learn from other diocesan presentations and rectify their faults and gaps. During the meeting, diocesan teams were asked to conduct

how to prepare the systematic presentations. Mr. Sinu Mathew, state officer appreciated the participants for their active participation and requested the participants to focus on linkage development and take the program in to the campaign mode. The program was concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. Vimlesh from Lucknow diocese.

- Sinu Mathew



sessions on the specific topics, like Micro plan, Health entitlements, Roles and responsibilities of VHSC, VHND, and Structures related to Right to education, RTE entitlements, Formation of farmers groups and functioning, Social security schemes and Linkages with Govt. departments. A rating system for assessment of the progress reports by the partners was introduced by Mr. Francis and subsequently the review meetings presentations were assessed and awarded with marks.

The group members during the evaluation expressed that they have learned from others how to tackle the obstacles and challenges in the field and

Bahiram Mela

a window to
natural resource regeneration



Bahiram mela is the most popular event in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Every year during the winters for 45 to 60 days this Mela is conducted by Amravati Zilha Parishad at Bahiram of Chandur Bazar Block, Dist. Amravati. Thousands of people come and visit Bahiram Buva temple everyday and do purchasing of various items mainly agricultural utensils, daily needs, kitchen utensils etc. Centre for Environmental Studies in Social Sector (CESSS) an initiative of Caritas India, took this opportunity to create awareness about SAP, INRM, Government Schemes and conservation of indigenous seeds as part of spreading its mission to the larger community of farmers and people of Vidarbha. Utilizing this opportunity CESSS organized a 3 day exhibition at Bahiram Mela.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Bharti, Police Inspector of Shirajgaon, Chief Guest Mr. Ajay Tayde, the Chairman of Panchayat Samitee Chandur Bazar, Mr. Rajesh Solav, Member of Panchayat Samitee, Fr. Jolly, Director of Jeevan Vikas Sanstha, CESSS staff and Villagers. Mr. Tayde in his inaugural speech addressed the people on importance of traditional agricultural practices and indigenous seeds conservation to regenerate the farmers' life in agriculture sector of Vidarbha region to solve the present agrarian crises.

This exhibition was organized on Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and MGNREGA in the Dist Amravati from January 26-28, 2013. Practically on an average 15000 people come and visit this big event every day. Considering the magnitude of this even, CESSS planned to attend this mela by putting up a stall with information Flex boards, posters, brochures' and handbills.

During these 3 days, around 5000 people visited the exhibition stall and were given information on SAP, Indigenous Seeds, INRM, MGNREGA and demonstrated practical session on Jivamrut and Dashaparni and distributed SAP information booklet, success stories of SAP and handbills of Government schemes to the people.

- Mukund Deshmukh

Link Workers Scheme: a joint review

Caritas India and Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS) together organized the 3rd quarter review meeting of the GFATM round 7 funded Link Worker Scheme (LWS) project, in Ahmedabad on February 6, 2013.

Caritas India is the Lead NGO implementing the LWS project in 12 districts of Gujarat which are Banaskantha, Dahod, Navsari, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Amreli, Kutch, Patan and Sabarkantha.



The meeting saw the representation of different sections of GSACS represented by Mr. Hemant Shukla, Joint Director-Information Education and Communications, Mr. Kamlesh Meshwani, Consultant – Mainstreaming, Dr. Jayshreeben Ganatra, Deputy Director-STI (Incharge Joint Director- Basic Service Division), Dr. Gajjar, Joint Director-Blood Safety, Dr. Sudhir Chavda – Care Support & Treatment Division and Dr. Gadhavi – Deputy Director – Monitoring & Evaluation (Incharge – Prevention of Parent To Child Transmission).

The Asst. Executive Director of Caritas India Fr. Paul Moonjely and the Health Officer Ms. Deepti George represented the Head office, while the project team of district and state level staff was represented by Ms. Vaishali Ajmera and Mr. Jitendra Mehta the Project Officers.

Of the 12 districts, 4 are new districts and hence the review meeting was conducted for the 8 old districts. All district team heads presented their progress over the 3 quarters. It was seen that although the coverage of High Risk Groups (HRGs) was successfully achieved, more focus was required on the Bridge and the Vulnerable population. While certain project indicators needing more focus were discussed at length, over all the teams were lauded for their dedicated work.

In the coming months, the old 8 districts would be focusing more on covering the bridge and the vulnerable population, while the new 4 districts would be completing the target population mapping process and initiate implementation.

- Deepti George

Process of Change

All field officers of Caritas India gathered in KROSS Bengaluru for a meeting from February 14-16, 2013. Fr. Frederick D'souza, Executive Director, Caritas India welcomed all the field officers who came from across the country. In his welcome note he briefed the officers about the purpose of the meeting, like revisiting strategic planning, emerging issues and improving organization PME guideline. He also appealed the field officers to contribute in this process of change, which will enable us in reaching the new heights.

During the meeting the participants reviewed the achievements and outcomes of the last organisational development process. They also made specific suggestions for further consideration while taking decisions. In the context of the suggestion the team also further worked on the emerging role of Caritas India personnel at the field level. The outcomes of the processes in this line at the head office were also shared during the meeting and the feedbacks were sought. The role of Caritas India field officer was envisaged as resource person for partner support leading towards networking and advocacy. The innovative projects are prominent for advocacy and networking. The local resource mobilization was also evolved as the need of the hour.

The team also reviewed the Project Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) systems that were introduced and practiced. It was realised that there is a gap in the level of understanding and the practice. Further, everyone showed their commitment to work towards a better system.

Considering both the emerging role and the refinement in the PME process, the underlining need emerged to change in the person and the need to enhance the knowledge and skill level in delivering better services. There was also a session to express personal and professional concerns experienced by each one and collectively within the organisation.

The innovation hunt was then rolled out by Fr. Paul, Asst. Director Caritas India. The innovation hunt will be conducted with a purpose to capture, document and disseminate the innovation from projects across the country. Mr. Philip, Manager (operations) Caritas India concluded the meeting by presenting the way forward.

At the end of the workshop by Fr. Frederick made a presentation on "MOTIVATION" and showed its relevance in the context of the decision taken during the meeting.

- Philip



Unwrapping the Yield of opportunities

Bastar is home to the most primitive tribes of India. The main tribes in the area are Gonds, Murias, Marias, Halbas, Bhatras, Dhorlas and Dhurvas. Nearly 67% of the total population of Bastar is tribal. They lead a very primitive life with low literacy level. Health and Sanitation is poor with low life expectancy. The tribal people are poor; their livelihood depends on marginal agriculture, fishing, hunting and collecting minor forest produce. Ignorance, illiteracy, superstitions, poverty, social injustice are some of the facts responsible for their suppression and backwardness.

The long grappling tension and turbulence of peace in and around the zone, had set development far behind. Under the aegis of CORDAID Caritas India paved its way to intervene in this belt. A detailed risk assessment was conducted together with the support of the local communities. This study generated data that gave us an insight into the nature and depth of needs and the potential hazards and risks lurking and influencing them. The tools were refined and re designed to help create a framework to determine the areas and location of essential needs.

This further has transgressed into operationalizing the program

within the framework of providing basic amenities and livelihood support to the communities at risk. The proposed program will be implemented for a year with a special focus towards increasing resilience and strengthening basic amenities of communities living in Bijapur and Bastar district of Chattisgarh. To make the program objectives more precise and refined, a one day exercise was conducted in Jagdalpur on February 1, 2013 for the project staff. To ensure easy acceleration of result areas, the project staff was asked to specify their roles and responsibilities. Activities were streamlined and allocated respectively. The process resulted in finalization of time line, plan of action and also clarity of roles and responsibilities amongst the stakeholders involved.

The program envisions three major outcomes:

- Families adopt measures of increasing their income.
- Basic amenities related to water, sanitation and education is ensured.
- Staff is capacitated to facilitate community development and livelihood promotion.

With the support of CORDAID and communities of Bijapur/Bastar, Caritas India resolute towards unwrapping

- Babita

Agrarian Prosperity Program

Farmer's Fair



After two years of successful completion of Caritas India supported and SCIAF funded, Agrarian Prosperity Program at Palkot, Jharkhand, has brought tremendous results in terms of Organic Farming and Improved Agriculture practices. To mark this event two days district level farmers fair was organized at Gumla from January 10 – 11, 2013.

Nearly 1000 farmers participated in this fair from our target areas. The program was inaugurated by Honorable District Development Commission, Gumla, Mr. P. Oraon in the presence of Asst Director, Fr. Paul Moonjely and H.O.D. Mr. Nelson from Caritas India, District Planning Officer, Mr. Turkey, Fr. Debrower, Director of Gram Uthan, Gumla and other dignitaries and local village community from Palkot, Jharkhand.

The objective was to present the work before the district authorities and providing a platform for our Community Farmers (both Men & Women) to share their experiences (how they learned the things and practiced) like – System of Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), Nutritional Garden, using indigenous seeds and also how to preserve it, Flow irrigation system, how to manage their crops during disaster and from wild animals etc.



The next day program was inaugurated by His Grace Bishop Paul Lakra, Gumla diocese in the presence of other dignitaries. During this occasion, Sub Divisional Officer, Gumla distributed Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) Lisence to SHG group of Boradih village of Dahupani Panchayat. Initially the villagers had to travel 5 Kms over the mountain to the next village to collect the Ration every month. To address this problem, a SHG was formed and demanded for the Lisence to get the ration at their own village and which was approved by S.D.O. Gumla.

- Pradipta Chand

As a part of a fair an exhibition was also organized with stalls displaying Lac machine, vegetables cultivated under organic farming, modern technology machine used by our farmers, photo gallery, vermin bed, azolla etc.



BADLA rahi “Badlav” Need for transformation

Caritas India launched a consultation on crime against women and children on February 1, 2013 in New Delhi. This was in consonance with the recent case of brutal violence against a girl in Delhi. The consultation was attended by 60 personnel from various CBCI offices, some Delhi based Caritas India network. Speakers include the Ms. Sudha Sundaraman, General Secretary, AIDWA, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterjee, Director of Joint Women's Program (JWP) and Mr. Soumya Bhaumik, Advocate along with media representatives.

Caritas India, the social wing of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) is gravely concerned with rampant gender insensitivity and the growing trend of violence against women and children. The consultation looked at causes and impacts of violence against women and girls, application of the law and role of civil society organisations (CSOs) for advocating against and preventing violence against women and children in the family, workplace and society at large.

Consultation on crimes against women and children was organized to engage ourselves in a debate and action which ultimately lead to the paradigm of justice where everyone's dignity personality and respect is honoured.

“Death penalty is only elimination of the offender and not the crime” said Fr. Frederick D'Souza, Executive Director, Caritas India. He however suggested stringent punishment which should not exclude scope for personal change

and transformation. He also called on the collective responsibility of the society/state to have adequate systems and policies in place to deter crime and protect life and dignity of every human person.

Ms. Sudha presented the prevalent context of widespread violence against women in terms of numbers particularly on sexual assault, rape, molestation and eve teasing and how it is increasing day by day. She also mentioned about the objectification of women and its impact on them. Mentioning a host of sexual abuse on women, AIDWA, General Secretary, Ms. Sudha, said that boys/men are engage in sexual assault under the garb of proving their masculinity.

Dr. Jyotsna, began by sharing a quote on Caritas India mission statement towards human dignity and justice and said that we all are committed to it. As Civil society organization, we all need to work towards realization of our dream of a just society. Quoting from

John Milton's line, Joint Women's Program Director, Dr. Jyotsna Chatterjee cautioned the men folk to “Awake, Arise or forever be fallen”.

Citing the example of Dhananjay Chatterjee, hanged for rape and murder in 2004, Legal expert, Mr. Soumya Bhoumik, said that we collect data from 2004 to 2012 it will reveal that death penalty is not a deterrent to sexual assault and murder. He also mentioned that our country has many good policy but there is a big gap in the implementation of the policies and laws.

The consultation was very interactive and participatory. The debate and reflection dwelt on how each one of us can see another person as a human person and give undue respect. How can we as individual and as group make ourselves to be more sensitive and help others also become sensitive. Much discussion emphasized on making men more sensible. We are committed to justice and dignity of women and children (justice and dignity for all). As a citizen of the country we are committed to the constitution of India. We all need to constantly engaged in a debate and action to make this world a better place to live.

The event was highly appreciated by everyone. the consultation got extensive media coverage and was featured in the leading newspapers.

- Patrick



Breaking Differences

“Motivated School Students pledge to overcome differences”



24 youth advocates from M.O.P Vaishnav college for Women and Loyola college, Chennai under the program, “Breaking Differences”, conducted a 3 hour awareness session in Don Bosco School, Peravallur, Chennai on the 19th of January, 2013.

“Breaking Differences”, a joint venture of Caritas India and IDCRC (Peace Rangers), Loyola College is aimed at advocating for Child Rights with a specific focus on children living with HIV/AIDS, who face discrimination at the hands of their fellow children and school teachers.

The volunteers went in a team of 3, engaging students of Class 8 and 9 of Don Bosco Higher Secondary school, covering 8 sections of 50-55 students each. The sessions were divided into 4 main parts: Introduction and Ice breaking, Good life,

Understanding child rights, Stigma and discrimination against Children and HIV/AIDS. The ice breaker session helped the facilitators introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the sessions. This also made the students feel at ease. The session on GOOD LIFE was instrumental in surfacing the students' perspective on what good life for a child is. The students were made to visualise in their mind what it meant to have a good life for a child and the same were put in charts with their creative minds. The session was successful in making students recognize the role of home, family, school and the state towards the promotion of a protective environment for the child and contribute towards a peaceful life. The volunteers also gave a lead to discuss on RIGHTS OF THE CHILD especially Right to Survival, Development, Protection and Participation.

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION –CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS dealt with case studies. Students were divided into 4 groups. Each group was given 2 case studies which they had to analyse. The aim was to motivate the students reduce stigma and discrimination that propagates denial of rights to children affected with HIV/AIDS. The sessions culminated with a performance of street play based on the overall topics that consisted of dance, drama, dialogues indicating factors affecting a good life leading to chaos and unhappiness in life. The whole school witnessed the performance.

The highlight of this programme was that the entire school took a pledge “We Will Overcome Differences”. This programme was organised by John Arokiaraj, State Officer, Caritas India, co-ordinated by Mr.Arun Fernandes, IDCRC, Loyola College under the patronage of Rev.Fr.Kanikkairaj – Correspondent of Don Bosco School, Peravallur, Chennai.

- John Arokiaraj

A Ray of Hope

Mr. Mangpau, aged 56 years and a resident of Tuining village under Saikot PHC of Churachandpur district in Manipur was engaged in wood collection and selling in the bordering areas of Myanmar for the past 10 years. For this livelihood, he was regularly visiting the forests.

In spite of getting repeated attacks of fever, he could not go for early and proper diagnosis and treatment, in view of the long journey to the nearest health facility. He continued to take quinine tablets given by his friends whenever having fever and yet continued with his work for the sustenance of his family. Due to lack of proper diagnosis and treatment, he remained sick for a continued period, which impacted his productivity and consequently his income. His family too faced major sustenance challenges. With his worsening health impacting on the productivity, he was forced give up this livelihood and return to his native village.

One day when he had fever again, he was informed by his friends about a trained community health volunteer (CHV) engaged in malaria control activities in the village under the Faith Based Organization-DSSS Imphal. So he approached Ms. Mangaikim, the CHV and shared his illness details. The CHV conducted a blood test using the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) provided by the District Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (government). Mr Mangpau tested positive for Plasmodium falciparum (Pf) malaria. Mr Mangpau was then referred for treatment to the PHC Tuining in coordination with the project Field Supervisor of DSSS Imphal, Mr. S. Zamkhanpau, where he received appropriate and complete treatment.



Now Mr. Mangpau is free from malaria. Through the interpersonal counselling provided by the CHV, he is now aware of the signs and symptoms of malaria as well as preventive measures. He profusely thanks the CHV and others for ensuring a new life that enabled him to be productive again and giving him another opportunity to look after his family through a petty business and jhum cultivation. Mr Mangpau, his friends and others in the village are happy to have the availability of services and guidance on malaria control in the village.

- L. Lupeshor Singh



Small holder farmers' groups of Sagar and Satna visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) for learning organic farming innovations for pest and nutrient management. The exposure visit was organised under the SAFBIN programme of Caritas India, an agriculture research and development programme that identifies and promotes sustainable and profitable agriculture methods suiting to small farming systems.

Learning Profitable Farming Techniques

During the visit, 45 small holder farmers from 20 villages, gained insights into modern agriculture techniques for minimising input costs and increasing the crop yield. The visits were facilitated by the KVKs of Sagar and Satna which have also been active partners in the district level small holder farmers' forum that were initiated by SAFBIN in these two districts. During the exposure visit, the farmers interacted with agronomists, entomologists, agriculturists and other agriculture experts and obtained solutions for their frequently-occurring problems related to small farming.

Small holder farming systems have typically been plagued with several structural and agricultural factors which have cumulatively reduced small farming practices unprofitable and unsustainable. SAFBIN programme envisages reviving and strengthening small farming systems with the overall objective of ensuring food and nutrition security for small holder farming households. The programme is being implemented in 30 villages of Sagar, Satna and Mandla districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Small farmers also learned about innovative and low-cost agriculture techniques including zero-tillage, cultivar selection, water harvesting systems, seed selection and treatment, crop diversification and botanical solutions for nutrient, pest and soil management. The farmers visited demonstration plots for grasping the nuances on the application of agriculture innovations. The exposure visit

helped dispelling the fear of small holder farmers in adopting newer and innovative agriculture techniques and enabled them to blend their own traditional practices with modern agriculture techniques. Farmers also learned about the methods of diversifying crops and integrating vegetables such as mushroom, blue cabbage and red cauliflower with food grain cultivation.

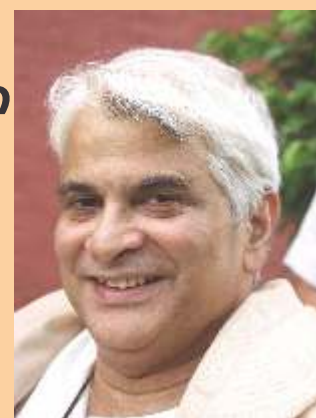
Dr. RS Negi and Dr. SS Kaushik of KVK Satna and Mr. KS Yadav, Ms. Vivekin Pachauri and Mr. PC Dubey of KVK Satna facilitated the exposure visits led by SAFBIN programme officers Mr. Manish Kumar and Mr. Vivek Tripathi.



- Saju M.K

Remembrance

Our Dear Fr. John Noronha has left this world for a heavenly abode. A charismatic personality that has touched everyones life in one or the other way. He served Caritas India as an Executive Director very responsibly. Ever smiling and joyful by nature, he always inspired people to move ahead in life both personally as well as professionally. Under his leadership, Caritas India had adorned new challenges. He enthused a feeling of oneness and motivated the staff to work together. Caritas India family deeply mourns and regrets the untimely loss of a wonderful dynamic personality. May God rest his soul in peace.



Dear Friends,

"No water... no work"..the cry of the struggling farmer who suffers the chronic severity of Drought that recently engulfed large parts of Maharashtra this year, has triggered a wave of speculations and drawn attention to the stark reality of our own preparedness and response measures.

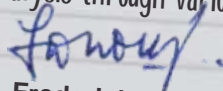
Climate change is increasingly been considered as a major environmental threat to this living world. Human activities are leading to environmental changes with more serious consequences on global and regional climate. Studies reveal that human health, ecosystems, water resources, food production and other socio-economic sectors have inadvertently been under the influence of climatic variability. Impacts of such influences may be slow and gradual but has also potentially irreversible effects. With ever increasing human modifications of other aspects of the global environment, the consequent implications for human well being is a growing concern.

The recent Drought 2013 is a clear example of how basic goods and services supplied by the planetary life support system is being un-wantedly exploited thus indirectly contributing to global change.

Natural Resource Management and Risk Reduction promotion have been some of the long-term strategies of Caritas India. Adopting an integrated approach to environment and ecosystem management for sustainable livelihoods, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is the need of the time.

'Quality of life' as ahead of 'standard of living' is a key to sustainability. Directing attention towards ecosystem based disaster risk reduction would offer strategies that would respect livelihood, ecology, health and sustaining human race.

Caritas India urges its partners to start looking from this perspective to address key issues of environmental and social dimensions of vulnerability coupled with the analysis through various activities of research, training and policy advocacy.


Fr. Frederick D'Souza
Executive Director

Caritas India

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