

Annual Report 2019-20

NERSWN

Health

Mental Health: The districts of Lower Assam are conflict affected and at a lower position of socio economy which plays a major setback, on health, education, and socio-economy. In the context no government hospital in the districts of Lower Assam have the access to treat the mental illness. NERSWN in consultation with District Health Department organised monthly health camp for people of mental illness.



This free treatment programme on mental health camps at Kokrajhar is for the people who are socio-economically backward. Besides, as there was not a single Psychiatrist in the RNB Civil Hospital, hence with great efforts a psychiatrist was appointed on NERSWN's request. As of 2019-20 total 3200 mental illness cases have been registered and the total recoveries of the same cases are 1000. Care takers are counselled from time to time so that they would not lose hope in treating their wards.

Public Health Promotion: In the year Assam was affected by the floods which are a yearly occurrence. In 2019 due to the heavy rain, there was a flood which inundated most parts of the state and Dhubri district was one of them. NERSWN distributed dry food items, hygiene kits, water filters and also did Public Health Promotion with children and community people which benefited 4000 people.

Immunisation Programme: The project "Empowering Community based Institution to increase Vaccine confidence and routine Immunization demand" in the Bogribari and Chapor blocks of Dhubri district as identified as the aspiration district was taken by NERSWN. There are 12 villages in two blocks, and training was given to CBOs/CSOs for capacity building at the block level. In the training CBOs had been given the role for sensitization and giving awareness on Covid19 pandemic and immunization. In the programme various hygiene activities like hand washing, wearing mask, social distance against spread of Covid19 was discussed. The participants from the health department were from BPM, BDM, BEE and SDM.



Livelihood Promotion and Natural Resource Governance

Water Governance:

NERSWN with a great effort have taken initiative on Water Governance at trans-boundary area namely Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Bangla at lower Assam. The purpose is the regulation of clean drinking water, irrigation, crops productivity, etc. The Call for Action on inclusive water governance agreement was signed between Indo-Bhutan civil society to strengthen the people to people tie on ground of socio-economy, cultural ties and climate change. The organization also collectively worked on building trust and confidence, safeguarding the rights of riparian communities to upstream and downstream communities. Again it also promoted support to community led ecosystem management and conservation practices including cross border basin level, and also enhanced role of women on water resource management.

The civil societies also worked on strengthening trans-boundary cooperation for early warning system through Apps for natural disasters risks of riparian communities such as incessant rain, floods, breach of embankments.

Household Clean Cooking:

As the forest cover of Assam is 34% of total area most of the inhabitants traditionally use firewood in household cooking which is against the growth of healthy environment and harmful for women. Gradually deforestation in Assam and pollution of environment in the atmosphere cropped up. Thus, to prevent soil and water pollution, deforestation and practice of fire wood for household cooking, the clean cooking methods is to be used.

Institutional clean cooking:

NERSWN had promoted the new Institutional Clean Cooking method for school mid-day-meal with less cost and in a short time as there is a huge cost incurred by the government on running the Mid-Day-Meal. Even ICDS centres use fire wood and depend on fire wood which is not conducive for environment and detrimental for health of women. At present this conventional method is going to be used in two primary schools i). No 1011 Burasara LP School ii). Balagaon LP School under Kokrajhar district.

Solar Powered Nagrik Seva Kendra (NSK):

In the age of IT world, Kokrajhar district rural areas faces tough challenges in promoting sustainable livelihood and un-interrupted IT services to the rural masses for frequent load shedding and limited power supply. In this context, NERSWN is giving attention to provide un-interrupted IT services with Nagrik Seva Kenfra (NSK) i.e. solar power for the period of three years in Kokrajhar district and the aimed target is 30 NSK.

Solar Powered Tailoring:

Development and deployment of a Solar Powered Tailoring is highly efficient tailoring machine that is optimized for a particular tailor's level of productivity. Further, for low-income micro entrepreneurs, it is imperative that the profit margins are spent to build assets and cut down on operational expenses. Thus, the business model to understand cash flow and tailor beneficial products also need to be considered providing the sustainable technology.

Education and Children's Programs:

Ethnic conflict of 1996 and 1998 displaced lakhs of Adivashi people and for more than a decade the village Sapkata under Kokrajhar district became house for the victims. One generation of Adivashi children grew up in the relief camp depriving them from all legitimate entitlements ranging from limited food, access to education, employment, health facilities. With tireless effort of NERSWN and support from National Foundation of India (NFI) a community run Primary School was set up for thousands of Adivashi children residing in the relief camp.

Nearly two decades later the displaced Adivashi people resettled in Jawarbil. A strategic entry point here is that NERSWN started a Primary School with a vision to promote peaceful co-existence, tolerance and other value education. The name of the community school is Suluk Gwjwn Vidhalaya (Peace academy) with the support from NFI, New Delhi. At present the total strength of student is 420 from Class I to Class X out of which 6 students are going to appear HSLC examination. At present there are 5 Nos. of teaching staff. Within the ambit of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 NERSWN had approached Government of Assam to fully provincialize the school. Moreover, a written note has been given to NCPCR.



Child Protection Committee:

Protection and making a healthy environment for all round development for children and

youths has become a vital role in society. The bedrock of constitutional provision article 15(3) and article 39 of part iv is clearly a protective measure under which children's rights are guaranteed. In addition to this NERSWN with great enthusiasm had taken step in Lower Assam districts to protect children from child abuse, child labour, prostitution, child marriage, child trafficking etc. Around 60 VLCPCs are formed under 3 Lower Assam Districts in various villages and West Garo hills district in Meghalaya.

Case Study-1

In Sundrijora village under Kokrajhar district Lumi Murmu, 15 (name changed) studying in Class X fell in love with a minor boy. Months later, Lumi Murmu ran away from home and spend two days at the boys home. Then VLCPC president came to know about the incident and counselled the boy and the girl along with the parents and guardians about their minor age, legality of marriage, and thereby prevented them from taking a wrong step of getting married before reaching the legal age. Now, both went back to school for further study.

Case Study-2

Puja Ray, 15 (name changed) a regular attendee of Class IX was eve teased by a boy, and as a result the girl stopped going to school. Her mother got worried and informed one of the NERSWN NGO worker to tackle the problem. By discussing with the local guardian and village headmen, the matter was solved after counselling the girl. NERSWN team regularly visited the girl and she started to go school and attend class regularly.

Folklore Live Performance for Social Change and Communication:

Folklore for communication and social change here implies to a medium of expressive body of culture through oral traditions, tales, songs, drama, folk dance, jokes and initiation rites. Backwardness in socio-economy, education, unfiltered societal laws instigate men to rust their mind as a result child marriage, school dropped out, trafficking, child labour, prostitution, domestic violence, malnutrition do emerge eventually. Considering all these grievances NERSWN at the earliest took measures to create an awareness in the lower Assam districts of Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara and in West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Awareness was imparted through drama, folk songs, poem recitation on selective issues by the trained children and Adolescents. Till now total 20 live shows on various issues were conducted and could reach out to a total of 600 people.



Glimpses of adolescents practicing and Live show of Folklore for Communication and Social Change

Programmes on Women Empowerment:

Investing in women's Empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive growth. Another pivotal mission that

NERSWN had been dealing with women empowerment since 2009 and giving business training, interventions emphasising the need to challenge or work around gender identities. The frontline workers of NERSWN have been training the Business Women Association (Aijw Falangi Afat) time to time, to empower women on various issues and security such as on trade, hygiene, and productive work.

To inspire and add more dignity to the women vendors on the part of empowerment NERSWN took an initiative to award the struggling women vendors every year conferring on the instituted “Aijw Falangi Bantha” (Women Entrepreneur Award) Rs. 10000.00 in cash, a citation and an Indi Shawl is awarded on International Women’s Day. The Aijw Falangi Bantha for 2020 was awarded to Ms. Amola Brahma on 8th March, 2020.

