
Annual Report 2015-2016
Nanda Talukdar Foundation

As the curtain for the year (2015-2016) has come down, we can look back with immense satisfaction of another year of relentless progress as we have embarked on unknown territory, not only extending our footprints but also gaining both trust and respectability of people from all over the region as well as the country.

It was a year of pride and responsibility as the year witnessed explosive growth in the Foundation both in quality of works, its diversity and the financial growth and discipline. Here is the story of the past year.

1. Smart Village-Basimaluguri
2. Naga-Axom round table talk
3. Social Audit
4. Village profiling
5. Acted-EU Project
6. Philanthropy
7. Publication

1.Smart Village-Basimaluguri

Project Summary

The integrated development plan of village Barsimaluguri a remote village situated in the Baksa district of Assam was conceived and was successfully executed, with the prime objective to turn this sleepy insurgency infested village as the first smart village of North East India.

Under this CSR project, the work was done in four main verticals - Alternative Energy (Solar Lights), Drinking Water, Sanitation and Skill Development besides host of other intervention ranging from Educational Facility development to Playground improvement.

75 Solar Street Lights have been successfully installed and strategically located throughout the village also 100 Solar Home Kit has also been installed in homes of 100 beneficiaries. This intervention was an exciting new approach to improve the life of the villagers and it was successful in making a positive impact in the life of the villagers.

The villagers were at the mercy of water borne diseases and hence the RO plant came as a huge blessing. The plant along with the water tank was completed and commissioned in a record 8 weeks. Managed by the VDC, the villagers have to pay a token monthly fee for the maintenance of the same.

Basic sanitation facilities were inadequate in many villagers home. The lack of proper sanitation facilities was especially difficult for the village women and girls who had to use open spaces and fields in the dark. Because of this they were also prone to many infectious diseases. Thus 100 Low Cost Toilets were completed and handed over to the beneficiaries in 4 months time. This intervention has simply removed all sanitation-difficulties of the women folks and also proved to be a vital tool in removing the sanitation-related illness.

Three Skill based training on Tailoring, Weaving and Computer was conducted with the support of IIE, Guwahati, which included three batches containing of 30 trainees in each batch. These skill development trainings have helped in empowering the women and youths of the village to strike out on their own and earn their livelihood independently converting some of them as an entrepreneur.

Three Health camps related to eye was also conducted with the support of Nalbari Eye Hospital and cataract operations were performed free of cost. Also, eyeglasses for the needy were provided without any charge.

Also, a General Health Camp was conducted by GNRC Hospital. All these camps proved to be very beneficial to the native villagers who had limited access to good healthcare.

The village school infrastructure like classroom, toilet, playground etc. was also upgraded. In addition to this the village football field was also upgraded to a competition level field.

A Yarn Bank was setup and a warping drum was provided for the village weavers. For a long time the village weavers had to travel to distance places to get there yarn warped etc. Hence, this drum was a need of the hour for them.

All the above interventions have strengthened the village community and have mobilized them to improve their life and further modernize their village in a sustainable manner.

Output and Achievements of the Project

Sanitation

TOILETS



The concrete Toilets have removed the sanitation difficulties of the villagers who earlier had to make their way to open fields or do within un-hygienic leaking toilets made with bamboo. As a result ,sanitation related illness have been curbed to great extent.

Water

The R.O. Plant provides pure water throughout the day consistently. This has reduced the dependency on unfiltered water from tube well. Villagers now have an alternate reliable pure water source for cooking and drinking purposes.

WATER QUALITY



The pure R.O water has also removed many illnesses out of the water borne diseases in the village.

Alternative Power (Solar) – Street Lights

SOLAR STREET LIGHTS



The Solar Street Lights have removed the hazards of dark and uneven village lanes at night. Villagers can now walk on brightly lit lanes with no worries of broken legs etc. The small shops in the village square can now extend their business hours well till late night. In summer, community meetings could be held outdoors under the lights.

Alternative Power (Solar) – Home Solar System

Home Solar System



The Home Solar System was a huge relief from the frequent power cuts that the villagers had to suffer for long period of time.

Children don't have to suffer from eyestrain as they can now study in the brightly lit rooms.

The solar powered DC Fan also provides relief during the scorching hot and humid summer months when the conventional power is not available.

Skills Training

SKILL



Unemployed youths of the village who previously used to loiter in the village square wasting their precious time have now found new direction and purpose after the skill training camps. Some of them are now successfully employed as DTP operators while some have gone for further vocational studies after recognizing the importance of such studies in life.

SKILL



One important output, post skill training, is to see that the women folks are now much empowered. Earlier they were not sure about themselves but now most of them have developed a positive mindset and have come up with a can-do attitude.

BUS STAND



The new bus stand has also solved many problems associated with the old village bus stand, which was in a much deteriorated condition. The travelers who previously faced great discomfort while waiting for the transport now could ease themselves under the proper bus shelter without any worries.

School Repair

The girl's school, after repairs and paints, has become a clean place for the students to study. They now come to school with a spring in their steps. The teachers are also happy.

SCHOOL



SCHOOL



After the girl's washrooms were repaired and running water from the deep bore well provided there have been fewer instances of students dropping classes and rushing home to answer nature's call etc. Hygienic toilets have removed the risk of infections etc.

Playgrounds

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND



The barren school playgrounds have been transformed with playthings like swings etc. This has made the children very happy as they now see their school has a joyous place and hence do not search for any reason for not going to school.

FOOTBALL FIELD



After

re-soiling and leveling of the football field the village youths have again started practicing and it is strongly believed that more number of players could be delivered in the years to come at the state and national level competition.

The villagers now also use this field for exercise and recreational activities. These have immensely contributed towards building a healthy body and a happy mind.

Health

HEALTH



The health camps have contributed significantly to the well being of the villagers, especially the old or infirm and to the poor natives who could not afford the high cost of treatment.

R.O. Plant Area

R.O. PLANT AREA



The community center, which was earlier in a dilapidated state, has got a new lease of life with the establishment of the R.O. plant housing and water storage tanks.

The area has come into focus again as a place to meet and discuss various issues faced by the village and plan out their resolutions.

2.NAGA-AXOM ROUND TABLE TALK

An audacious but massive step was taken by the NTF while it enter the untested and unchartered territory of Track-II diplomacy to improve the bilateral relationship between warring Nagaland and Assam through civil society initiatives.

Held on October 9, 2015 at Guwahati, the Naga and Assamese civil societies agreed that there should be consistent dialogues and build a permanent mechanism to strengthen friendship between the two neighbouring communities.

After a day-long deliberation on exploring possibilities to enhance goodwill, co-operation and friendship between the people of Assam and Nagaland in the backdrop of present complex realities and challenges, both sides made a joint declaration at Khanapara, here.

The members from civil societies of Nagaland and Assam gathered at a Round Table towards building friendship and fraternity, organized by Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF), a Guwahati based non-profit dealing in research, documentation and publication.

The declaration endorsed by all present in the meeting unanimously resolved that there should be a permanent mechanism to continue the dialogue process between the two neighbours.



In this regard, Assam Sahitya Sabha and Naga Hoho will initiate to form a Co-ordination Committee to build up a permanent Dialogue Forum between the two sides, and the NTF would co-ordinate between the Sahitya Sabha and the Naga Hoho, a statement issued by NTF general secretary Mrinal Talukdar said.

The meeting was attended by Naga Hoho president Chuba Ozukum, Naga Mothers Association adviser Rosemary Dzuwachu, Naga Students Federation president Subenthang Kithan, BPCC (Assam-Nagaland) co-ordinator Temsuwati Ao, Asom Sahitya Sabha president Dr Dhrubajyoti Bora, All Assam Students Union (ASSU) adviser Samujjwal Bhattacharjy, Purbanchaliya Tai Sahitya Sabha president Dr Dayananda Borgohain, Niketu Iralu, Prof Udayan Misra, Banu Haralu, Prasanta Rajguru among others. NEC member Chandra Kanta Das is an independent observer of the meet.

The meeting was also of the opinion that the groups and individuals should make endeavours to enhance co-operations between the two states in areas of art, literature, culture, sports, trade and commerce and environment protection at their individual capacities, the statement said.

Expressing serious concern over increasing cases of violence in border areas due to unresolved border disputes, all the speakers, both delegates and invitees, were of the views that whatever might be the future political relations between Nagaland and New Delhi, the Nagas and the Assamese have to co-exist as friendly neighbours, and there is no alternative.

3.Social Audit

Continuing our long experience of social audit in the self help groups promoted by the SIRD, we once again went out to far flung corners of the state and audited 1679 groups . They are in

1. Baska – 36
 2. Barpeta- 132
 3. Bongaigaon 36
 4. Chirang – 21
 5. Dhubri – 227
 6. Goalpara – 53
 7. Kamrup(M)- 248
 8. Karbi Anglong – 9
 9. Kokrajhar -3
 10. Morigaon – 39
 11. Nagaon – 616
 12. Nalbari – 68
 13. Sonitpur- 114
 14. Udalguri – 77
- Total -1679


Using our dedicated software the same have been evaluated and voluminous reports of each district have been prepared which has helped the policy makers for further meaningful intervention. The following is the chart of district wise groups which have been evaluated by our ground level survey team.



4.Village profiling

We have entered an uncharted territory when the SIRD threw up a challenge of profiling the villages of Assam. Never before such an attempt have been made to profile the village. It was huge challenge as there were no previous attempts in this regard. We developed a questionnaire. Add some mathematical points on that and then as a pilot project has taken to 100 villages of 10 districts of Assam for a random sample survey. Once the survey is completed , that will be evaluated through a special software for a never before village profiling.

5. Acted-EU Project

The main work for the ongoing ACTED-EU project have started as the ACTED involved Secretary Mrinal Talukdar and Administrator Krishna Talukdar for implementing the project as financial regulation did not allow the NTF to accept the EU supported fund directly.  To avoid that regulation both of them were turned vendor of the project partner NEICORD and through their individual consultancy the project has been marshaled. The project has two components, the first being awareness through media and secondly audio video module preparation for propagation.

In the first component, three journalists of each districts have been supported so that they write on the issues related to the subject, that is to make people aware of the 10 government schemes the project has identified.

6.Philanthropy

It is heartening to know that Pritam Sharma who was supported by NTF way back in 2008 with Laptop for his education in IIT, has cleared GATE and joined in the BARC, Mumbai. The young boy not only remembered it with gratitude, he in fact gave money from his salary to support one more needy Student Ravi Sharma. The laptop to Ravi Sharma was handed over on February 2016.

7.Publication

Braveheart, a compilation of 28 success stories of the CMJJY. This is a commissioned work of the SIRD, through which this beautiful booklet type book have been published in all colour pages.

