
Annual Report 2016-2017

Nanda Talukdar Foundation

As the curtain for the year (2016-2017) has come down, we can look with the immense satisfaction to the year with lot 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.

Following are the activities of the year in a nutshell.

1. Development Sector-Mopping up work of Smart Village
2. Development Sector-CSR activities on behalf of NRL
3. Publication- Coffee Table Book on OIL
4. Research -SIRD- Amar Gao Khoni
5. Publication- Axom

DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Smart Village-Barsimaluguri

The Barsimaluiguri Smart Village is a stand out achievement and a crowning glory of the NTF as it has not only set up the first smart village of the North East complete with four verticals education, sanitation, alternative power and self employment.

The project was carried out on behalf of the HIMCON, who in turn got the support from the India Infrastructure Finance Corporation Limited.

The story of the sleepy little village of Baska district can be further read in the following link <https://www.thebetterindia.com/46217/india-smart-village-assam-barsimaluguri-indo-bhutan-border/> as the NTF started mopping up work and getting the villagers ready to sustain it. This is a hand holding period so that villagers can own these properties and assets created by the NTF and they can maintain it after NTF withdraw from the project.

Association with NRL

The Good press the NTF attracted from the Barsimaluguri village caught the attention of the Numligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) who sought to entrust similar responsibilities of village development at their catchment areas. A ground level survey was done by the NTF team and three villages namely Gandhigaon, Chaurawabasti and Natun Gaon were selected to be developed in phased manner in built and transfer project.

The first challenge was Gandhigaon project. The integrated development plan for village Gandhigaon was conceived and successfully executed to turn this backward Upper Assam village, in Golaghat district, into a smart model village.

Under this CSR project sponsored by NRL, work was done in three main verticals - Sanitation, Drinking Water and Alternative Energy (Home Solar Systems and Street Lighting System), besides these, construction of a community house with various recreational facilities was also done.

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. 76 Toilets were completed and handed over to the beneficiaries in 5 months time. This intervention has simply removed all sanitation-difficulties of the women folks and also reduced sanitation-related illness.

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 RO house was completed and commissioned in a record 8 weeks. Managed by the VDC, the villagers have to pay a token monthly fee for maintenance.

10 Solar Home Systems has been installed in homes of 10 beneficiaries without access to regular electricity supply. 1 Solar System has been installed in the community house. 2Solar Street Lighting Systems have been successfully installed and strategically located in the village. This intervention was an exciting new approach to improving the life of the villagers and has made a positive impact in the village.

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

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal: To create better living conditions for the residents with access to proper sanitation, pure drinking water, solar power and a community house with recreational facilities.

- Build and commission a RO plant along with a RCC house to host the plant.
- Install 11 No. of Solar Home Lighting System
- Install 2 No. of Solar Street Lighting System
- Construct 76 toilets for better hygiene.
- Construct a RCC Community House with indoor recreational facilities.

Project Activities Undertaken

PHASE I: SANITATION

Overcoming the initial challenges of logistics as well as quality raw materials, the construction of the 76 toilets was completed and handed over to the beneficiaries in time. The heavy monsoon and subsequent floods in the village slowed this project execution phase down substantially.

PHASE II: SOLAR SYSTEMS

Home Solar Systems

10 village homes are located on other side of the railway track and getting those homes electrified was becoming a problem. Power lines can't be drawn across rail tracks and underground work would require lots of paperwork. So it was decided to provide



them with Home Solar Systems. 10 solar home systems were installed on each of those houses and one system was installed in the community house. The systems consist of the following:

Solar Street Lighting Systems

Two solar streetlights were installed strategically – one in front of the community house and the other at the entrance of the village.

PHASE III: COMMUNITY CUM RO HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The village lacked a decent place where all the villagers could meet and socialize. Also, there was no proper place for a formal gathering. Hence, the community house was constructed with the hope that will further unify the village.



Construction of the Community cum RO house was completed in a record 8 weeks. The design is RCC and the larger section shall be the community house while the smaller section will house the RO plant.



PHASE IV: DEEP BOREWELL

Deep boring with submersible pump was needed to be done prior to installation of the RO plant machinery.

Deep borewell work for RO plant initiated with a small puja.

Water was found at 170ft and CRI submersible pump installed.



PHASE V: RO PLANT INSTALLATION

Post construction of the RO house and deep borewell, work started on the RO plant with the hope to eradicate most of the water borne diseases in the village by providing pure drinking water to the villagers.

The work was divided into the following three stages:

1. Installation of water tanks and supply pipes
2. Installation of RO system
3. Commissioning and Handover



PHASE VI: RECREATIONAL ITEMS

The following recreational items at the community hall were installed with the hope that it will create a happy space for the villagers to meet and socialize:

- ❖ 1 Led HD 32' TV, Voltage Stabilizer and Tatasky HD connection
- ❖ 1 Table (Dining Size), 16 Chairs and 2 Large Buckets
- ❖ 1 Book Shelf cum Almirah with books, comics etc. and stationaries
- ❖ 1 Fan, 4 Led Lights and internal electrical work with provision for PCs
- ❖ 1 5x3 whiteboard and 1 wall clock
- ❖ 1 Carom board, 1 Chess board, 2 Ludo board



PHASE VII: CAPACITY BUILDING

Exposure Visit to Guwahati

An Exposure Visit to various Institutions in Guwahati was conducted on Nov 23rd and Nov 24th, 2016. The group consisted of 14 women and 2 men from our Gandhigaon Village. This was an initiative of NTF to expose the village women folks to various revenue earning possibilities by setting up small-scale industries. Another purpose was to imbibe them with knowledge and therefore a more positive mindset going forward. This visit already had an immediate effect because most of them had made up their minds to get trained and setup small business ventures in their village.



Women empowerment camp

A small but strong positive step was taken on 22nd and 23rd of Oct. to empower Gandhigaon's women folks. Our colleague Rekha conducted two daylong sessions on Women and Child's Health and Hygiene, Legal and Financial awareness for women welfare.

Women from all age groups actively participated in the camps. They shared with us their various problems and needs. We also perceived a genuine urge in them to undertake some revenue generating activity and become financially independent.

Research

Development of software to measure Panchayat performance

The NTF have developed a pilot model to examine the performance of the Panchayat of Assam so they can be scaled and output can be measured. The SIRD was kind enough to give 100 panchayat to taste the model and we have developed a software and named it as *Amar Gao Khoni* and with the parameters we have set it, the software throw in a cumulative figure, which helps the policy makers to find out the status of the and health of the Panchayat.

After the successful completion of the pilot Project, we have submitted a proposal to the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) for covering entire panchayat of Assam so that their status can be gauged and brought under an uniform evaluation system.

Publication

The year also saw the biggest publication venture of the NTF to date. After four years of work, the NTF published the six volume set of *Axom* encompassing the political history of Assam from 1945-2000. This was released by Dr Nagen Saikia and Dr Ramesh Saikia. This was jointly written by Mrinal Talukdar and Kishore Kumar Kalita. It was launched in the NEDFi house. This was the fruit of four years of research and countless hours in the libraries of Assam by the research team.



Further the Oil India Limited has also entrusted the responsibility of compiling their coffee table book to the Foundation but the work got stretched to the next financial year.

Mrinal Talukdar
Secretary, NTF
15.5.2017