



Highlights of this Newsletter

(May 2016 – July 2016)

- Developed module on Disaster Risk Management
- Traditional Healers Conference
- Flood Relief
- Upcoming New Projects – Children and Youth Development, Women Empowerment

Teaching Law to Law-Defenders

Two batches of police officers of Chirang District took part in a training programme in July 2016 on “Gender and Laws relating to Women and Girls”. The programme was jointly organised by *the ant* and the Chirang District Police Department. The trainings were attended by Sub Inspectors and Assistant Sub Inspectors of the police stations, led by some senior officers. The 36 officers took part in civil dress. Ms. Jennifer Liang, Founder Trustee of the ant who specialises in gender trainings and Ms. Protiti Roy, Advocate, Delhi Trial Courts and High Courts facilitated the workshop.

The training programme was received with much enthusiasm. We hope to be able to train the entire police force in the District very soon.



Police Officers of Chirang District in discussions during the Gender and Laws Related to Women training on our campus

Healers meeting - Traditional healers are still sought out and respected in the communities for their ability to heal. People still seek their advice for their well-being. The ant mental health program works closely with traditional healers to use these knowledge, trust and faith along with contemporary medicines to address mental illness and epilepsy. A conference on Traditional Healers was organized by the Mental Health team on 20th July at the ant campus, around 30 traditional healers took part in the conference. This led to exchange of knowledge and experience among participants and the importance of working together between traditional healers and *the ant* in the pursuit of addressing mental health concerns in the communities.



Traditional healers attending the conference

Other Work and Happenings:

- A new project has been initiated in partnership with Terre Des Homme, Germany for 7 months introducing joyful learning spaces in primary and middle schools and currently preparing a proposal for three years to expand work in a new cluster
- We are conceptualising a Project to stop Domestic Violence through work with SHGs.
- An 18-month research is currently carried out on Health inequities in a Conflict Area – an in-depth Qualitative Study in Assam with Achuta Menon Center, Trivandrum.

Promoting inter-community peace dialogues – 32 Sahayak Manch has been formed in the villages to initiate and promote inter-community peace dialogues. TOT for members of Sahayak Manch on Rights, Disaster Risk Management and Leadership in Conflict Situation was organized. The project has also developed 4 modules using fun and interactive graphics to educate communities on disaster preparedness and risk management. Special days celebrations such as world environment day, Eid Sanmilan, and organizing mix-community football tournament has been one of our efforts to bring different communities towards building friendship, peace and harmony in our



Training of trainers for Sahayak Manch



Intercommunity football tournament



Mirawati of Khujarapguri Village shows the height of the flood waters and also her floors of her bamboo and mud hut which got washed away !



Flood Relief – First time in 16 years!

Blame it on Climate Change! But this is the first time in 16 years that the ant was forced to carry out flood relief in its work villages. A week of incessant rain in neighbouring Bhutan overwhelmed our rivers downstream. Over 2,717 hectares of crops were destroyed, agricultural lands for sand-casted, livestock were washed away.

With support of Caring Friends, we reached out to 8 relief camps and helped over 1000 families with much needed tarpaulin sheets for roofing and sleeping on. Community kitchens fed many before the government could get its act together and provide relief rations. Along with the community, we could also identify and help repair 59 damaged houses so that they once again had a roof over their heads.



(Donations to the ant are exempt from Income Tax as per rules under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act)

We also welcome any feedback on the newsletter. Please do get in touch. Our contact is:

the ant, Rowmari, P.O Khagrabari, Dist Chirang via Bongaigaon, Assam – 783380; Ph: 9859978991
email: sunil@theant.org; www.theant.org