

Quarterly Newsletter

the ant

2020-21 Issue IV (Jan-Mar 2021)

April 2021



What's in :

- International Women's Day
- MITA annual meet
- Ultimate Frisbee Association
- Child-Friendly School Initiatives
- Peace at home, at last!
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Ultimate Frisbee Association:

Ultimate Frisbee Association started its first branch in Chirang district. Dignitaries from Traditional Games Association of Chirang also joined hands with Ultimate Frisbee Association to use sports as a way of connecting with young minds.



International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. To commemorate the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights and violence against women, five Village organizations (VOs) took the initiative to celebrate Women's Day in Deosiri playground of Chirang district on 9th March 2021. It was an encouraging to have 580 participants from Deosiri and Dadgiri area registering themselves for the event including 56 men who came forward to support the women in their journey of empowerment. The day started with flag-hoisting and was followed by games and sports, cultural program, speeches from dignitaries and ended with distribution of prizes.

MITA: Annual MITA meeting was held on 19th and 20th March, 2021 at IIBM, Guwahati. Friends from Partner organizations from 11 districts, including the Psychiatrists shared their learning and challenges in person after a long gap of a year.



Child Friendly School Initiative:

As part of its Child Friendly School initiatives, a Standard Operating Procedure has been discussed with department of Education and as its first effort, Building as Learning Aid was started in 5 schools of district Chirang.



Covid support livelihood:

290 families devastated by CoViD-induced lockdowns, who were supported for organic vegetable - farming and mushroom cultivation harvested their first crop and started savings by selling them.



Peace at home:

"It took five years to finally have peace at home" says Misanti, a domestic violence survivor from Chirang. Misanti was beaten up almost everyday by her alcoholic husband for the last 10 years and her 10 year old son was a mute spectator until she gained courage to approach her fellow villagers who had come together to form a Domestic Violence Response Group with the help of the ant. After continuous intervention of the villagers for five years, now she can sleep peacefully at night and does not have the fear of getting beaten up. Misanti is one of the 500+ women in Chirang who have approached the legal services and community-based redressal mechanisms for bringing peace to their homes.

From IDEa Desk:



Project ENRICH supported by Childaid Network: The 5 partner organizations from Assam have undergone a five day training on Participatory Learning Matrix (PALM) tools and techniques in January 2021. The organizations have learnt to identify issues related to child rights violations in their respective areas and were supported in developing project proposals based on their learning from the field.

Caring Friends Partners' Corner:

SANJOG - Established community facility centre for mushroom cultivation. The centre serves as one-stop centre for community members to collect required materials for mushroom cultivation as well as to get required information. In future, Sanjog will help in marketing their products.

AIET, Kokrajhar - Organized health camps specially for the people with disability in collaboration with Department of Health, Government of Assam/BTAD, Kokrajhar.

ESPT, Dhubri - Facilitated library sessions with children, initiated reading circles within the staff members in such a way that they are able to maximize children's learning during the library sessions.

Pathikrit, Sibsagar - Pathikrit organized meetings with Matri Sahayak Gut/ Mothers Support Groups that help in management and supervision of ICDS scheme.

DAWN - a new partner based in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya is working on livelihood enhancement of communities.

IDEa's new initiative: Partners and Alliances (PAN). Through this program, IDEa plans to provide technical support to small organizations. IDEa reached out to 9 new and small organizations in the states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland and organized its first online input session on Governance.

Training, studies & workshop:

- Training on Accounts & Finance in collaboration with Bosco Institute.
- Organisational Development training to members of Women Federations of Assam (who were earlier associated with AMSS).
- Facilitated the process of Project Development for TDH.
- Completed a scoping study titled 'Work and Opportunities for Women' (WoW) in 4 Tea Estates of Assam in Jan 2021.
- Study on Impact of Climate Change On livelihood in Char areas of Assam March 2021.

Networks and Alliances

Team members from IDEa attended annual meetings of Assam State Coalition of Health, Nutrition and Women Empowerment and FVSA in the month of March 2021 and facilitated sessions to draw road map of the alliances.



Benjamin from Nest (Churachandpur district of Manipur) writes on PAN, "The session on governance was eye-opening and relieving. The learning from the session was profound. I am glad to have joined this group."



Youth Empowerment

After providing academic and psychosocial support to 120+ youths, efforts are now on building aspirations and career perspectives among them. It started with individual career mapping and vocational training on selected careers.



the ant projects at a glance:

Avahan: Midline survey involving both men and women is completed, new areas are reached, has awareness on women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) has been initiated. Colour coding is being followed for marking violence survivors and following ups through Legal Aid Cell. (APPI support)

Colouring The Rainbow: Almost after 1 year disability screening could be held for 50 persons identified by us, of which 30 got certificates. Apart from regular Frisbee and sports sessions, parent sessions, community meetings, children exchange program, and mid-line survey was completed. (DKA support)

LEAP: Team capacity building with the help of resource agency Vikramshila, Training of Teachers, Conscious citizenry sessions in Middle Elementary Schools were the major activities conducted. (Childaid Network support)

Shiksha: Regular classes for children in 38 Study Centers are being conducted with the help of joyful learning methodology like action songs, etc. and use of Teaching Learning Materials. (Arpan Foundation support)

Dolphin: Joyful Learning Sessions and science classes with the help of Lab in a Box were started in 19 government Lower Primary and Middle Elementary schools after a gap of one year. Special coaching classes for class 10 students and vocational training for 10 youth and handholding support for business development plans have started. (tdh support)

Bring The Change: Interventions of Phase-I (Bronze fellows) in Chirang and Udalguri district has started. Stakeholder meetings, rapport building and more practical life skill based sessions have been initiated with 77 girls in Chirang and Udalguri districts. (kfb support)

Mental Health camp: Monthly camps to treat mental illness including epilepsy are being held at 8 locations in Chirang district every month, reached out to 3657 patients in 3 months (approx. 1200 patient contribution per month)

Agriculture: Seed distribution, training on food processing skills, mushroom cultivation and support in pricing seasonal harvest were the highlights. (APPI support)



Heartiest welcome to our new family members!!

Fwrja, Dipika, Raju, Maneswar, Dhananjay, Damayanti, Mira, Priska, Hadwd, Raju, Raju, Tanusree, Akadashi, Amar, Ansart, Nasoni, Mijingsha, Geolang, Samel, Bijuli, Sumitra, Usha, Monjital, Japhetson, Debi, Prasun.