



FAsCE INDIA

Fransalians Agency for Social Care and Education

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FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

In recent years, the concept of women empowerment has gained significant traction, becoming one of the most discussed topics globally. However, the essence of women empowerment goes far beyond mere conversations; it is about creating a society where women are equal participants in all aspects of life, social, economic, political, and cultural. It involves providing women with the tools, opportunities, and support they need to realize their full potential.

Empowerment begins with education. An educated woman is better equipped to make informed decisions about her life, health, and finances. Education not only opens doors to economic opportunities but also fosters confidence and independence. Despite strides in improving female literacy rates, millions of girls around the world are still denied access to education. Bridging this gap is the first step toward empowerment. Government and organizations must focus on policies and programs that ensure every girl child receives quality education.

Women empowerment is incomplete without addressing health and safety concerns. Political representation is equally vital. Women empowerment is not a destination but an ongoing journey. FAsCE India as an NGO is proud to be part of such enormous force to bring positive changes in the society. Various activities and programs conducted for women, youth and children aim to achieve the goal of social change one day and to make the weaker sections fully charged and self dependent.

As we present this edition of the FAsCE India newsletter, I humbly request your continued support through your valuable collaborations, enriching contributions, and prayers. Together, let us strive to empower and build the capacities of the weaker sections of society, paving the way for a brighter future. God Bless You!



Fr Antony Kattathara MSFS
Director, FAsCE India

*Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so
much. — Helen Keller*



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Monthly SHGs Meeting: On October 9, 2024, a meeting was held in Ghaguwa (Majkuchi) with the SHG members, led by Miss Chaya Kalita, Programme Coordinator. During the meeting, the participants were provided with an overview of the objectives and significance of SHGs in empowering women and promoting financial independence through various Income Generating Activities. The need for skill development was highlighted, aiming to equip members with the skills to diversify their income sources. Members were encouraged to actively participate in upcoming training sessions. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Dipali Murari, one of the members of SHG.



Awareness Programme on Concept of SHG: An awareness programme on concept of SHG was conducted in Geetamandir on October 25, 2024, wherein a total of 65 participants attended. The training session was led by Miss Chaya Kalita, Programme Coordinator.

During the session, the participants were provided insights into the practical aspects of forming and managing SHGs, including strategies for saving credit and starting small business. The session also included interactive discussions, where the participants shared their experiences and aspirations, highlighting the importance of collaboration in overcoming challenges. A short video clip portraying success stories of the SHGs was screened to motivate and inspire the participants to reach their own goals.



Pre-Diwali Sale by SHGs: On October 30 and 31, 2024, the SHGs from Amsing Jorabat and Geetamandir set up stalls in the market area as part of an initiative to generate income and promote their products. The items included sweets, pickles, candles, diya and decorative items. The pre- Diwali sale was a success and received positive feedback from the community.



PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS



Child Rights Week: The FAsCE Supplementary Education Centres in Narengi held Child Rights Week from November 14 to 19, 2024, with the aim of raising awareness about children's rights. Throughout the week, children were engaged in various activities and competition to help them understand deeper into their rights. The week concluded with prize distribution ceremony on the final day, where winners of the various competitions were presented with awards. The event was a success, promoting awareness about the protection of children's rights while empowering participants to express their ideas and display their talents.



PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Cleanliness Drive: On October 2, 2024, a cleanliness drive was organized in Hatishila, Ekrabari, Bongaon, Geetamandir and Amsing Jorabat in celebration of Gandhi Jayanti. This initiative aimed to create awareness on the significance of clean environment while honouring Mahatma Gandhi's vision for a cleaner India. Students, teachers, SHG members and the community leaders came together and cleaned public spaces, including the streets and surrounding areas.



PROMOTION OF HEALTH

Medical Camp: A free medical camp was conducted on November 15, 2024, at Taltola, Imlibasti in collaboration with SJN Homeopathic Medical College, Guwahati. The camp was staffed by 2 senior doctors and 10 interns from SJN Homeopathic Medical College. Together, they offered a range of healthcare services including free medical check-ups, medication, blood pressure and blood sugar test.





The camp benefitted approximately 165 people from the surrounding areas, who received medical consultations and essential treatments. The event was a significant step toward promoting health awareness and improving the overall well-being of the community.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

International Day of the Girl Child: International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on October 11, established by the United Nations to highlight the challenges girls face globally and to promote their empowerment and the fulfilment of their rights.

The FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi, Gobardhan, Hatishila, Ekrabari, Bongaon, Geetamandir and Amsing Jorabat observed this day by raising awareness about the significance of girls' rights and their role in the society. The students performed drama that highlighted the struggles and achievements of girls, illustrating the themes of empowerment, education, the fight against gender discrimination and abortion.



In addition to the drama, a video focused on the importance of education for girl's child was screened. The observance of this day not only educated the community about the challenges faced by girls but also inspired a collective commitment to support their rights and aspirations.

Global Handwashing Day: The FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi observed Global Handwashing Day on October 15, 2024 to promote the importance of hand hygiene. The session was led by Ms. Queen Dutta, a teacher at the centre.



Ms. Queen began the session by highlighting the significance of handwashing in maintaining health and preventing the spread of infections. She discussed the impact of germs on health and explained the appropriate time to wash hands. She also demonstrated the correct handwashing technique, including the necessary steps and duration for effective hand hygiene. Following this, a short video clip was screened highlighting the importance of hygiene and handwashing in everyday life. At the end of the program, all students and teachers were given soap as a practical takeaway.

National Cancer Awareness Day: On November 7, 2024, the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi observed National Cancer Awareness Day under the theme, "Hope, Love, and Strength: Our Weapons Against Cancer!".



The session was led by Ms Sareena Begum, a teacher at the centre, where she addressed the alarming rise in cancer cases globally and explained the various types of cancer, such as lung, breast and colorectal cancer. She also highlighted lifestyle factors that increase the risk of cancer, such as smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Additionally, she focused on preventive measures that can help reduce the risk of cancer. The event concluded with engaging activities and yoga session, promoting both physical and mental well-being.

Children's Day: Children's Day is celebrated in India on November 14th every year to honor the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. It is a day dedicated to children's rights, education, happiness and well-being.



This year, FAsCE celebrated Children's Day in all the Supplementary Education Centres including Geetamandir, Forest Gate, Hatishila, Amsing Jorabat, Gobardhan, Ekrabari, Bongaon, Suwaliluka and Sampathar.

The day was marked with immense joy and enthusiasm, bringing together community, students and teachers in a vibrant celebration. The students showcased their talents through cultural and modern dance performances, songs, drama and poem recitations. Parents and other residents of the area came together to support the students in their performances and their dedication towards the success of the event.

Chapar: Children's day was celebrated in all the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centres in Chapar, namely Pakka Line, Guna Line, Old Mangta Line, Ketengajhora, Kandra Line, Girja Line, Jhawpara, 7 No Line, Kazipara and Bahalpur. The event brought together students, teachers, parents and community members in a vibrant display of talent and creativity. The students showcased their skills and talents, making the day truly special. The event was not just a celebration of children's talents but also a celebration of community's collaboration towards bright future that lies ahead for the young minds.



World Children's Day: On November 20, 2024, the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi observed this important day under the theme, 'Listen to the Future'. The program was graced by Ms Sikha Moni Kalita, one of the teachers at Narengi High School, as the chief guest who spoke on the significance of World Children's Day and the vital need to protect and nurture children's rights to education, safety and opportunities. She also appreciated the efforts of the students for their excellent performances during the celebration and encouraged them to continue excelling in their studies and extracurricular activities.



The celebration featured vibrant performances by the students, including traditional and contemporary dance as well as a drama presentation. The teachers also participated, making the event more special with their dance and song performances. One of the highlights of the event was the distribution of the best student awards, where two students from each class were selected and awarded based on their academic and extracurricular achievements. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms Chaya Kalita, the Program Coordinator, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, teachers, students and everyone who contributed to making the event a success.

Constitution Day of India: On November 26, 2024, the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi celebrated Constitution Day of India to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949. The event was aimed to raise awareness among students about the significance of the day and the contributions of the people who made it possible, particularly Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution. The students were also introduced to the history of the Constituent Assembly and its role in drafting the Constitution.



Human Rights Day: On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi conducted a special program to educate students about their fundamental rights. During the program, students were informed about various rights that they possess, such as the right to education, freedom of expression and the right to be treated with equality and respect. The observance of human rights day served as a reminder that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, is entitled to basic human rights and dignity.

Pre-Christmas Celebration: On December 20, 2024, the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Narengi celebrated Pre- Christmas. The program was graced by the presence of Fr Santhosh Chavaranal MSFS, Provincial Bursar of Guwahati Province, as the chief guest who spoke about the life journey of Jesus Christ, shedding light on the many miracles during his short time on earth. He drew a meaningful comparison between the life of Jesus and the work done in social service, like social workers who dedicate their lives to the well-being of others, Jesus selflessly served and healed those in need.



The event was made even more special and engaging through vibrant performances by the students. The celebration concluded with the distribution of gifts to all the students, symbolizing the spirit of giving during the Christmas season.

The FASCE Supplementary Education Centres in Suwaliluka, Sampathar, Hatishila, Bongaon, Ekrabari and Gobardhan also celebrated a vibrant Pre-christmas event that brought the communities together in joyful unity. The celebration featured a variety of activities, with students showcasing their impressive talents through spirited dance performances, making the event truly memorable.



DISTRIBUTION OF COMPUTERS

Sateek: FASCE donated three computers to St. Francis De Sales School, Sateek to enhance educational resources and improve digital literacy among students, equipping them with essential skills for the future and contributing towards access to modern educational tools.



Amarpur: To support the school and keep up with the technological advancements and enhancing the digital learning experience for students, FASCE donated three computers to St. Francis De Sales School, Amarpur. With the integration of these computers, students and teachers will have access to modern tools that can enhance educational outcomes.



DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS

In response to the community's needs, FAsCE distributed solar lamps to the villages of Suwaliluka, Sampathar, Ekrabari, Hatishila, Amsing Jorabat and Bongaon. Each household received one solar lamp. The distribution was carried out in the presence of Miss Chaya Kalita, Programme Coordinator.



The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive, who expressed their sincere gratitude.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT FASCE INDIA

Four MSW 1st semester students from Assam Don Bosco University: Mr. Twenty June Suna, Ms. Anamika Brahma, Ms. Lucy Suting and Ms. Elgiva Ella Kharbhih were placed in FAsCE India as a part of Internship Programme from September 28 to November 15, 2024. During the internship, the students were engaged in the field, working with the students and SHGs in various project areas of FAsCE India. The students were also involved in classroom activities of the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centres and conducted awareness programmes.



PHOTO GALLERY



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