

FAsCE India

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education

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FAsCE India

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From the Director's Desk

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education (FAsCE India), through its commitment to bringing about positive and social transformation, plays a prominent role in improving the lives of those who need it most through its timely interventions and dynamic activities. FAsCE India is committed to empowering and serving the poor and the marginalized, the powerless and the voiceless, across Northeast India. Over the years we have been focusing on balanced and holistic empowerment, development and growth of individuals and communities through our interventions at the grass-root level and people-oriented projects and activities.



The last quarter of this year saw the beginning of a few new initiatives as well as following up of the many ongoing projects for the empowerment of children, youth, women, promotion of health, protection of environment etc. We continued our reach out programmes to the affected people of Covid 19 pandemic, ensured remedial education to the children through supplementary education centres and opened new avenue for women through tailoring and knitting. At its Administrative Office in Guwahati a few changes are also being taking place. Fr Antony Kattathara, will be taking over as the New Executive Director of FAsCE India in the course of the coming month. I wish the newly designated Executive Director all the best and invoke God's blessings on him. On December 17, 2021, Mr Justin S, Office Staff, was relieved from his duties in the Organisation. As we thank him for his service at FAsCE India for the past 3 years, we wish him all the best and God's blessings for his future life! Mr Hebol Borgoyary MSW will join the office soon.

As I place the last issue of the FAsCE Newsletter, in my capacity as the Executive Director, I thank the Almighty God for His constant love, concern, protection, divine providence and above all giving me an opportunity to serve the poor and the marginalized of the Northeast India through the interventions of FAsCE India as its Executive Director for almost six years. We, as an Organisation, have come this far because we had been walking together with you all. May I take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr Sabu Francis, Provincial of MSFS Guwahati Province and his Administration, our benefactors and sponsors, partners and well-wishers, our field staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries, civil authorities, collaborators and friends, each and every one of you, for the unconditional support, constant encouragement, patient accompaniment and above all, for helping me do small things with great love. I would like to place on record my appreciation and thankfulness to the ever faithful and selflessly committed Staff of FAsCE India for their commendable service and availability. THANK YOU! God Bless You! Long Live FAsCE India!

Fr (Dr) Saji George Puthiyakulangara Executive Director, FAsCE India

COVID CARE 2021 @ FAsCE INDIA

Distribution of Survival Kit with Dry Ration: Continuing its journey of reaching out to the most vulnerable and affected sections of the society, FAsCE India distributed survival kits consisting of dry rations to the sick, senior citizens, single mothers, differently abled persons, street dwellers and rickshaw personnel as an immediate response to mitigate their hardship in different localities in and around Guwahati. In this quarter, we have reached out to more than 2000 affected people.





Sateek, Mizoram: FAsCE India, in collaboration with MSFS community at Sateek, extended its helping hand by providing essential food items for two quarantine centres in Sateek, Mizoram. Representing the MSFS FAsCE India at Sateek, Fr Romilson Marak handed over the essential food items to the village leaders (chairman and president of VCP and VLTF) for distribution.



Tailoring and Knitting Trade at Manikbond: Covid-19 Pandemic has left many people unemployed and livelihoods of many are at stake. FAsCE India initiated training on tailoring and knitting at Seva Kendra Manikbond, to help the women and dropout girls to enable them to learn and support themselves with self-employment or be equipped to be employed wherever opportunities are available. 24 women either from self help group or school drop outs have already started their training in three shifts. The trainees are given opportunity to choose either knitting or tailoring or both the trade. Within a short span of time they have shown lots of progress and equipped themselves with finished products.





Remedial Education during the COVID 19 pandemic: Since its outbreak, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc across the world and like any critical sector, education has been hit hard. Students, schools, colleges and universities have been deeply impacted. In this time of crisis FAsCE India was effective in providing supplementary education to the deserving children. A total number of 30 Supplementary Education Centres are facilitating education for deserving children in the interior villages.





The supplementary education centres aim at facilitating holistic education, preventing school dropouts and eradicating child labour. Through curriculum based syllabus as per the standards, the children are given necessary guidance in their studies for better academic performance. Children benefit from these centres through regular tuition classes, capacity building and awareness programme. Co-curricular activities are also given equal importance in these centres to provide an opportunity to participate in music, dance, sports and art and craft for all-round and holistic development of every child. During the Covid pandemic technical assistance was made available to attend the online classes. Besides, study and learning materials were also made available to the children.





Recognition for Humanitarian Service: FAsCE India was felicitated at Rastriya Sankardev Sarcha programme organised by Democracy Live and Maramland Welfare Society at Srimanta Sankaradev Namghar, Dispur Last Gate, Guwahati on October 17, 2021. FAsCE India was selected for this honour because of its commendable humanitarian service to the society, especially, for its outreach programmes during the Covid 19 pandemic. Srimanta Sankardev was a 15th-16th century Assamese polymath; a saint-scholar, poet, playwright, dancer, actor, musician, artist, social-religious reformer and a figure of importance in the cultural and religious history of Assam. The programne was attended by many eminent personalities from various walks of life. Miss Chaya Kalita received the honour on behalf of FAsCE India.





PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

Inauguration of Supplementary Education Centres at Chapar: During the Corona Pandemic, FAsCE India once again highlighted its priority in the thrust area of Child Rights and Empowerment of children by concentrating more on supplementary education and even opening more such centres to facilitate the education of deserving children, following the Covid Protocols. In an inaugural programme held on October 03, 2021, 10 new Supplementary Education Centres were inaugurated at Chapar, in Dhubri District, Assam under the project "A Child Labour Free Neighbourhood through Education and Community Participation". The centres were inaugurated by Rev. Fr Biju Kanicherry, Principal of SFS School, Bahalpur, in the presence of Fr. Saji George, Executive Director, Rev. Fr Stephen Marayikulam, Local Project Director and leaders from different villages and the project staff. Around 100 Children representatives from 10 Supplementary Education Centres participated in the programme and staged various cultural events to mark the occasion. Fr Stephen expressed his happiness in officially starting such a project for the holistic development of the children through education. Fr Saji George presented the objectives of the project. The programme was followed by the staff meeting under the chairmanship of Miss Chaya Kalita, the Project Coordinator.





FAsCE Scholarship Programme: FAsCE India ensures educational opportunities for children and young people from socio-economically marginalized background across Northeast India. The various educational programmes of FAsCE India provide assistances and opportunities to access quality education for the children. The major component of this programme is scholarship/sponsorship for the children who otherwise cannot afford the cost for the education. During this academic year FAsCE has ensured the education of more than 250 children.



Awareness on Mental Health and Emotional Freedom Techniques: On 19.12.2021 FAsCE India in collaboration with Amirt Asmi Institute of Living Life and Mera Man Foundation organized awareness programme on Mental Health and Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) for Children from Supplementary Education Centre at Narengi. EFT is a form of counselling intervention that stimulates acupressure points by pressuring, tapping, or rubbing these points while focusing on situations that represent personal fear or traumata. In EFT session, the person will focus





on a specific issue while tapping on end points of the body's energy meridians. The children were given practical techniques to tap on meridian endpoints of the body - such as the top of the head, eye brows, under eyes, side of eyes, chin, etc. While tapping, they were instructed to recite specific phrases that target an emotional component of a physical symptom. This method is helpful for the people with anxiety, depression, chronic pain, stress, weight loss issues etc.





Annual Art and Photography Exhibition: FAsCE India participated in the 4th Annual Art and Photography Exhibition held at Artist Guild Gallery, Chandmari, Guwahati on October 24, 2021. Paintings and photography of various artists across the state was exhibited including the 7 paintings of children from FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi. The inaugural ceremony was graced by various renowned artists of Assam. Fr. Saji George, speaking on the occasion, appreciated the budding artist for exhibiting their talents by giving expression to their imagination on the canvas. He also applauded Imaginary Canvas, an initiative by the team of youth who are promoting creative and visual art skills, for providing platform for the young children of our society and encouraged the assembly to think creatively, positively and substantially by giving wings to their imagination. The young artists were awarded with certificate of participation.





Furniture for Boy's Hostel at Somonpara: In order to promote quality and affordable education and to provide better facilities for residential education of the poor tribal children from the interior villages of Somonpara, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, FAsCE India facilitated and equipped the newly constructed Boy's Hostel with basic and necessary furniture: desks, benches, tables, chairs, dining tables, cots etc. The objective of this project is to access quality residential education at low cost to the poor tribal children living in distant villages in and around Somonpara where they have no facility for quality education, thereby preventing illiteracy, school dropout and child labour. The newly furnished hostel would enhance a better ambience for study and learning.





Children's Day 2021: This year FAsCE celebrated Children's Day at central and community levels with colourful cultural and sport events The aim of the celebration was to promote, motivate and educate children and the stakeholders about child rights, care and education of children.





Bongaon & Ekrabari: A combined centre level celebration was held for the children from FAsCE Supplementary Education Centres of Bongaon and Ekrabari on November 13, 2021 at Ekrabari Village. The children and project staff from the two centres came together to mark the occasion with cultural dance performances, games and sports events. Fr Lijeesh Mathew MSFS graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He exhorted the children to set a goal in their life and make good use of the opportunities given to them to excel in their studies and character. He also appreciated the children for their performances and active participation in the day's event.





Amsing Jorabat: On November 14, 2021 Children's Day was celebrated at Amsing Jorabat. The community members organised the event facilitated by FAsCE India. Over 20 variety cultural items were presented by the children of the community. The entire community gathered to witness the colourful performances of the children. Fr Lijeesh Mathew, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest, spoke about the importance of school education and encouraged





the children to make use every opportunity to get educated in order to become responsible citizens of tomorrow. Addressing the gathering, Fr Saji George appreciated the efforts of the community for putting up the programme and exhorted the children to keep up their good spirit and motivated them to excel in their academic pursuits.

Narengi: The Children's Day celebration was held on November 26, 2021 in Memier Hall, Narengi, Rev. Fr Sabu Francis MSFS, Provincial of MSFS Guwahati Province graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, Fr Saji George, Fr Antony Kattathara were among the guests of honour along with the fathers from the Provincialate community and sisters from Venerini Convent, Satgaon. A speech on the significance of the day was delivered by Miss Lakshmi Kumari. The visually chalanged children from Jyoti Nikethan, performed a spectacular musical number. Children from Ekrabari and Bongaon centres presented modern Garo and Assamese dance performances. Enthralling the audience children from host centre Narengi gave mesmerising choreographic performances and traditional Assamese Bihu Dance. During the programme the first batch of students from Narengi centre who successfully passed their HSLC and HS Examinations were felicitated by the Chief Guest.





Manikbond: FAsCE Supplementary Education Centres at Manikbond under the leadership of Fr Clean Arengh celebrated Children's Day on November 19, 2021. The children from nine centres had put up variety entertaining programmes. Manikbond being a multicultural and multilingual place it was apt that children displayed the traditional dances of Ranglong, Chorei and Bengali dances. It was an inspiring event for others to observe and learn from children as they performed a skit on environmental issues especially depicting the future reality and need to use oxygen mask if environment is not taken care of at present. Fr Mathew Muriyankariyal, Principal of St. Joseph's School, Manikbond was the Chief Guest of the day inaugurated the event and later inspired the children with his effective message of the day. Along with guardians and parents, a total of 290 participants were present for the occasion.





Hatishila: On November 19, 2021 around 100 children participated in the Children's Day celebration at Hatishila. There were various cultural dances by the students. Various games were conducted for the students as well as for the members and the prices were given out for the winners. Fr Lijeesh Mathew, the Chief Guest of the day, addressed the gathering stressing on the important of education of children and their rights.





Somonpara, Meghalaya: Children's Day was celebrated at St. Francis De Sales School, Somonpara, Meghalaya on November 13, 2021. The children and teachers of 4 Supplementary Education Centres from Debelagre, Boldamgre, Dopogre and Somonpara came together for the celebration. Rev. Fr John Kelamkuzhackal, Local Director of FAsCE, Somonpara graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He spoke on the importance of the day and encouraged the children for all-round development by being focussed in their studies and participating in co-curricular activities. Hundred children from the all the Supplementary Education Centres, participating in the celebration made the day colourful and fun filled with variety cultural programme, sport and games.





Sualiluka, Sampathar and Killingok: FAsCE India in collaboration with FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre's staff and village leaders organized Children's day celebration in the interior villages of Sualiluka, Sampathar and Killingok. The occasion marked variety entertainment programmes, skit, sports and games.





Chapar, Dhubri: Children's day was observed with various programmes and cultural events at the project areas at Chapar from November 14-17, 2021. The FAsCE Project Team, organized the programme at various centres. Fr Stephen Marayikulam graced the occasion as the chief guest. The children staged cultural items and participated in various sports and games.







"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work."

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Fransalian Youth Convention at Manikbond: Fransalian Youth Mission in collaboration with FAsCE India organized Fransalian Youth Convention, held from December 10-12, 2021 at St. Joseph's Parish, Manikbond, Assam. The theme of the Convention was: "Young Man I Say to You Arise." Rev Fr Mathew Muriyankuriyal, the Chief Guest, hoisted the flag and declared the Convention opened. In his message, the Chief Guest appealed the young people, to be good leaders and to lead by exemplary life because the future of the nation depends on the educational and spiritual exposure and strength of the youth. In all, 180 youth from several villages took part in the convention. The Resource persons Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Mission, Fr Clean Areng, the Parish Priest and Sisters, pointed out the importance of growing in knowledge and being good and educated individuals in order to be good leaders in the society. Various cultural competitions were conducted and prized were awarded.





Youth Convention at Bahalpur: A similar convention was organized at St Jude's Parish, Bahalpur, held from December 17-19, 2021. Rev Fr Stephen Marayikulam, inaugurated the convention. Fr John Barman, Fr Marcellinus War and Rev Fr Joe Varghese and Sisters were the resource persons. The resource persons enlightened the youth with various relevant topics like; Education, Health and Hygiene, Motivation etc. Around 40 youth took part, that aimed at giving them platform to share knowledge and to bring change in society.



PROMOTION OF HEALTH

Free Health Camp, Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign at Somonpara: On November 11, 2021, Free Health Camp was organized at SFS School Somonpara, West Garo Hills Meghalaya by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with the office of the District Medical and Health

offices (DHMO) and District Social Welfare (DSW), West Garo Hills. A day long mega health camp was held to mark the Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign to provide and create awareness on number of free-services available. FAsCE India Somonpara provided help-desk support to facilitate and share information about the free health services and how to avail these service to the participants of this camp. Many specialist like Orthopaedics, Dermatologist, paediatric Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, ENT were



available for the medical camp and all vertical programmes like Mega Health Insurance, Aadhaar enrolment, ICDS, community and Rural Development were also accessible. District Legal Services, routine Vaccination, Covid vaccination, and adolescent health services were also provided. A sizable numbers of students, village people, Nokma, Sordar and members of Self Help Groups benefitted from the free medical service. Around 900 patients from 15 villages received specialist care and other services.



Health Camp and Awareness Programme at Amsing Jorabat: FAsCE facilitated Health Camp and Awareness Programme in collaboration with National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati under ICMR Project "Integrated Information System to interpret, integrate and mitigation of cardio metabolic Health Care" and Regional Research Institute (Homeopathy) Guwahati on December 04, 2021 in Amsing Jorabat. The medical camp was began with an inaugural programme in which, Miss Chaya Kalita from FAsCE India briefed about the objectives of the camp and welcomed the Doctors, Medical Personnel and the medical personal from Amsing Jorabat. The 16 member medial team, consisted of Lab technicians, pharmacists and 4 doctors conducted comprehensive health check up with on-spot pathology test for recommended patients. There were 147 beneficiaries. Medicines were freely distributed to the patients during the camp. The day long medical camp ended with a vote thanks from Fr. Saji George, Executive Director of FAsCE. He thanked the medical team their commitment and service and he also appreciated the volunteers from FAsCE Self Help Group for organizing the day meticulously.





Medical Camp at Gobardan Village: On December 08, FAsCE organized Health Camp and Awareness Programme for Tribal Population in collaboration with NIPER and RRI (H) Guwahati. Miss Chaya Kalita presented the objectives of programme welcomed the doctors and medical team on behalf of FAsCE India. The 18 member medial team consisted of doctors, lab technicians, and pharmacists conducted comprehensive health check up with on-spot pathology test for recommended patients. There were 203 beneficiaries and they expressed their satisfaction in getting free medical care and medicines. Fr Saji George in his concluding remarks expressed gratitude to NIPER and RRI Team for collaborating with FAsCE India to reach out the deserving people in the villages.





PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Guwahati: Every year FAsCE India observes Gandhi Jayanti by organising Awareness Programme and Cleanliness Drives in it centres, in keeping with the cleanliness programme "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" launched in 2014 with an aim to fulfil the dream of Clean India as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. Accordingly, awareness programme and cleanliness drive was held on October 02, 2021 at various project areas in and around Guwahati: Geeta Mandir, Bongaon, Ekrabari and Chandrapur. The respective resource persons at various localities highlighted on the significance of the day "Gandhi Jayanti" which is also celebrated as Rashtriya Swachhta Diwas and the importance of a clean and healthy environment for a happy living.





Clean Drive at Chapar: The local community leaders and children from the FAsCE Supplementary Centres, actively participated in the Swachh Bharat Mission, initiated at different locations in Chapar. Mr Wahid Hussain, the Local Animator, in collaboration with other staff organized the day with various activities. Miss Chaya Kalita from FAsCE Head Office was the resource person. She explained the gathering about the importance of the day and the significance of a clean environment. The clean drive was initiated in two different localities.





COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

Three days, on November 10 & 27 and December 18, 2021, FAsCE India organized community social work to facilitate the construction of Mr Jafranus Munda at Taltala, Guwahati. The FAsCE family members from Amsing Jorabat, Hatishila and Bongaon came together to engage in community service for this noble cause. These volunteers of goodwill carried the house-building materials to the site of construction at Taltala, a locality situated in a hillock which was very difficult to







reach. MSFS FAsCE has sponsored the construction of the house for Mr Jafranus Munda, who is living in a very poor condition with his family in a makeshift hut without any amenities. Fr Saji George, on behalf of FAsCE India, appreciated and thanked the volunteers for their hard work and whole hearted support in time of need.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING VISITS

Review Meeting at Manikbond: The monthly review meeting was conducted at Seva Kendra in Manikbond under the chairmanship of Fr Clean Arengh. In the review meeting the project team evaluated and assessed the progress of the Self Help Groups and Supplementary Education Centres. During the meeting the facilitators of Supplementary Education Centres demonstrated various activities.





Monitoring Visit and Review Meeting at Chapar: The FAsCE Head Office team visited the Supplementary Education Centres at Chapar from 13-14, December 2021. The team interacted with the staff and students of Supplementary Education centres, exhorted the children to pursue in their studies and cocurricular activities, distributed study materials and sports items.





The visiting team, Fr Saji George, Fr Antony Kattathara, the Director Designate, Miss Chaya Kalita, Project Coordinator, had also review meeting with the project staff at Chapar under the leadership of Fr Stephen Marayikulam. Presiding over the meeting, Fr Saji George gave an overview of the project, its timeline activities and emphasised on ownership, unity and affectionate nurturing of children for their well-being and

positive impact of the project on its beneficiaries and stakeholders. During the meeting the staff shared their thoughts, activities and progress of the project.





Monitoring Visit and Final Evaluation at Somonpara: As the project "Formation and Strengthening of 40 Self Help Groups (SHGs) for improved Livelihood at Somonpara, West Garo Hills Dist., Meghalaya" is its due completion on January 31, 2022, a final evaluation was conducted for assessing the impact and result of the project. Fr Saji George and Fr Antony Kattathara, Director designate, accompanied by the project staff at Somonpara, monitored the project location, the income generating activities, adult literacy centres and the supplementary education centres.









The final evaluation was carried out with the following objectives: to assess the project and the implementation of its activities; to evaluate the effectiveness, involvement and role of the staff in the project activities; to study the success of the project through field visit, interview of the beneficiaries; to review the documentation; and the sustainability of the project.





SPECIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

International Day of the Girl Child: Every year, October 11 is observed as the International Day of the Girl Child. The occasion marks the importance of adolescent girl children and attempts at identifying their power and potential by opening opportunities for them. It also aims at amplifying and empowering the voices of adolescent girls around the globe. Through observing this day, an attempt is made to talk about and eradicate the issues concerning adolescent girl children. Throughout the world, girls face gender-based challenges such as child marriage, discrimination, violence, and poor learning opportunities. International Day of the Girl Child 2021 was observed under the theme of 'Digital Generation. Our Generation.'





Amsing Jorabat & 10th Mile, Guwahati: FAsCE celebrated International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, 2021 under the theme "Digital Generation Our Generation" at community level and centre level. In Amsing Jorabat and 10th Mile the community level programme began with a short inaugural ceremony. In his inaugural address, Fr Saji George, highlighted the importance of girl child and role the role they play in nation building. The children from FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi staged a skit play on the topic "Beti Hai toh Kal Hain" sending out the message of gender equality to build a more inclusive digital society through providing equitable opportunities for girl child. The programme was able to reach out to more than 200 people from these two communities.





Chapar, Bahalpur: In Chapar the day was observed in two Supplementary Education Centres under the leadership of Community resource persons. Addressing the children and other participants from the community, the resource persons spoke on rights to have a safe, educated and healthy life. It was rightly observed that girl children too have the potential to change and transform the world.





World Sight Day: World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day set apart for the awareness to focus the global attention on blindness and vision impairment. It is the most important advocacy and communications event, on the eye health calendar and a great time to engage with the world at large. FAsCE India organized a Blind Walk at Amsing Jorabat, Guwahati on World Sight Day to express solidarity with 40 million visually challenged people. 'Love your Eyes' was the theme for this year. About 100 blind-folded children and Self Help Group Members participated in the event. The Walk was flagged off by the Director of FAsCE India. It was followed by a cultural programme. The senior children of FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi presented a special dance performance with blind folds. Concluding the programme, Fr. Saji George in his message shared the aim of such event: to help those with vision to understand a little better what it is like for the visually-impaired people to move around through our gestures of solidarity and inclusive activities. He expressed that FAsCE India stands united for the visually challenged people and promote eye donation.





Pre-Christmas Celebration: On December 22, 2021 FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi celebrated Pre-Christmas in the Mermeir Hall. The celebration of joy was graced by the Chief Guest, Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial of MSFS Guwahati Province, Guest of Honour, Mrs. Golapi Kalita, Fr Saji George, Fr Athnas Kerketta, Fr Antony Kattathara, Fr Jose Thekkel, Superior of Provincialate community and special invitees. Fr Athnas Kerketta, delivering the Christmas message, narrated the Christmas story and invited everyone to inculcate the value of love and peace. Fr. Sabu Francis, elucidated the joyous occasion of Christmas as a time for celebration, sharing gifts and spread of love. He also appreciated the studding performance of children on the occasion. Golapi Kalita, who graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour distributed Christmas gift consisting, school bag, geometry box and note books to more than 75 children.







PHOTO GALLERY

















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