



FAsCE India

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India

FAsCE India Newsletter

(For private circulation only)

January - March 2018

Vol. 6, No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE

Inauguration of Boys' Hostel at Umwhalang

Launching of a New Venture at Chandrapur

Empowering to be Sustainable Through Alternative Livelihood

Training on Cluster Level Federation

National/international Day Celebration

A Special Day for FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi

Promotion of Health

Visitation of Vitamin Angels Team from Mumbai

Monitoring Visits

Office Updates

Social Orientation Programme

Applause to FAsCE India

Photo Gallery



From the Director's Desk ...

The term empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. Empowerment as action refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, and to recognize and use their resources. To do work with power.



Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FAsCE India), the social action wing of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales in North East India, is totally committed to empowering and serving the poor and the marginalized, the powerless and the voiceless. Over the years, FAsCE India has been focusing on balanced and holistic empowerment, development and growth of individuals and communities through its interventions and people oriented projects and activities.

The first quarter of 2018 was very enriching and enlivening as it has witnessed various developmental and humanitarian programmes: a long-cherished dream became a reality when the newly constructed Boys' Hostel was inaugurated at Umwhalang, an interior village of Meghalaya. FAsCE India also focused on capacitating, empowering and strengthening women through various training programmes, especially through the awareness and training on alternative income generating and formation of new Self Help Groups. Health awareness programmes and health camps were conducted in far-flung villages to promote health and healthy living environment. FAsCE India also joined the rest of the nation and the world in celebrating International Women's Day, Child Protection and Deworming Day and it also equipped the persons responsible for social work with social orientation programme.

As I place before you this issue of the FAsCE India Newsletter, may I humbly request you to support our continuing efforts of transforming people, communities, society and the world by reaching out to the children and youth, men and women, physically and visually challenged, poor and marginalized through your generous collaboration and valuable support. Let us continue to support, collaborate and promote progress. May God Bless You!

FAsCE India

MSFS Provincialate

Satgaon – Narengi, Udayan Vihar P.O.
Guwahati – 781 171, Assam, India
Tel.: 0361-2647867

Fr (Dr) Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS

Executive Director, FAsCE India

INAUGURATION OF BOYS' HOSTEL AT UMWHLANG



January 2, 2018 was a momentous day in the life of the people of Umwahlang, Meghalaya, as they witnessed the inauguration of the newly constructed boys' hostel. Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Nongstoin blessed the new boys' hostel while Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province, inaugurated the same in the presence of Miss Sylvia Prieth from Austria and other dignitaries. Fr Saji George, Director of FAsCE India, expressed his gratitude to Rev. Fr Mathai Ottappallil and Miss Sylvia Prieth for raising the fund for the project and materializing the long awaited dream of the people of Umwahlang. The project was initiated by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappliaparmabil, the Former Executive Director of FAsCE India, under the title "Providing Quality Residential Education to Tribal Children from Umwahlang and Surrounding villages in Meghalaya District, Northeast India" and the construction was supervised by Fr Antony Kattathara, Parish Priest and Local Superior of Umwahlang. The hostel has a capacity to accommodate 70 children. A well-organized colourful cultural event made the day very festive a memorable one.

LAUNCHING OF A NEW VENTURE AT CHANDRAPUR

Extending the services for socio-economically marginalized section of women, FAsCE India included fifteen existing Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Gobardhan village, Chandrapur as its beneficiaries. This new venture of FAsCE India was inaugurated by Fr Saji George on January 20, 2018, in the presence of the members and leaders of the 15 SHGs, leaders and elders of Gobardhan village, Fr Clean Arengh, Associate Director and Ms. Chaya Kalita of FAsCE India. This intervention to facilitate the women Self Help Groups at Gobardhan is to economically empower them, strengthen them with various capacity building and awareness programmes, make them self-reliant through alternative income generating activities for sustainable livelihood. The women of Gobardhan village appreciated FAsCE India for championing their cause and initiating such humanitarian projects for alleviating poverty and addressing the issue of illiteracy. This initiative of FAsCE India will enable the women of this under-developed village to be aware of their strengths, resources and rights and duties, besides, regular savings and internal loaning system will enable them to be economically independent to constitute a just society.



EMPOWERING TO BE SUSTAINABLE THROUGH ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD

Training on Mushroom Cultivation at Chandrapur: Skill development, capabilities enhancements and development of livelihood are the important concerns to help in alleviation of poverty. Through the training programmes on various income generating activities, the SHGs are initiated to take up alternative livelihood employment to surplus their earnings, in addition to their normal paltry daily wage and agricultural income. During this quarter, training programmes on mushroom cultivation were organized in Gobardhan village of Chandrapur Block for the members of fifteen SHGs on February 1, 2018. The mushroom cultivation training programme was conducted by Ms. Chaya Kalita and a team of FAsCE India. SHG leaders from Patharquary shared their success stories with the participants in mushroom cultivation and marketing in order to motivate and guide them during the training. The team demonstrated step by step the process of mushroom cultivation. The training was initiated in response to the need expressed by the members of the SHGs. 54 women actively participated in the training and their hand-on involvement during the session enabled them to grasp the method of cultivation in a better way.



Awareness on Alternative Livelihood at Somonpara: In Somonpara the income generating training on mushroom cultivation and candle making was held in four villages by the FAsCE India resource team. The training on income generating activities was conducted in two modules. The first module was an awareness programme about the alternative livelihood employment and second module was to impart some practical lessons to the participants. On March 13, 2018 a training on alternative livelihood employment was held at FAsCE India Zonal Office at Somonpara. The sessions were conducted by Rev. Fr John Kelamkuzhackal MSFS, local Director of FAsCE India, along with the FAsCE India staff at Somonpara. 38 SHG leaders participated in the one day training programme. The meeting also chalked out various upcoming training and income generation programme in the coming year.



Mengkakre: A training on mushroom cultivation was held on 14 March 2018 at Mengkakre village. The day long programme began with a short inaugural function in which the guests of honour and resource persons were welcomed by the gathering. Fr Saji George inaugurated the training programme in the presence of Fr John Kelamkuzhackal, Fr Clean Areng and other village leaders and invited guests. The first part of the training was an input session on alternative livelihood employment and in the second session the members were taught how to cultivate mushroom through practical demonstration. The training was conducted under the leadership of Miss Chaya Kalita. 80 members from different SHGs actively participated in the training programme and benefited from the same.



Gambegre: On 15 March 2018, 77 SHG members participated in the skill training on income generating held at the Community Hall, Gambegre village. The programme began with a prayer, followed by a welcome ceremony.



In his inaugural address Fr Saji George emphasized the importance of learning various income generating activities. Fr Clean Areng highlighted the different kinds of income generating activities and their advantages. The first part of the training focused on an awareness on the advantages of various alternative income generating activities and their marketing in the given areas, in the given situation. In the post lunch session, the participants were initiated into mushroom cultivation in the presence of the Sub Divisional Officer of Gambegre Block. With a keen interest they observed the various stages of mushroom cultivation.



Training on Candle Making, Nalnpara: The women of Nalnpara village were keen to take up Candle Making as their alternative income generating programme. The day's programme began with a formal inaugural session at the village school on March 16, 2018. Fr Saji George, speaking on the occasion, invited and encouraged the women to take up various alternative income generation activities for a sustainable life. Fr Clean stressed the importance of learning candle making in such a far-flung village, where there is no regular supply of electricity. The village chief, speaking on the occasion, supported the initiative taken by FAsCE India in Women Empowerment. Miss Chaya Kalita introduced the women into candle making training. Some of the

participants tried their hand to make candles. 44 SHG members learned candle making.

TRAINING ON CLUSTER LEVEL FEDERATION

Mengkakgre: A training on Cluster Level Federation was held in Mengkakgre village of Somonpara. In the training, the women were made aware of the importance of formation of federation, advantages of federation and the various schemes that are available at the block and governmental level. The Federations are formed with the





following objectives: To facilitate linkages between SHGs and banks/govt. agencies/local institutions; To have better access to development information and marketing linkages; To help in achieving sustainability of SHG; To strengthen (through training, information dissemination, on-site support, etc) the capacity of member-SHG in one or more of a variety of fields (book-keeping, accounting, marketing, financial management, advocacy, bank-linkage, accessing government schemes, to name

just a few); To undertake marketing of the produce of the members of the SHGs; To provide life/loan insurance services; To create the political/social space that women need to live their lives as fully as they desire to.

Gambgre: A similar training was held at Gambgre village on March 15, 2018. The participants were enlightened about the formation of the federation and its advantages. 80 women profited from the training.



NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

National Deworming Day

Together we can make a difference! FAsCE India joined hands with Vitamin Angels to observe the National Deworming Day on February 10, 2018 in Amsing Jorabat and Ekrabari, Guwahati. 120 children within the age of 1-16 years were administered albendazole tablets. Along with albendazole administration, an awareness on behavioural changes, cleanliness, hygiene, use of toilets, wearing shoes/chappals, washing hands etc. was given to the children and their parents. The objective of the day is to deworm all preschool and school children between the age of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life. Deworming removes worms in children, thus offering them a chance to optimal physical and mental development.



Child Protection Day

Assam has been the first state in India to observe Child Protection day on March 4, 2018. FAsCE India collaborated with the Adolescent and Child Rights Network Assam (ACRNA) on this historic day to make it a memorable and special one. The public function was conducted at Lachit Ghat in Fancy bazar, Guwahati. Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, ACRN, Assam Secretariat, Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Childline Barpeta, Dr. Shabina Ahmed, Pediatrician and Founder Director of Assam Autism Foundation, Fr Saji George, Executive Director, Fr Clean Areng, Associate Director of FAsCE India and head office staff were present on the occasion. The day was observed to highlight issues related to children namely, child trafficking, child labour, child marriage, etc. Shishu Sharoti, MSW students of Tata Institute of Social Sciences and children of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi depicted the relevant issues through educative and thought provoking skits and plays. During the programme, a video presentation on Child Sexual Abuse and Protection was shown to spread the message of the importance of protection of children. The organizing team addressed the audience of about 500 people from different walks of life and invited them to join the campaign for Child Protection and contribute their bit for making a child-friendly society. At the end of the three hour long programme on the Sunday Walk Zone and a busy road of the city, the central organizing team from ACRN, Childline Barpeta, FAsCE India, Matri Mandir and Assam Autism Foundation thanked the Kamrup district administration for their support in making all the necessary arrangements for hosting the first Child Protection Day successfully.



International Women's Day



Narengi: International Women's Day was celebrated at FAsCE India head office in Narengi to commemorate the political, social and economic achievements of our 40 Women's Self Help Groups of Guwahati. Women empowerment programme is an integral part of the of FAsCE India to spread awareness on their contributions, their roles and achievement as these women are from socially and economically marginalized section. Smt. Chetana Das, a popular Assamese artist, was the Chief Guest of the function and Rev. Fr. George



Panthanmackel, Provincial of MSFS North East India Province, solemnized the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The programme was kicked off with a prayer dance by children of FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre followed by colourful dance performances by the members of FAsCE SHGs. A skit on Dowry System was enacted by the Aklan Self Help Group, Patharquary to spread awareness on abolition of this social practice, violence against women and to promote gender equality. Addressing

the gathering, the Chief Guest, Smt. Chetana Das, appreciated the women for the efforts they make towards building a better future and emphasized on positive approach to life through positive action, thinking, empathy and physical wellbeing.

The Executive Director of FAsCE India, highlighting the theme of this year - "The Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives", urged that it is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, strengthen the process of women empowerment in all social settings, rural and urban and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potentials. Rev. Fr. George Panthamackel MSFS awarded the Best SHG Award for the year 2017 to Asha Self Help Group of Ekrahari and Jyoti Self Help Group of Amsing Jorabat.



Thingba Khullen and Thingba Khuno: Keeping in line with the tradition, the members of the Self Help Groups at Thingba Khullen and Thingba Khuno celebrated International Women's Day on March 5, 2018. The celebration was marked with colourful cultural programme staged by the SHGs and the women of Thingba Khullen and Thingba Khunou villages of Senapati District in Manipur under the leadership of Sr. Liseena, the Programme Coordinator.



A SPECIAL DAY FOR FASCE INDIA SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION CENTRE, NARENGI

On February 27, 2018, the children of the Supplementary Education Centre at Narengi received their uniform T-shirts. Rev. Fr George Poovathunkal MSFS, Principal of SFS Higher Secondary School, Narengi graced the occasion and inspired the young students with his encouraging words and lauded their improvements and growth towards positive transformation. Fr George distributed the new uniform T-Shirts in the presence of FAsCE India staff and teachers. The uniform fosters in the children a sense of belongingness and a feeling of equality with a sense of responsibility. Fr Clean Arengh MSFS, Associate Director of FAsCE India, expressed sincere gratitude to Fr. George for his availability, continuous and generous support for the implementation FAsCE Supplementary Education programme in the school premises.



PROMOTION OF HEALTH

Somonpara: Promotion of health is one of the thrust areas of FAsCE India and it focuses on community-wide approach to prevent diseases and promote health through various health awareness programmes on cultivating healthy habits, healthy lifestyle and hygiene. Besides, FAsCE India also conducts regularly free medical health check-ups for poor and marginalized sections in far-flung villages.



On January 16, 2018, FAsCE India Somonpara conducted a health awareness programme at Bolori village, Somonpara for the members of the Self Help Groups and women from the village community. The participants were enlightened on pregnancy and child-care. The resource persons, Ms. Martha and Mrs. Delchi Sangma, dealt on women reproductive health issues and nurturing care of children pertinent to the area. And the interactive way of discourse gave opportunity to 90 participants to bring various issues and queries for discussions. The awareness programme helped the participants to have a better understanding on various health issues related to women and it was also a time for them to clear up their misconceptions on various topics. During the sessions the preventive measures of unhealthy habits were also taken up and suggestions were made by the resource team and the participants for probable solutions to curb unhealthy practices to improve health conditions of individuals in their respective communities.

Gambegre Block: A second health awareness programme was held on January 17, 2018 at Gambegre block in Somonpara from 09:00 am to 03:00 pm. 85 participants attended the programme, Sr. Meritha, Sr. Mary and Mrs. Delchi were the resource persons of the day. The programme began with a short inaugural ceremony. Shri. Granting Sangma, Development Officer of Gambegre Block Development Office, was the chief guest. The chief guest encouraged the participants to contribute to the development of their village with proactive



action on issues related to education and health. The resource persons educated the participants on women and child health; presented various nutrition and diet charts to explain about healthy food habits. During the interactive sessions and discussions various health issues of women were taken up. The preventive and curative methods were elucidated to the participants. One of the participants expressed that such programme can help them and their family to live healthy life and enable them to find remedy for common and seasonal illnesses.

Manikbond: Two health camps were organized in Manikbond. The first one was at Nilkantopur on February 21, 2018 at the village coaching centre. The camp was conducted by the staff of St. Joseph's Dispensary under the supervision of medical personnel Sr (Dr) Anjali SD and Sr Betty SD. 120 patients benefitted from the camp. Most of them were anemic, they were referred to dispensary for continuing their treatment. Free medicines were distributed and few patients with diarrhea and fatigue were also given treatment. A second health camp was held on February 28, 2018. Around 128 patients received the free health check-up and free medicines were distributed to them.

In this camp, two mentally ill persons were identified and were advised to continue their treatment and medications. The successfully conducted health camps were coordinated by the animators and staff of St. Joseph's Dispensary.



Narengi: A comprehensive medical health check-up was conducted for 180 children of FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi on March 22, 2018. The medical camp was organized at the premises of SFS Higher Secondary School, Narengi. The medical team of specialist doctors in pediatrics, ENT, and General medicines, headed by Dr. Santanu from Project CHILD (Child Health Intellectual and Lifestyle Development) conducted the medical check-up for the children. During the check-up the health cards were updated and those with chronic illness of skin and malnutrition were referred for further medical care and follow-up. Under the guidance of Fr Saji George, Director of FAsCE India, the volunteers of Supplementary education Centre and MSW interns from Tata Institute of Social Sciences assisted facilitated the health camp.



VISITATION OF VITAMIN ANGELS TEAM FROM MUMBAI

On March 21, 2018, Dr Shilpa Bhatte, MD, Senior Program Advisor, India, Ms Shruti Menon, MPH, Program Associate, India and Mr Arvind Caulagi, Communication Manager, India from Vitamin Angels, Mumbai office visited FAsCE India head office. The Vitamin Angels team had a fruitful discussion with Fr Clean Areng MSFS, Associate Director and staff of FAsCE India. The Vitamin Angels team appreciated their collaboration with FAsCE India in the venture towards reducing child malnutrition and blindness. Vitamin Angels is a close collaborator of FAsCE India and they supply Vitamin A to young children 6-59 months of age, and multivitamin supplements to pregnant women, who have no access to government sponsored, facility and community-based health services.



MONITORING VISIT

Narengi: The head office team of FAsCE India visited project sites and monitored the income generating activities taken up by the Self Help Groups of FAsCE India. The first monitoring visit was conducted on January 18, 2018. Fr Saji George, Director, Fr Clean Areng, Associate Director and Ms Chaya Kalita, Women's Coordinator visited the mushroom cultivation of Aklan SHG and Rashmi SHG in Patharquary.



Somonpara: During March 13-16 2018, Fr Saji George, Executive Director and Fr Clean Areng, Associate Director visited the project centre and zonal office at Somonpara, West Garo Hill District, Meghalaya. The team took stock of the activities, evaluated the project, chalked out plans for the third year along with Fr John Kelamkuzhakal, the Local Director and FAsCE India Staff at Somonpara. The visiting team travelled to the interior villages and communities of Somonpara to assess the Self Help Groups and their activities after the completion of the second year of project initiation and formation of SHGs. The 40 SHGs are now preparing for the formation of cluster level federations, the documentation and account books and register maintenance were also verified.



OFFICE UPDATES

Fr. Clean Areng MSFS, Associate Director and Ms. Regina B. Sereng, Programme Coordinator, took part in the State Level Workshop on Rights, Dignity and Solidarity of Domestic Workers in North East India organized by CDI on March 1, 2018 at OKDISCD Campus, Guwahati.

Ms. Regina B. Sereng, Programme Coordinator, participated in the meeting of Vitamin Angels Partners held on March 21, 2018 at NECHA, Sixth Mile, Guwahati.

To all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity!

Pope Francis



SOCIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

FAsCE India facilitated an orientation programme for the members of the Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum of the MSFS North East India Province on February 3-5, 2018 at Provincial house Guwahati. The Orientation Programme began with a prayer led by Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Ministry. Fr Saji George, welcomed all the participants, especially Fr Agnelo Fernandes, General Councillor for Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries, Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province and President of FAsCE India and Fr Christu Das, Director of Social Initiative for Growth and Networking



(SIGN), Ranchi Jharkhand. Fr Provincial in his inaugural address spoke about the significance and importance of social ministry. Fr Christu Das and Fr Angelo Fernandes were the resource persons. Fr Christu Das in his exposition, dwelt on the rationale for engagement in social ministry, Dignity of Human Persons; Research-based information about the place of operation; Inclusive, Integrated and Sustainable development; the Power of Appreciative Inquiry; Focus on Indigenous solutions; and Focus on building Human, Natural, Economic & Social Capital. The core of the presentation of Fr Agnelo Fernandes was "Towards Activating Fransalian Spirituality of Action: Six pillars and basis of its Spirituality", as a framework for responding to issues and situations. At the end of the presentations the participants were engaged in discussions on various themes like justice, peace and various topics pertaining to social and innovative ministry. The well-organized programme came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Jose Karipadathu, Secretary of Social and Innovative Forum of Northeast India.



APPLAUSE TO FASCE INDIA

"It gives me immense pleasure to know that FAsCE India, an NGO dedicated to social services, is going to publish its newsletter. Since its inception, FAsCE India has attached itself to that section of the society that needs our attention and care the most. It has always been alive to these needy. Especially its heart and soul dedication for the benefit of the underprivileged students through its Supplementary Education Centres are really remarkable and commendable. The students of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre in my school is outstanding in all spheres of their lives. By providing education to the financially backward students, FAsCE India has been able to bring about a change everyone is proud of. It is my sincere hope that the days yet to dawn will surely witness FAsCE India illuminating the society."

Smt. Pratima Das Karjee
Headmistress, Narengi High School





For private circulation only: Published by Managing Editor Fr Saji George MSFS
Associate Editors : Ms Regina Sereng & Miss Chaya Kalita
Contact us: 0361-2647867; faseindia@hotmail.com; directorfaseindia@hotmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/faseindianortheast>; Website: www.faseindia.com