



# FAsCE India

Fransaliam Agency for Social Care and Education in India

## FAsCE India Newsletter

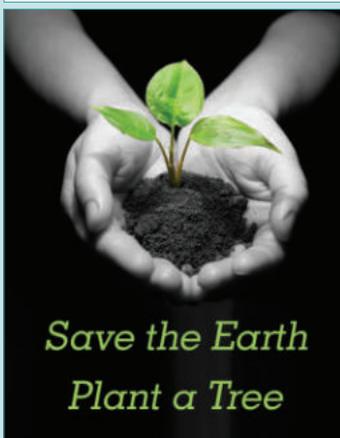
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### FAsCE India

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## From the Director's Desk ...

Capacity building is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, retain and use the knowledge, skills, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently or to a greater capacity. Community capacity building is a conceptual approach to social and behavioral change that leads to community development. It refers to strengthening the skills, competencies and abilities of people and communities in small businesses and local grassroots-movements so that they can achieve their goals and potentially overcome the causes of their exclusion and suffering. It simultaneously focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit people, governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from realizing their development goals and enhancing the abilities that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results.



Fransaliam Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FAsCE India), continuing its journey of 'promoting progress' through personal empowerment and social development, focused more on capacity building programmes at various thrust areas in the second quarter of the year 2018. Accordingly, training programmes were organized for the Women, Scholastics, Staff, Youth and Children as per the requirement at different areas of intervention. Besides, it also enhanced empowerment of its Self Help Groups through livelihood support, alternative income generating programmes and formation of Federations; promoted health through medical camp; joined the rest of the world in the celebration of World Environment Day and World Day against Child Labor; and expressed its hearty solidarity with the local communities by celebrating Rongali Bihu.

As I place before you this issue of the FAsCE India newsletter, may I humbly request all of you to continue to support FAsCE India with your sustaining and valuable collaborations, enriching contributions and accompanying prayers. Let us join together and continue to empower and capacitate the weaker sections of the society for a better tomorrow. God Bless You!

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

## MATERIALIZATION OF A LONG CHERISHED DREAM

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FAsCE India), in collaboration with SFS Community at Silapthar, could materialize the long cherished dream of Mr. Gobin Sarkar and his family to have a stable house and land of his own on April 8, 2018 when the newly constructed house was inaugurated and blessed by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior of MSFS Dibrugarh Region in the presence of Fr Peter Parankimalil, construction in charge and other fathers, sisters, Mr. Gobin and family, relatives and friends. The well-constructed concrete structure has five simple rooms including a kitchen. The painting, electrical wiring, plumbing and earth filling were done by Mr. Gobin at his expense. This house was a generous contribution to Mr Gobin, the faithful driver, who has been serving the SFS Mission Centre at Silapathar since 1976.



## EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

**Workshop on Caring Justice :** FAsCE India, in collaboration with MSFS Northeast India Province, facilitated a workshop cum seminar on Caring Justice for the scholastics at MSFS Study House, Shillong from June 25-27, 2018. Rev. Fr Christu Das, Director of Social Initiative for Growth and Networking (SIGN), Ranchi Jharkhand was the resource person. During the three-days' workshop, the resource person, unfolded the theme 'caring justice', analyzed the context, presented the current and future challenges, focused on human dignity and suggested concrete ways in which one can exercise 'caring justice' in daily life. The workshop included group discussions, debate, presentations, analysis, evaluation and other group activities, in which the participants actively involved. The scholastics found the workshop very useful. Dn Rojin thanked the resource person and the organizers.



**Social Animation Programme :** A Social Animation Programme was organized for the confreres of MSFS North East India Province from June 28-29, 2018 at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. The two days seminar began with a prayer led by Fr Luke Tanti which was followed by the words of welcome by Fr Saji George. Rev. Fr George Panthamackel, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province, in his exhortation, highlighting the present scenario, exhorted everyone to passionately involve in the promotion of human right and dignity. The Seminar under the theme "Faith that does Justice - Caring Justice" was animated by Fr Christu Das, Director of Social Initiative for Growth and Networking (SIGN), Ranchi Jharkhand. Fr Christu Das in his exposition, dwelt on the



themes: Caring Justice; Dignity of Human Persons; Inclusive, Integrated and Sustainable Development; Participatory and Right Based Approach and Indigenous solutions. The well-organized programme, which was attended by 28 participants from all over Northeast India, came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr Anthony Baruah.



**Youth Training Programme at Tato:** FASCE India facilitated the Youth Training Programme and Convention at Tato from April 12-16, 2018. Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Mission was the chief animator. At the outset of the programme, Fr Joseph Chackkalackal, Parish Priest at Tato accorded a very cordial welcome to everyone present and introduced the dignitaries. Mr A.R. Toppo, Officer in Charge of the GREF was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, advised the youth to live their faith as they are the future of the nation. Fr Ajit Daimari, Fr Xavier Daimari, Dn Francis, Dn Luke and Sr Jemma were the resource persons and they enlightened the group on various relevant topics pertaining to their lives. Mr Boya, the Principal of Secondary School, Tato spoke on the importance of Education and Mr Sintung Pujen, the Police in charge of Tato outpost interacted with the youth through his positive message. 130 youth from 20 villages participated in the event. The programme included input sessions, competitions, music and entertainment programmes. One of the participants, appreciating the well conducted programme, said that it was a wonderful and memorable experience and he expressed his wish to have such a programme every year at Tato.



**Awareness and Training Programme at Manikbond :** On May 28, 2018, an Awareness Programme and Training on Functions of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Govt. Schemes was organized by Manikbond Seva Kendra. Officials and coordinators from Block and NRLM were the resource persons. Sessions on how to conduct meeting in Self Help Groups according to NRLM norms were taught and information on various government schemes and linkages were presented to the participants and the procedures for the schemes application were also explained. 300 women benefited from this programme.



**Training on Detergent making :** About 30 women participated in a training module on making detergent to learn how to prepare good quality of detergents as an income-generating activity on May 1, 2018 at Patharquarry. The women were trained by Mrs. Dipali Murari, the Village Organizer from Amsing Jorabat. The aim of the programme was to enable women from various self-help groups (SHGs) to make detergents at home and sell it to generate additional income. Mrs. Murari said: at least 70 per cent of the women SHG members were likely to take up manufacture of detergents as an income-generating activity and the rest could teach other SHG members.



**Staff Training Programme at Somonpara:** The project titled: "Formation and Strengthening of 40 Self Help Groups (SHGs) for improved Livelihood" at Somonpara, West Garo Hills Dist., Meghalaya is in its third year. In order to equip the project staff, FAsCE India organized a staff training cum orientation programme on May 14, 2018 at Somonpara. Fr John Kelamkuzhackal MSFS, Local Director of FAsCE India, Somonpara welcomed the participants and highlighted the significance of the day. Ms. Poppy Marak, Senior Coordinator from MASK, Balipara, Assam, facilitated the session and prepared and oriented the project staff with various activities for the year. The training focused more on the functions and systems of the SHGs and the nuances of the cluster level Federation. The training programme was well appreciated by the participants.



**Training on Cluster Level Federation :** A training on Cluster Level Federation was held at Somonpara and Gambegre on 15th and 16th May respectively. Ms. Poppy Marak was the resource person. Through her input and interactive sessions, the resource person, made the participants aware of the importance of formation of federation, advantages of federation and the various schemes that are available at the block and governmental level. A total number of 95 SHG members participated in the training programme. The session module was conducted through presentation, discussion and group activities. The training on formation of Cluster level Federation enlightened the SHG members on understanding and awareness on the formation, nurturing and roles of SHG federations in facilitating and provision of services to strengthen the SHGs.



**Training on Food Processing and Preservation :** FAsCE India, in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India, organized a three days Training Programme on Food Processing and Preservation for the women of Gobordhan Village, Chandrapur as well as adjacent areas for their financial empowerment from May 23-25, 2018. The 40 participants have been trained to prepare and process various food products like Jams, Jelly, Pickles, Peda, Vegetable Salad, different types of squashes and sauce in training sessions. Smt. Pabitra Talukdar, Technical Officer and Shri. Charu Bahadur, multi-tasking staff from MWCD, Govt. of India, were the resource persons. At the conclusion of the three days training, Fr Saji George highlighted the importance of including food processing as part of the income generating activities of the participants and expressed his gratitude to the resource team for imparting such practical training and thanked the participants for taking keen interest in the training. Fr Jose Thekkel gave away the certificate of participation issued by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India to all the participants.



**FORMATION OF CLUSTER LEVEL FEDERATION**

The SHG Federation is a network of several SHGs and a structure evolved by SHGs members consisting of representatives from different geographical settings with a motive of supporting members to attain the goals of economic and social empowerment of women members and their capacity building. After having sufficiently given awareness on formation of cluster level federations, on 19th and 20th June 2018, two facilitation programmes were held at Gambegre and Somonpara respectively by Ms. Chaya Kalita, Women's Coordinator from FAsCE India.



During this programme 3 Cluster level Federations were formed and office bearers were selected from amongst the SHG members present for the formation meeting. The facilitator explained the purpose of the formation of the cluster level Federations, roles and responsibilities of its office-bearers and members.



## LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO DESERVING SHGS AT NARENGI

Enhancing the women of SHGs and heightening their livelihood activities, FAsCE India extended helping hand to its 16 eligible Self Help Groups by distributing livelihood support fund on May 26, 2018. Fr Santhosh Chavaranal MSFS, Provincial Bursar of MSFS Northeast India Province, the Chief Guest of the Day, in his address, highlighted the significance of initiating income generating activities to empower oneself as individuals and group. Applauding the efforts and achievements of the Self Help Groups, the Chief Guest encouraged them to continue their work with same fervor. The chief guest then distributed funds to the selected SHGs of FAsCE India. The selection of SHGs was on the basis of survey report on good performance and stable levels of saving and thrift. The recipients proposed to utilize the support for upgrading livelihood activities to enhance income of their groups. Speaking on the occasion Fr Saji George, Director of FAsCE India encouraged the members of SHGs and Federations to continue their efforts of improvement economically and socially. He also appreciated their ventures into various income generating activities like mushroom cultivation, candle making and pig rearing which have helped them to earn additional income for their families. The Director also informed about the different sources and credit linkages for upgrading their income generating activities. The children of the FAsCE India Supplementary center made the day very colorful through enchanting dance and song performances.



## NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

### World Environment Day Celebration

**Narengi:** In line with the theme of this year "Beat Plastic Pollution", FAsCE India celebrated World Environment Day (WED) on 5th June, 2018. Two main events, an Awareness Rally and Planting and Distribution of Saplings marked this occasion. The Awareness Rally was flagged off from SFS Hr. Sec. School, Narengi by Fr Abraham Ponvelil. Children from the FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre and members of the FAsCE India Self Help Groups actively participated in the rally carrying placards and festoons bearing thematic messages and shouting slogans.



The rally culminated at SFS School en route to Satgoan junction, followed by planting of saplings by Guests of Honour Fr Swarna Anil MSFS and Fr Tom Jose MSFS from Viskhapatnam Province. Fr Saji George stressed the importance of protecting the nature, which is a creation of God and encouraged everyone to plant more trees and beautify the nature. Rev. Fr Praveen Kumabttu, Provincial Secretary, distributed the saplings to the participants.

**Chandrapur:** In Gobardhan village, around 80 participants including leaders, elders and SHG members participated in the World Environment Day celebration. Fr Jose Thekkel MSFS, in-charge of Chandrapur centre animated the program in the presence of Fr Saji George and Ms. Chaya Kalita, Women's Coordinator from FAsCE India. Fr Jose, in his talk, called for awakening of individuals to take charge of protecting their environment and to realize the severity of plastic usage in daily life. The day's programme concluded with planting of sapling by Fr Jose Thekkel and the distribution of saplings to all the participants.



**Somonpara:** In Somonpara, FAsCE India local staff, SHGs, students and teachers of SFS School joined together to observe World Environment Day with an awareness programme and planting of saplings. The Nokma (Headman) of Somonpara graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Fr John Kelamkuzhackal MSFS emphasized on keeping the environment clean and green to save and protect our mother earth. After the inaugural program saplings were distributed to participants who planted the saplings in the SFS



School premises and in the surrounding area. The various groups of participants planted the saplings and adopted it in order to care and nurture the plants. Bamboo fences were put up around these saplings and names of the groups who adopted the plants were written on it.

## World Day Against Child Labour

Child Labour is a deep rooted problem in our country. The fundamental cause of this is poverty that forces the families to push their children to work for living. FASCE India has taken small measures to curb this menace through various projects and events. And one such programme is the Supplementary Education Centres which helps the school-going children from economically and socially marginalized families to gain free tuitions, motivation and guidance. This year, the "World Day Against Child Labour" was observed on 12



June 2018 in collaboration with Childline Guwahati. Fr Saji George addressed the resource team from Childline Guwahati, Ms. Bharati Das, Counsellor, Mr. Nitumoni Talukdar, Ms. Karishma Talukdar and Mr. Manish Kumar from Childline and they were welcomed with phulom gamochas. The awareness programme was animated by Ms. Bharati Das, Counsellor, Childline Guwahati. During the programme Ms. Bharati introduced Childline and its services to the children and video presentation on Child Labour, Child Marriage and Child Sexual Abuses and information on Good and

Bad Touch were shared through interactive sessions. Around 100 children benefitted from the highly informative programme.

## FASCE India Joins Rongali Bihu Celebration

Rongali Bihu is the festival of Assam celebrated to mark the first month of Assamese New Year during the spring time in the month of April. During the festivities surrounding Rongali Bihu, various cultural programmes and competitions are organized in every nook and corner of Assam. FASCE India showed its loving solidarity with the people of the locality by participating in the Bihu celebrations and competitions conducted in the neighbourhood. The dazzling dancers





from FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre entertained the festive crowd with their stunning performances at three stages in three localities: on April 18, at Pachim Satgaon Rongali Bihu Sanmilan; on April 22, at Satgaon Anchalik Rongali Bihu Sanmilan and on May 15, at Amsing Jorabat Anchalik Bogai Biday Utsav.

### ADIEU TO DEAR FR CLEAN ARENGH

A farewell programme was organized for Fr Clean Areng, Associate Director, by the students of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre and staff of FAsCE India on April 5, 2018 at the SFS Hr. Sec. School Conference Hall. Hafija Khatun, compere of the programme welcomed the gathering and the function began with the prayer dance by students. Fr Saji George thanked Fr Clean for his hard work, commitment, sense of responsibility, loving and caring nature and his commendable service to FAsCE India in his three years tenure as the Associate Director. He also specially appreciated the out-going Associate Director's talents in photo and videography. The children presented him a gift as a token of their love. In his farewell message, Fr Clean, thanked and appreciated FAsCE India and all the associates for their cooperation and support. He also congratulated the students for their remarkable growth. The farewell programme was sweetened by the mesmerizing performance of the budding stars of Supplimentary education centre. Earlier, on International Women's Day, the SHG members of FAsCE India said good bye to Fr Clean.



***"Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for human rights, on the protection of creation".***

*Pope Francis*



## SPECIAL DAY FOR THE CHILDREN AT EKRA BARI AND BONGAON

On April 30, 2018, the children of the Supplementary Education Centre at Ekra Bari received their uniform T-shirts. The FAsCE India Head Office team along with Bro. Shince MSFS and four TISS Interns carried out the distribution of uniform T-Shirts to 120 children in the presence of the village community. The distribution was preceded by various entertainment programme by the children.



On May 9, 2018 the children at FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Bongaon received their uniform T-Shirts from Fr Saji George. Mr. David Sangma, Mrs. Chameli Marak and Ms. Chaya Kalita, organized the short distribution programme. The uniform fosters in the children a sense of belongingness and a feeling of equality with a sense of responsibility.



## MEDICAL CAMP AT MANIKBOND

On May 1, 2018, a free medical camp was organized by Seva Kendra Manikbond in collaboration with Seva Kendra Silchar, PHC Patharkandi and YCA, Manikbond at St Joseph Health Centre, Manikbond. 445 patients from various villages benefitted from this medical camp.



## PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

The children of FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi, together with their teachers under the guidance of the FAsCE India Head Office, expressed their solidarity with the nation in pleading justice for Asifa Bano through a prayer service. Asifa Bano, an 8-year-old girl was abducted, raped and murdered in Rasana Village near Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir. The prayer service was held at SFS Higher Secondary School premises on 30 April 2018. 110 children, teachers, and FAsCE India staff joined by Fr Saji George paid floral tribute and observed silence to pray for the repose of Asifa's departed soul and also for justice.



## REFLECTIVE LEARNING BY THE STUDENTS OF TISS

Four B.Voc. CP (Bachelor of Vocation in Child Protection) Students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) had their block placement with FAsCE India from January 16 to April 25, 2018. Yuvraj Phukan, Manveer Singh Rawat, Manash Agnihotri and Tahir Talukdar actively involved in the various thrust areas of FAsCE India. Getting specialized in Child Protection, the interns involved themselves in survey, conducting awareness programme and teaching of children at FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre at Narengi and Ekrabari. They also extended their helping hand for the survey and grading of Self Help Groups. The students did their placement practicum under Ms. Chaya Kalita, Women Coordinator of FAsCE India.



**Remarkable Opportunity:** "FAsCE India provided me a remarkable opportunity to learn and develop my interpersonal as well as leadership skills. I got ample opportunities to interact with the people and children of different communities by participating in various programs: conducting surveys, teaching, organizing workshops etc. I really applaud the role of the authorities from FAsCE India and the change they are trying to bring pertaining to various areas of livelihood and education. I am very happy to have received this opportunity at a very tender age of my career." *Yuvraj Phukan*

**Great Learning:** "The field work area assigned to me by FAsCE India was the urban communities near railway line in Narengi and Garo Community at Ekrabari, Panikhaiti. I worked on various child centric issues like education, violence and identified irregular and dropout children. I also got the opportunity to work with several women's Self Help Groups under FAsCE India and also performed several other objectives on the field which were part of our course



curriculum. It was a great learning experience as it provided me with the opportunity to work with various categories of people, especially with the children. I am convinced that the endeavours and the systematic work of the organization will definitely bring down the number of dropout children in the locality and help many children to join regular schools in the future. I oblige my gratitude to FAsCE India." **Manveer Singh Rawat**



**Incredibly Monumental:** "My experience of working with FAsCE India was incredibly monumental. Being able to work in the remotest parts of Guwahati with people from different background and ethnicity has given a cutting edge to my pool of experience. Working with the SHGs and teaching the children at FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre has helped me in refining my skills as well as my knowledge about the key development challenges in the area. I feel confident and optimistic about the organization's success in all its future endeavours and wish them good luck." **Manash Agnihotri**

**Memorable Experience:** "Working with FAsCE India was very memorable with lots of new experiences. I got many opportunities to reflect on myself as a social worker. Interning with FAsCE India, I could develop my inner self. The exposure and experience I gathered from FAsCE India was very unique and worthwhile. I obtained a lot of practical experience in various fields through working with Self Help Groups, children and various other programs." **Tahir Talukdar**



## OFFICE UPDATE

**Ms. Regina B. Sereng**, Programme Coordinator of FAsCE India, participated in the MATRI (an association for the advocacy of child rights) Annual Day on April 7, 2018 held at Guwahati Club. She also represented FAsCE India at a Discussion on Walkability in Guwahati - a programme on walkability issues in Guwahati - organised by Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education [CEE], North Eastern Regional Cell on May 16, 2018 at Swahid Bhavan Hall, Uzanbazar, Guwahati.

**Miss Chaya Kalita** represented FAsCE India at the 5th Convocation of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on May 30, 2018 at Pragjyotish ITA Centre, Machkhowa, Guwahati. She was also invited as an External Examiner to conduct Viva Voice Examination for Vocational Practical Students (Semester IV) on June 29, 2018 at TISS, Guwahati Campus.

## MY EXPERIENCE AT FASCE INDIA

My one month of work in FAsCE India was very memorable. During this I learned a lot. FAsCE India takes up developmental works in different fields which gave me exposure and opportunity to gather knowledge about a diverse set of fields. FAsCE India provided me an excellent platform to learn and practice social work theory in field. It has enriched my knowledge of social work and helped me to grow as a future social worker. Through the baseline surveys I got a glimpse of the problems faced by people of remote areas. Teaching students at the Supplementary Education Centre enabled me to deal with students of different age group. I was lucky enough to get a chance to interact with the SHG members and to understand their work process and the role of micro finances in uplifting rural women. I got opportunities to participate in different awareness programs organized by the organization and learnt about 'awareness about things' can make a lot of difference and help to make situations better. As FAsCE India has various thrust areas I got a chance to work in diverse field. Through this one month social work programme I realized the need of intervention by social workers to the rural areas about various issues such as education, health care, road linkage, water facilities, sanitation and many more. FAsCE India is doing a commendable job in uplifting the various communities. I feel incredibly fortunate of getting a chance to work in such an organization which has helped me to develop not only professionally but also as a person. **Bro Shince P Tomy MSFS**



*(Bro. Shince has completed his MSW studies and is presently pursuing his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore. FAsCE India gratefully acknowledges his service)*

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