



FAsCE India

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Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FAsCE India) is formed for rural development, social awareness in all spheres of day-to-day activities, moral and general education and to cater to humanitarian causes irrespective of cast, creed, religion, community or language. It aims at undertaking various social activities and all-round development of the living conditions of the entire community by organizing various programmes and activities. FAsCE India creates social awareness and encourages a sense of active involvement of the people in social, charitable, humanitarian and philanthropic services with the aim and objective of attaining and developing a sense of social responsibility.



Social awareness is the ability to comprehend and appropriately react to both the problems of society as well as interpersonal struggles. In the third quarter of 2018, FAsCE India concentrated more on capacitating, empowering and strengthening the people through social awareness programmes at various levels: Legal Awareness for Women, Awareness on Right to Education and Right to Information for the Teachers, Awareness on Ill Effects of Alcoholism, Human Trafficking, Awareness for the Parents of Visually Challenged Children etc. It also enhanced the empowerment of the children through education and participation by creating new opportunities, opening new Supplementary Education Centre, organizing Free Mathematics and Tuition Classes, providing platform for developing their talents and aptitude and organizing summer camp with various creative activities. Timely interventions were also made in health care and livelihood sector.

As I place this issue of FAsCE India Newsletter before you, I humbly acknowledge your share and support in our efforts and endeavours in touching and transforming the lives of the differently abled, children, youth, men, women, the poor and the marginalized. Let us continue to pray and support each other to create an ambience of social transformation in this world. May God Bless You!

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



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EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Awareness on Right to Education and Right to Information: On July 31 to August 1, 2018 awareness programmes on Right to Education and Right to Information was held for the teachers of SFS School, Somonpara at the school premises. The programme began with an inaugural session in which the resource persons Mr Issac Thomas and Mr Shijo Thomas from ASK (Attitude, Skill and Knowledge) were welcomed and felicitated with traditional Garo head gear and bouquet of flowers. Fr John Kelamkuzhakal MSFS, the Principal of SFS School, introduced the subject matter and highlighted its importance. During the input sessions, the resource persons stressed upon the role of the teachers as catalyst of transformation through knowledge and sharing the information on the Right to Education among the students, parents and women groups of their respective village communities. In the second session on Right to Information, the resource person explained the Act and the processes for filing an RTI to avail information on Acts, schemes and policies of Government and its various departments. At the end of the programme the project coordinator proposed the vote of thanks to the resource persons, the organising project staff, teachers and the local Director for this support and guidance.



Legal Awareness Programme: A legal awareness programme was held on August 18, 2018 at Bolori village in Somonpara. Mr Benjamin Rema, the local project Coordinator welcomed the resource-persons Advocate Mrs Silme Sangma and Advocate Ms Pringchi Momin with garland and Garo traditional head-gear. Fr John Kelamkuzhakal, the Local Project Director, village heads (Nokmas) and leaders along with 110 participants mainly the SHG members from all the forty SHGs attended the awareness programme. Mrs Silme Sangma introduced the various laws under Constitution of India and the rights to the participants. Reference of various rights for women and children were explained and the pertinent laws such as Child Labour Act, Domestic Violence Act 2005, Right to Education [RTE], Health and Social Care Act 2012 were highlighted. Ms Pringchi Momin, in her discourse emphasised the importance of Legal Awareness and enables to know ones legal rights, to understand procedure and the method of access to the legal system.



Awareness on Ill Effects of Alcoholism: FASCE India Somonpara organized an awareness programme on ill-effects of Alcoholism on September 7, 2018. This programme was organised to create awareness among the community members at the village level. There were 90 members from various SHGs and Federations including the students from SFS School took part in this programme. It began with an introduction by Mr Benjamin Rema, Coordinator and words of welcome by Fr John Kelamkuzhakal MSFS. Dr Paruna G. Momin was the resource person. In her talk Dr Purna highlighted the ill-effects of alcoholism, its negative impact on the family and the society, its effect on behaviour, health, immune system etc. She also emphasised the need of community and educational interventions through the formation of advocacy groups and life skill training



to students and youth, in order to spread the awareness of the negative consequences of drinking. The informative programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr Thirsty Marak, Field Animator of FAsCE India, Somonpara.

Awareness on Human Trafficking: A community level awareness programme on human trafficking was held by FAsCE India on August 21, 2018 at SFS campus, Somonpara. The programme began with a short inaugural session in which Mr Benjamin Rema, Project Coordinator, welcomed and felicitated the resource



person Ms Rupatchi Sangma. Fr John Kelamkuzhakkal, in his introductory speech highlighted the importance of the day and explained the objectives of the programme to the participants. Ms Rupatchi Sangma, in her input sessions gave an overview on Human Trafficking in our country and Northeast India in particular. She spoke about the *modus operandi*, of the common, who entice and mislead the uneducated parents in sending their children away, in the hope of a better living and brighter future. But most of the time these children become victims of domestic violence and human

trafficking. She further explained the critical preventive measures, POCSO Act (2012) and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and focussed on the role of local communities in the fight against human trafficking by taking up awareness programme, community surveillances, forming vigilance committee etc. 90 SHG members got enlightened by this very informative and relevant programme.

Capacity Building Programme for Teachers: The noble and demanding profession 'Teaching' requires regular updating, motivation as well as mental, emotional and spiritual rejuvenation. Realizing this a capacity building programme for the teachers of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centres of Narengi, Ekrabari and Bongaon was organized on August 30, 2018. 12 teachers along with the staff participated in the training programme. The resource person, Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Mission, highlighted the requisite skills of teachers namely behaviour, attitude and teaching skills. The teachers were given also instructions as to how to prepare lesson plans for their respective subjects in order to enable the children with better learning and understanding. The training programme came to an end with the appreciation and concluding remarks by Fr Saji George.



Awareness Programme for the Parents of the Visually Challenged Children: Attitude is a vital ingredient for the success or failure of children with visual impairment in their optimum development. To highlight the importance of the role of the parents in the lives, upbringing, growth, development and education of the visually challenged children, Jyoti Niketan School for the Visually Challenged, Guwahati, in collaboration with FAsCE India conducted an awareness programme for the parents of the visually challenged children on September 25, 2018. The input sessions were held by Ms Chaya Kalita, Women's Coordinator of FAsCE India. She dealt with various topics like Right to Education, Role of Parents, Scholarship Programmes, Community Health and Hygiene, Formation of Self Help Groups etc.



PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

New Supplementary Education Centre in Telam: FAsCE India once again highlighted its priority in the thrust area of Promotion of Child Rights and Empowerment of children by opening yet another supplementary education centre under the motto "A Child Labour Free Neighbourhood through Education and Participation" at Dekapam, Amlokhi Pait village in Telam, Assam. Fr Jose Mundoly, the Superior of SFS Mission, Telam inaugurated the new centre on August 10, 2018. In his inaugural address, Fr Jose spoke about the importance of education for a better tomorrow. Around 47 children will benefit from this centre through regular tuition classes, capacity building and awareness programmes, extra-curricular and various creative activities. Mr Bijoy Doley, Coordinator of FAsCE India along with other teachers will facilitate the centre. This is the second centre of this nature in Telam. The already existing Mother Theresa Study centre at Dekapam is in full swing.



Free Mathematic Tuition Class: Mathematics is the science that deals with the logic of shape, quantity and arrangement. Math is all around us, in everything we do. It is the building block for everything in our daily lives, including mobile devices, architecture, art, money, engineering, and even sports. However, many students drop out of the school as they are not able to cope up with the study of maths. In order to help the children in coping with maths, this year too, FAsCE India Somonpara organized a month long (July 2018) free Mathematics tuition classes for the students of Class 9 and 10 at SFS School, Somonpara. There were 58 students from 7 different schools of



Somonpara. Mr Lathu Gogoi, a renowned mathematics teacher was the resource person. The tuition classes enabled the students to clarify their doubts, better their understanding of the concepts and theory with extensive maths practice under the guidance of the able teacher. The students expressed their gratitude for holding the Mathematic tuition free of cost which helps them to perform well and score good marks in their Board examinations.



Summer Camp at Supplementary Education Centres: With the aim to empower the children with various extracurricular activities, FAsCE India organized a week long summer camp for the children of Supplementary Education Centres in Narengi and Bongaon in July 2018. Around 110 children participated in the exciting and fun filled activities at Narengi. Ms Kritanjali Gogoi, an MSW intern from NEF College of Management and Technology Guwahati, animated the various activities. Ms Mona Murari taught them craft work assisted by the coordinator Ms Chaya Kalita and teachers of the centre. The purpose of the summer activities was to engage children in activities they find both enjoyable and meaningful; to give them an opportunity to learn and develop skills like painting, craftwork, dance, group games, skits etc. During the camp awareness talks too were given on various issues like environment, discipline, health and hygiene especially to the adolescent children.



At Bongaon, various activities were conducted for the children by Ms Chameli Marak. There were 24 children, who participated in the camp. A painting competition on different topics were held at Bongaon.

Consultation cum Workshop on Child Marriage and Education: Adolescent and Child Rights Network, Assam with the support of UNICEF organised 5 days Adolescents' and Children's Consultation on Child Marriage and Education from September 20-24, 2018 at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, Guwahati. Ms Afsana Khatun, Ms Samiran Khatun, Ms Neesha Khatun and Ms Ritu Roy from FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi and 60 children hailing from different parts of Assam participated in the workshop. Various topics like sex and gender, empowerment of children, communication skills, power of positive attitude, goal in life etc. were discussed. Interactive sessions, skit play on child marriage, various entertainment programmes and games added colour and flavour to the highly informative workshop.



Monitoring Visit to Ekkrabari: A monitoring visit to FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre at Ekkrabari was conducted on August 10, 2018 by the FAsCE India Head Office Team. They also made an assessment of the progress of the centre and interacted with the children and teachers.



SPECIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Independence Day Celebration: FAsCE India joined the rest of the country in the celebration of the Independence day. Two level of celebrations made the 72nd anniversary of Independence Day very special. At the FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi, the children participated in the drawing competition held on the occasion. The teachers assisted the children in choosing a theme of their interest. At AmsingJorabat, the FAsCE India Self Help Groups took initiative in organising a meaningful celebration to mark the independence of the country.



Teacher's Day Celebration: A good teacher plays an important role in shaping the life of an individual. Every year FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi celebrates the day to honour and appreciate the contribution made by the teachers in helping and moulding the careers of their students. This year, all the three centres of Ekrabari, Bongaon and Narengi came together to mark the occasion at SFS School Hr. Sec. School Conference Hall, Narengi. Rev. Fr Mathew Puthumuna MSFS was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The beautiful cultural programme to honour the teachers were well compered by the children themselves. The cultural event began with a prayer dance and was followed by felicitation ceremony with traditional Assamese phulom gamuchas to the Chief Guest Fr Mathew Puthumana, Fr Praveen Kumabattu, Fr Saji George, Sisters from Venerini Convent and teachers. Colourful traditional and modern dances were displayed by the children from all the three centres. The tiny tots mesmerized the audience with their rhythmic choreographed number. Speaking on the occasion, Fr Mathew Puthumana highlighted the importance of education and role of teachers in moulding the future of the children. He also appreciated the talent display of the children and the commendable service of FAsCE India, especially in reaching out to the poor, needy, the marginalized sections of the society. The teachers were honoured with token of gratitude and a cake was cut to mark the celebration. The programme concluded with the national anthem.



First Anniversary of Village Organisation at Amsing Jorabat: On July 18, 2018 the first anniversary of the formation of Village Organisation (VO) was organised by the FAsCE India Self Help Groups of Amsing Jorabat. Among the invitees were the Chandrapur Block officials, Retired Colonel from Army Cantonment Narengi, Village Headman, Panchayat members and Fr Saji George MSFS, Director from FAsCE India. Speaking on the occasion, Fr Saji George highlighted the importance of working together as a team, forgetting all the individual differences for the common good and wellbeing. He also appreciated and encouraged the organisation to scale higher achievements in the coming days and become role model to the other communities. The celebration was marked with colourful cultural dances performed by the members of Self Help Groups. On the occasion a brief journey of the village organisation and its achievements too was shared by Ms Deepali Murari.



EVALUATION AND PROJECT STUDY AT SOMONPARA

At the completion of two and a half years of the implementation of the project titled "Formation and Strengthening of 40 Self Help Groups (SHGs) for Improved Livelihood at Somonpara, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya" a project study was conducted on September 11-12, 2018. Mr Netaji Basumatary, Regional Manager of Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) along with Ms Barsha Das from IGSSS conducted the study that was assigned to them by the supporting agency of the project MISEREOR. Ms Regina Sereng, Programme Coordinator from Guwahati, Fr John Kelamkuzhakal MSFS and the local project staff assisted the team during the assessment and field visit. During their visits to Achapara, Chigitchakgre, Jembagre and Babagre, the team interacted with the different SHG members. The assessment team also took stock of the different livelihood activities like the areca nut, flower and turmeric nurseries, fish rearing and candle making taken up by the SHGs. A staff meeting too was held with the visiting team, during which Ms Regina Sereng apprised the members with the progress of the project. Mr Benjamin Rema, Project Coordinator, Mr Albert, Mr Thirsty, Ms Tengilla and Ms Tracina the field animators too shared their activities, while Sr Anupa briefed about the documentation updates of the project activities.



FIELD EXPERIENCE BY THE BSW AND MSW STUDENTS

Miss Kritanjali Gogoi, MSW student from NEF College of Management and Technology Guwahati and Mr Lungbiba Western and Roishim Tarao, BSW students from Elizabeth School of Social Work, Senapati, Manipur had their Block Placement with FAsCE India from July 2 to August 30, 2018. During their internship they were engaged in data collection of the FAsCE India SHGs and home visit of the children of the Supplementary Education Centre in the slums of Satgaon, Narengi and Ekrabari Village. They also conducted a workshop on Health and Hygiene in the Ekrabari Village.

Eventful Experience: "My 30 days of field experience with FAsCE India has been eventful. I have earned the experience of conducting co-curricular activities for Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi which was indeed a great learning point. The interaction with the FAsCE India SHGs was a good exposure as it gave the real field experience of social work. I gratefully acknowledge the opportunity, guidance and support provided by my Field Supervisor and the FAsCE India team during this period." *Kritanjali Gogoi, MSW 6th Semester*



Opportunity to Examine, Experience and Explore: "FAsCE India is an organization where you can Examine yourself, Experience in the field and Explore your interest. A month long internship has given me a lot of knowledge, skills and experience. So as a Social Worker, what I required to comprehend and experience, I obtained in FAsCE India. I learned the ability to understand and re-examine a situation from various perspective."
Lungbiba Western, BSW 5th Semester



Incredibly Motivated: "I feel incredibly motivated and ambitious and inspired in my internship. Part of this is because for the first time ever I came out from my home town, Senapati, Manipur. The exposure and experience that I have gained during my internship at FAsCE India has widened my horizon and world view. It has motivated and challenged me to become a passionate social worker and do good for the society."
M RoishimTarao, BSW 5th Semester



OFFICE UPDATE:

- * Fr Saji George attended the Justice and Peace Commissioners' Training Seminar from August 25-27, 2018 at MSFS Provincial House, Trichy, Tamil Nadu.
- * Ms Chaya Kalita participated in the Workshop on Neighbourhood Children's Parliament from September 4-5, 2018 held at NEDSSS, Kharghuli, Guwahati.
- * Mrs Niroboti Roy and Rita Engleng of FAsCE India Nabajagriti SHG Federation and Ms Chaya Kalita participated in the workshop on Alternative Learning and Living form September 15-16, 2018 at NEDSSS, Kharghuli, Guwahati.
- * Ms Regina B. Sereng represented FAsCE India in the planning meeting by Project Vision on September 16 and 26, 2018, held at Guwahati to discuss the activities for the observation of World Sight Day 2018.
- * Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS, Provincial Superior of MSFS Northeast India Province and President of FAsCE India met the FAsCE India Head Office Staff on September 17, 2018 at MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Guwahati.
- * Fr Saji George participated in the Conference of the Mission Development Officers from September 22-23, 2018 at St. Ann's Generalate, Secunderabad Andhra Pradesh.
- * Ms Chaya Kalita represented FAsCE India at the conference on Preserving Bio-diversity and Livelihood through Traditional Agro-Forestry in Northeast India from September 25-26, 2018 held at Bosco Reach Out, Ulubari, Guwahati.

A RAY OF HOPE: A Case Study

Ms Mina Dorjee aged 51, Mr Prem Bahadur aged 43 and Ms Lira Dorjee aged 35 are the resident of Satgaon, Pukhuripara, Guwahati. Mina, Prem and Lira are siblings. They are physically challenged by birth. Their condition is called 'achondroplasia' which means without cartilage formation. Achondroplasia is a genetic disorder that results in dwarfism. These siblings were living with their parents and a sister. Since the demise of their parents their sister Kamala Devi is looking after them. Kamala Devi, an Anganwadi worker who earns around Rs. 1500 per month and her daughter Soma, a beautician, contribute their earnings to run the household. The family of five members with three physically challenged adults and very minimal resources for sustenance was making their lives very difficult. With passing time Mr Prem Bahadur became completely bed-ridden whereas Mina and Lira were going on with their difficulties. It was in the later quarter of 2017 that FAsCE India was informed by one of its SHG members, Ms Deepali Murari, about their pathetic and difficult living conditions. Through its intervention, FAsCE India found that despite having the disability certificate they have not received any entitlements and benefits. Although approached by many individuals and agencies who had taken their personal details and photographs have never returned with any help. Hence, it was not an easy task for FAsCE India to win their trust and convince them about our genuine interest to help them. It

offered to support them with livelihood and medicines. Since January 2018 FAsCE India is extending its helping hand through the regular supply of livelihood and medicines for the family.



In December 2017 Mr Prem Bahadur passed away. Mina and Lira are living with their sister Kamala Devi and niece Soma. During the last home-visit by Ms Chaya Kalita from FAsCE India, Kamala Devi has expressed her desire to visit our office to express her gratitude. We look forward to this day.

SUCCESS STORY

Rescue and Reparation: Japranish Munda aged 18 years, resident of Taltola, Kalitakuchi locality Amsing Jorabat, Guwahati who in June 2017 left home and parents with an acquaintance to Delhi in search of a job. After reaching Delhi he was abandoned by the acquaintance. Until March 23, 2018 Japrinush got engaged in odd jobs for his survival, then he decided to return home to his parents. On the way back he got into a wrong train which landed him in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh, where he had an encounter with the Railway Police, upon questioning he told them that he had boarded the wrong train as he was supposed to reach Guwahati, that he is lost and had no money to return home to his family. The police rescued him and took him to Dev Prakash Seva Sangstha Samiti, Ratlam a shelter home for children. The personnel from the shelter home contacted his father and gave him information of his son's whereabouts. His father Punu Munda, a support staff at SFS School, Narengi came in touch with FAsCE India seeking guidance and help to bring back his son Japranish home. FAsCE India made an intervention into the matter and made all necessary arrangements, legal proceedings and support to send Punu Munda to Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh with a chaperone Mr David Sangma. On April 7, 2018 after the successful proceeding and handing over at Child Welfare Committee, Ratlam, the shelter home personnel safely arranged for their return to Guwahati. Now Japranish is at home safe and secure with his family in Guwahati.



Health Care Intervention: Two children from the primary section of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi, Maina Khatun, 8 years old and Asmina Khatun, 4½ years old were identified by their teachers in poor health and malnourished condition. Ms Chaya Kalita, the Coordinator of the centre made immediate arrangement for medical assistance and care. Accordingly the children were taken to the Primary Health Care Centre at Betkuchi and after a thorough health check-up by the doctors the girls were diagnosed of malnutrition and poor health. Prescribed medicines and food supplements were provided to them with proper

in-take instructions given to their parents. It is seen that malnutrition jeopardizes children's survival, health, growth and development, hence timely nutrition and health intervention offer children the best chance to survive and reach optimal growth and development.

New Life for Ashadeep Self Help Group: A new life dawned for the Ashadeep Self Help Group on July 3, 2018, when they were re-formed. In the beginning, the members did not believe in the benefits of SHGs. Even though they were sceptical initially, FAsCE India ensured that the group members understood the process, the rules and the benefits of SHGs. Although in the course of time FAsCE India was successful in building trust in the SHG groups, it was not able to prevent the group from becoming a victim of a scam. However, with Constant motivation and positive approach once again this group was re-formed on July 3, 2018.



NBA Special Training Program: In a rare opportunity given to the children of FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre, Narengi had the privilege to participate in the Special Training Program organized by NBA in association with Reliance Foundation under the supervision of Mr Scott Flemming, Senior Director of Jr NBA India and former National Team Coach. The event was held



on March 15, 2018 at SFS School, Narengi. Around 20 schools of the city participated in the training program including the children from the FAsCE India Supplementary Education Centre. Ms Himadri Taid was selected for further training and NBA selection camps.

REVOLVING FUND BENEFITS TO THE FASCE INDIA SHGS

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) registered SHGs are mainly city-based financial intermediary committees consisting of 10-20 local women from the same municipal ward having homogenous social and economic background. Four selected FAsCE India SHGs of Patharquary and Geetamandir received a Certificate of Appreciation and a cheque worth Rs 10,000 each, as the revolving fund (RF) in the month of May 2018 for internal lending among the group members. It provides economic assistance to SHGs for starting income-generating activities. This amount acts as a corpus to meet the member's credit need directly and as a catalytic capital for leveraging repeat finance. It is given to SHGs that have been practicing 'Pancha Sutra' (regular meeting, regular saving, regular inter loaning, timely repayments and up to date book of accounts).



Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission's (DAY-NRLM) sub- scheme "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana" (AGEY) under the Union Ministry of Rural Development aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. Under this scheme Assam State Livelihood Mission Society in a ceremony distributed Rs 50,000 each to four FAsCE India SHGs of Hatishila, Ekrahari and Bonda respectively as revolving fund. The SHGs beneficiaries were selected on gradation based on their activities.

