



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

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LWSIT

NEWS LETTER

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LWSIT volunteers abducted and released

On 25th October 2014, two Volunteers (Mr Tapan Khan and Mr Mushahari) engaged at the Patgaon Zone (Kokrajhar district) of Assam at the Normisjon supported project – "Socio Economic Empowerment with Peace and Reconciliation" were kidnapped. They were on their usual community visit when the fateful incidence happened. They were kidnapped by local militants who called his wife for a ransom of INR.4 million (approx. USD 66,000), which was later revised the amount to INR. 8 million (USD 132,000). Soon after the abduction, LWSIT project staff informed the police as well as the army posted in the area.

LWSIT National Office contacted members of the Central Committee of the project, whose chairperson is the local MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) and reported the incidence with deep concern. A meeting with the Central Committee members was organized in the morning on 27th October at the Project office at Gosaigaon. The Central Committee members assured all efforts to find out the captors and mediate with the group's representatives as soon as possible. The attempts of the Central Committee members produced no results. The district and sub-divisional level government authorities were contacted by LWSIT, who also tried their best.

After much negotiations from the family, movements and rallies organised by both state and district level NGO network and prayers of colleagues across the organisation, eventually, after 25 days of captivity, the two LWSIT volunteers were released on 19th November, 2014 at 3.00 p.m. The affected two families were supported with INR 100,000 each through contribution from LWSIT staff members.

40 years journey of Lutheran World Service India Trust

Lutheran World Service India Trust have come a long way since its inception in November, 1974. In its 40 years journey in the country, it has directly and indirectly touched millions of lives. All through the decades it has upheld the rights of the downtrodden and marginalised poor and oppressed.

Different phases of the organisation:



In 1974 the organisation focussed on refugee rehabilitation in the northern part of West Bengal in the aftermath of the Bangladesh War of Independence.

By 1977 when the organisation initiated development project it was institution based wherein through an established institution (such as hospitals, training institutions, agricultural development plots), the needs of adjacent communities were catered to. As the organisation was funded by foreign funds, it was mandatory to hand over these institutions to other stakeholders. Once the transition took place,



development initiatives for the marginalised hampered.

It was a lesson learnt for the organisation, hence around year 1983 focus shifted on community based development approach where the community's capacity is built so that they take over the reigns of their development in their stride. During this phase, development



AZEECON EETV

Two staff each from the AZEECON Country Programmes in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and LWF Nepal attended the



AZEECON EETV on "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation" at Puri from 18th to 21st November 2014. The participants also had the opportunity to visit LWSIT operational communities as part of exposure visit. During the EETV all the participants shared about climate change adaptation and mitigation of their respective countries.

Review meeting

On 8th and 9th October 2014, meaningful and effective discussions were held at the Review Meeting in which the unit managers along with senior staff from National Office attended. The discussions centered on the challenges of implementation and accomplishment. A perceptible change and a new enthusiasm among the field personnel were visible.

Church of Sweden visit and partners' meet

Ms Annika Elisabeth Uslu Lindé, Policy Advisor for Gender and Theology and Ms. Karin Bodin, Programme Office, International Department, Church of Sweden visited LWSIT's Gender Empowerment Project Units in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The Interim Director along with the Program Manager and two women staff attended the Church of Sweden's Partners' Meeting held at Chennai from 17th to 19th November, 2014

Training, meetings and workshops

This quarter 22 staff members (11 female and 11 male) attended the Gender Training TOT- Module No.1. An external resource person facilitated the training for LWSIT staff members. 22 staff members (06 female and 16 male) attended a workshop on Food Security Module No.1 which was facilitated by an external resource person. 24 staff members (07 female and 17 male) participated in a three day workshop on "Rights Based Approach" conducted by LWSIT and facilitated by external consultants.

The other workshops the staff attended are on governance and laws of NPO organised by Financial Management Service Foundation (FMSF), on juvenile justice act, on DRR and climate change.

A senior staff member visited Dhakha to attend an AZEECON customised training of trainers on "Engaging Learning Communities for Food Security and Livelihood Programs in the Context of Climate Change"

40 years journey of Lutheran World Service India Trust

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initiatives centred mainly around LWS inputs with community participation.

From 1987 onwards, priority was on community based participatory approach. It was during this phase, the available human resource and physical resource in a given community was the main focus. LWSI played a supporting role with external resources and in close collaboration with the government.



From late 1990s till date, the organisation is implementing and initiating its development interventions by incorporating rights based approach into its resource based and response based approach. LWSIT plays a facilitating role in empowering the partner communities to realise their rights and entitlements from



the concerned duty bearers. Through various hand holding support, the partner communities are strengthened to collectively work towards their own sustainable development.

Even though there are numerous challenges for this four decade old organisation (ranging from steady fall in funds to sustainable development of communities being hampered due to natural and man made calamities), still its steadily walking the path of empowering the last, the least and the lost.



Change in Board of Trustees

The LWSIT Board Meeting was held on 19th December, 2015 at the National Office in Kolkata. Wherein, it was proposed and accepted that, Dr Roger Gaikwad, Vice President of the Board of Trustees will take over the President's mantle with immediate effect from Rev Dr Augustine Jayakumar.

Cyclone Hudhud

Cyclone Response in Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh – Under ACT Preliminary Appeal (IND142), ELCA has positively responded to support for the Cyclone Hudhud response program. Two of the project staffs from Cyclone Phailin Project, Ganjam have been deployed to cyclone affected areas of Vishakapatnam district for initiating program interventions. With the local support from the Malankara Orthodox Church at Vishakapatnam, facilitated to initiate the activities after conducting a need assessment and Government liaison were initiated to take up most appropriate utilization of the available funds. Based on the rapid need assessment, it is envisaged that, shelter, livelihood and other NFI needs are extremely essential for the cyclone affected families in Andhra Pradesh. The support of relief materials would be provided at the earliest.

Odisha Flood Response Program in Kendrapada

520 flood affected families was supported through unconditional cash transfer, out of which there were 163 women headed and 339 men headed families. With the help of this program, respective families received Rs 2,475/- as cash grant which enhanced the bargaining power among these families and ensured their food security level at the aftermath of flood situation. Also families were able to purchase other household needs including education of their children.

Under WASH intervention, 500 families received assistance in the form of hygiene kit which was extremely useful at the aftermath of flood disaster. There were 2,323 people who benefited through WASH intervention program (Women – 993, Men -1,012, Girls – 163, Boys – 155).

LWSIT's strive towards realisation of human rights of transgender

Since time immemorial, recognising and respecting the rights of the 'third gender' had taken a back seat in Indian society. LWSIT Cuttack unit raised their voice against this violation of Human Rights in a bold way by inviting twenty-five representatives of Eunuch (Hijra) communities from the city on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 2014. In this event retired chief justice Mr.Radhakrushna Patraat, talked about human values and fundamental rights. Mr.Nirmal Chandra Mishra, Collector of Cuttack, joined as chief guest focusing on the different types of government schemes for urban slum dwellers and pinpointed the reasons for which people of the third gender are not able to access the facilities.

The event was a milestone to the slum dwellers of Cuttack city, as for the first time, the general public and the Hijras took part in a mass-gathering



ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦିବସ ପାଳନ

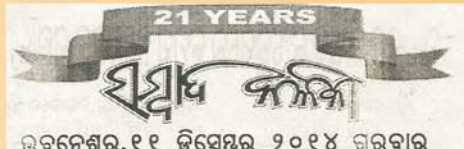


କଟକ: ୧୦/୧୨(କମିଟି) ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ, ସାମାଜିକ ନ୍ୟାୟ, ସମାନତା ପଥଟିଏ ଓ ବିଚାରକ ବିଚାରମତା ପୂରକପି ମାନବିକତା ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏକ ସମାଜ ଚଳନ ନିମନ୍ତେ କୃତେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଶ୍ରୀକାନ୍ତ ଭୈରବ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ କଟକ ଶାଖା ପକ୍ଷରୁ ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦିବସ ବିରୋଧୀତ୍ୱ ଭାବେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ପୂର୍ବରୁ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବିଚାରପତି ଆର୍. କେ ପାଟ୍ଟ ପୂର୍ବ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପ୍ରକଳନ କରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ କରିଥିଲେ । ସଭାରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି ଭାବରେ କଟକ ବିଶ୍ୱପାଳ ନିର୍ମଳ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମିଶ୍ର ଓ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବକ୍ତା ଭାବେ ତ୍ରିମସି କଲେଜର ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ ଆଶୁତୋଷ ବେହେରା ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଖୁବିତ



ସଭାରେ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ କଟକ ଶାଖାର ଚକ୍ରପାଳ ମହାପାତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ । ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ସଂଯୋଜକା ଜୟିତା ରାୟ, ଚୈତ୍ରାଣୀ, ସାବେନ୍ଦ୍ର

ଭାଗନ, ନିର୍ମଳା ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓ ନୟଣୀ ଦାସ ଏଥିରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଶେଷରେ ଦାନକ ଓ ଦାନିକା ମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନୃତ୍ୟ ନାଚିଲା, ଚଣ୍ଡନୂତ୍ୟ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ମନୋରଞ୍ଜନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।



ବିଶ୍ୱ ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦିବସ ପାଳିତ

କଟକ : ନ୍ୟୁଜ୍ ବ୍ୟୁରୋ
କଟକ ବାଉଁଶବାଟୀ ସିଟି ରାଜି ଭବନ ପରିସରରେ ଲୁଥେରାନ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସଭାରେ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦିବସ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନା କରି ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବିଚାରପତି ଆର୍. କେ. ପାଟ୍ଟ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନା କରି ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ନ୍ୟାୟାଳୟର ରାୟ ଅନୁସାରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଚାବନ୍ଦ୍ୟାଗଣରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସମାନ ଭାବରେ ସଜକାର ବୋଲି ମତବ୍ୟକ୍ତ କରିଥିଲେ । ସଭାରେ, ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନେ ଜନ ସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଅଧିକାରର ପ୍ରାପ୍ତି ବିଷୟରେ ଅଧିକତ୍ର ଅଧିକ ଯତ୍ନଶୀଳ ହୋଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ସେ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନଦ୍ରୁତା ଉପାଦେଇଥିଲେ । କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ବିଜ୍ଞାପନା ନିର୍ମଳ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମିଶ୍ର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥିଭାବେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ସଭାକାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଜନ କଲ୍ୟାଣକାରୀ ଯୋଜନା ସଂଘର୍ଷରେ ଅବଗତ କରାଇବା ସହିତ କହିଲେ ଯେ, ତୃତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଲାଭେ ବିବେଚନା କରାଯାଇଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଉପାଦାନ ସୁଯୋଗରୁ ବଞ୍ଚିତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ତେଣୁ ସେମାନେ ବିପଦଭାଗୀ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ବୋଲି ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିବା ସହିତ ଜନ ସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ସମାଜାତମ ହେବା ସହ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ପ୍ରଦାନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସହଯୋଗ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ବୋଲି ମତବ୍ୟକ୍ତ କରିଥିଲେ । ସମ୍ମାନୀୟ ଅତିଥିଭାବେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପରିବେଷିତ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ଆଶୁତୋଷ ବେହେରା ପ୍ରକୃତି ମାଟି, ଦାସ, ପାଣିର ଭଦ୍ରାହରଣ ଦେବ, ଏସ୍ପିକି ଯେପରି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଜାତି ବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଧର୍ମ ବିବିଧେଷରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସେବା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେଇଆସୁଛନ୍ତି, ସେହିପରି ସମାଜରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବର୍ଗର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କର ସମାନ ଅଧିକାର ସହ ବଞ୍ଚିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଓ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଥିବା ସେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିଥିଲେ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ୪୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ହେଲା କେନେଡାକୁ ଆସି ପଶ୍ଚିମ ବଙ୍ଗ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, କଟକ ଓ ଆସାମରେ ବୋତୋ ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମାନବିକ ଅଧିକାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବା ପଶ୍ଚିମ ବଙ୍ଗର କର୍ମୀ ଜୟିତା ରାଜ ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କହିଲେ ଯେ, ୪୦୦୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ହେଲା ସମାଜରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପରମ୍ପରା ରହିଆସିଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହି ବର୍ଗ ଭାବେ ଅଧିକିତ ହୋଇଥିବା ଏମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅତ୍ୟାବସି ବିଶେଷ ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ଦିଆଯାଉପାରି ନାହିଁ ।

Rojida's odyssey from being a victim to a role model

Rojida Bibi is one of the right holder who is from Sapkata village. She is also a part of the SHG group called " Dream". She is a victim of harassment and abuse by her in laws and husband. Her husband is also the Gao Bura (headman) and a quack of the village making the situation worse as he is in powerful position, She is subjected to regular issues of domestic violence, where her husband abuses and beats her up. Rojida always wanted to be economically independent, through DREAM she got an opportunity to fulfil her wish, she took loan from the SHG and started her stationary and tailoring shop. Being associated with the SHG she was also able to participate in the exposure camps on the gender sensitization, Leadership and Legal awareness camps organized by LWSIT. Rojida was brave enough to come forward and protest against the assault she faced. She filed an FIR complain against her husband in November 2014 at Sapkata police station. Her husband was called by the police and warned that if he harassed his wife again he would be put under custody, Rojida Bibi has become an example of restoring her honor and rights, and she shared to the SHG members that she is no longer afraid to assert about her rights. She has become an encouragement to several women who suffers from similar incidents.

