



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

(An Associate Program of The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service, Geneva)

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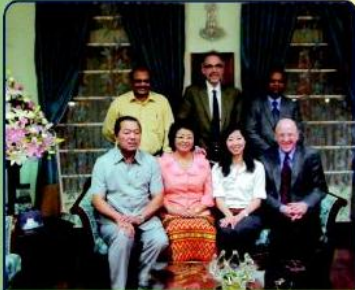
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NEWS LETTER

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Meeting with Chief Minister of Mizoram



The delegation team with the C.M of Mizoram

Officials of UNHCR and World Relief, USA accompanied Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) team to Mizoram from 12th to 16th April 2011. The purpose of the visit was to study the Chin community (economic migrants from Myanmar), meet the State Government, Chin community leaders, and the Church leaders. The study is mainly to understand the plight of chin people, their humanitarian needs and to protect their rights.

Queen's Foundation

The Executive Director in the month of April attended a consultation on "International Partnership and Funding Strategies in the Global South" at Queen's Foundation, Birmingham.

GIZ support to LWSIT

A workshop was organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Government of West Bengal under its Climate Change Adaptation program in Rural Areas of India (CCA RAI) on "Pilot Project Identification in West Bengal" wherein a session was also on the development of concept notes on "Adaptation to climate change". After receiving a proposal from LWSIT, Ms. Ilona Porsché from CCA RAI office of GIZ GmbH visited LWSIT office along with her team to discuss a pilot project on climate change adaptation.

Celebration of World Environment Day 2011

World Environment Day (WED) is observed on 5th June every year to promote awareness on the importance of preserving biodiversity, the need to identify problems related to environment and ways to take corrective actions. In the year 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was formed and first celebrated in 1973 as World Environment Day (WED) with the aim to tackle environmental challenges which includes climate change, global warming, disaster risks, environmental degradation and ecosystem management.



Mass gathering on World Environment Day

Since 1973 every year opportunity is given to different countries to organize the program as principal venue for the global celebration of World Environment Day. For the first time in the history of observing WED, this year India organized the program as the host of the United Nations, on 5th June marking the occasion with a week-long series of events across the country. The theme of WED 2011 was "Forests: Nature at Your Service", which highlighted the crucial environmental and economic roles played by the forests, particularly in India.



Performance during the celebration

During the year, Lutheran World Service India Trust supported its partner communities to organize and celebrate the occasion - World Environment Day. It was celebrated across the states of Odisha (in the districts of Puri, Bhubaneswar, Kalahandi, Balangir, Nuapara, Subarnapur and Keonjhar)

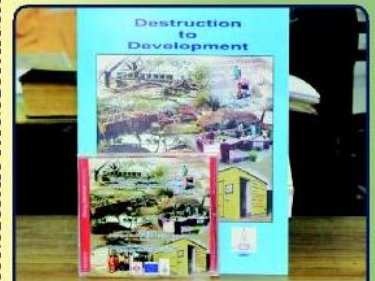
BMS World Mission, London



The Dignitaries addressing the Staff

Rev. David Kerrigan and Rev. Peter Dunn from BMS World Mission, London, and Mr. Franklin Qureshi from BMS office in New Delhi visited LWSIT on 30th June, 2011. They held discussions with LWSIT's board President Rev Dr Augustine Jeyakumar regarding selling the office premises owned by them to LWSIT.

ECHO-DCA-LWSIT



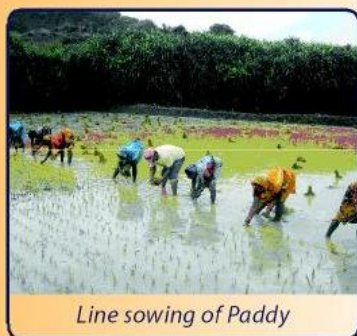
The Published booklet & CD

A booklet titled "Destruction to Development" and a Compact Disc were published after completion of the project which was shared with DCA and ECHO.

Bringing solar power to tribal people

Representatives from ONergy, India conducted a survey in LWSIT project area for the proposed low carbon climate adaptation project to light 100,000 tribal remote households and poor urban households which are not connected to power grid. The rural electrification will bring about significant changes in the lives of tribal population.

'Extended Green Revolution to Eastern India' Project



Line sowing of Paddy

The 'Extended Green Revolution' is the project of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Odisha. The programme is being implemented in 16 districts of which in 3 districts (Ganjam, Kendrapara and Subarnapur), Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) is the implementing agency. The main project aim is demonstration of systematic method of paddy cultivation in 1000 hectares of land (in each project unit). The project cost is INR 75 lakhs, in addition the government would be paying INR 2.5 lakhs as operational expenditure to each district units of LWSIT.

Mid-Term Review Meeting

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program was conducted by DCA in Puri district on 21st & 22nd May 2011. Dr. S. C. Garai attended the subsequent Mid-term review workshop at New Delhi.

LWSIT is a member of Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)

It is of immense pleasure to LWSIT to announce that it is currently a member of HAP.

West Bengal (in the district of South 24 Paraganas and Birbhum) and Assam (in the district of Kokrajhar and Dhubri). Different events were organized with much enthusiasm and zeal by the communities. Since many of the operational communities are tribal dominated they took splendid initiatives to observe the day as they are the closest to nature. Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Women Self-Help Groups (SHG) were the primary institutions at the community level that took lead role to organize the programmes and made it a success.

The various events/ programmes that were organised to observe the day were (i) cleanliness drive inside the villages in rural areas and slums in urban set up, (ii) conducting various competitions among the children based on the Year's theme, the winners were given saplings as prize, (iii) plantation of trees, (iv) meetings with forest protection groups.

School students were sensitized about the different environment related issues, planting and taking care of trees.

The villagers of Keonjhar (Odisha) a tribal dominated village, opined that the forest is Environment to them, it was explained to them that along with the forest, environment also consists of land, water, air, and living organisms like plants and animals. A detailed discussion followed on how environment is being damaged leading to climate change, and global warming. Discussions were also held on management of water, rain water harvesting, effects of forest fire, and the depletion of the ozone layer.

A strong sense of ownership was imbibed in the minds of the villagers to protect the forest from degradation, deforestation and man-made forest fire. It was decided that each family on rotation would take the charge to safeguard the forest from the aforementioned threats.

Operational project units of LWSIT based at different states provided technical and resource support to make the program a success. Resource persons from different departments of government institutions such as Forest Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Women & Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Social Welfare, Education, Panchayati Raj, Urban Local Bodies, District Rural Development Agency and Officials from Home Dept. were invited to address the gatherings at various places to spread the message of environment protection, regeneration, climate change and climate risk management, measures for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, etc. which are needed to combat the negative effects of global warming and environmental hazards.

As the earth's temperature is soaring with each passing day, messages on "Global Warming" was imparted amongst the villagers. The villagers were made to understand that it is the responsibility of the society to proactively respond to the warning.

While sensitizing people of all walks of life, resource persons from different background emphasized the need for tree plantation which has immense value for human survival and its benefits to nature. During the celebration, the slogan was "Tree is Life".

Another important and noteworthy message highlighting the day's program in the project units was "Say NO to Plastic". The communities were educated on the different negative impacts of polythene on nature.

Staff Review Meeting



Staff at the review meeting

A two day Review Meeting of all Unit Managers and National Office Staff was held at the National Office to assess the progress of work in the Units. The nomenclature was changed from Executive Staff Meeting (ESM) to Review Meeting. In the review meeting, assessing the progress of each project was undertaken. Each unit updated the progress of the project on the following points:

- (i) Evidence of changes;
- (ii) Access to rights and entitlements;
- (iii) Resource mobilized by SHGs and CBOs;
- (iv) Women empowerment;
- (v) Behavioral change among partner communities.

Starvation and Hunger Deaths

A meeting was held with the Unit Managers of STEER- Rural projects in Balangir, Kalahandi and Nuapada to discuss the issue of hunger deaths, especially in areas where LWSIT is operational. LWSIT proposes to come up with a strategy to meet these challenges with available resources and capacity particularly in the Western Odisha region.

Interns at LWSIT

This quarter the project units were buzzing with interns from across the nation. The interns were from Bhopal Law College, Netaji Open University, Kalyani University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The interns worked on varied issues and topics.

1. Kolkata project unit hosted two interns who worked on Health and Education related issues.
2. South 24 Paraganas unit hosted two interns who did research study on Rural Livelihood.
3. Bankura Project Unit hosted one intern who undertook a detailed research study on NREGA.

The internship opportunity gave the interns hands-on experience at the ground level and also helped them gain insightful knowledge on the different dynamics of community development.

'Securing the Rights of the Unorganised Sector Workers'

A state level network has been formed with the initiative of a number of like-minded NGOs, CBOs, trade unions, for 'securing the rights of the unorganized sector workers'. The name of the network has been decided as "Sramajeebi Surakshya Mancha". In India approximately 93% of the total workforce is in the unorganized sector. Due to globalization, workers, especially in the traditional and unorganized sectors, are alienated from the mainstream of the society in terms of welfare schemes, benefits and even just wages. Besides, they are being subjected to exploitation due to lack of unionism, legal protection and social security. They are the most vulnerable as they do not have any bargaining power. According to a survey, the highest number of unorganized sector workers are in West Bengal, hence the need to form this network. There are several laws safeguarding the rights of the workers in organized sector whereas it is missing for the unorganized sector. As the unorganised workforce swells with the boom in urban construction, the need for laws to provide social security cover and regulate and protect income and livelihoods becomes ever more pressing. Since there is hardly any forum or network for these workers, they are not able to voice their needs and opinions at the higher level where policies and laws are made for them. A large number of workers in the unorganized sectors are not aware of or not informed of various rights and facilities available to them. So they continue to be in the dark and are being exploited throughout. There are a number of unorganized sectors of work in the country and they are not prioritized and adequately responded to effectively. LWSIT plays an active role in this network so as to secure the rights of these marginalized workers.

Education Programme for the Children of Sex Workers

The status of literacy is considerably low in the city slums; moreover female literacy rate is way below male literacy rate. Number of children enrolled in school is low compared to the total number of school going children. This is largely due to low motivation among the parents to educate their children and also the school curriculum along with the environment is not child friendly, which do not attract children to schools for study. Many children, particularly older children, among them especially the girl children, drop out of schools to attend to household chores including looking after younger siblings. Older boys, attracted by the opportunities offered by the city to make quick incomes, voluntarily drop out of schools. Many children are forced to drop out of schools to work and support their families.

LWSIT constantly strives to bring about a positive change amongst the least, the last and the lost of the society. We realize that the children are the strong pillars of society. Hence, LWSIT Social Transformation Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) Urban Kolkata unit in collaboration with Durbar, a local NGO, will be implementing the 'Education Programme' for the children of sex workers.

The children live together with their mothers, fighting stigma and discrimination against the sex worker community, as they also face the same stigma and discrimination. Many of the young ones have not yet completed their school education. Yet their aims and objectives indicate that they are progressive in their thoughts.

The programme would enroll children from the community, providing them with coaching facilities, helping them to perform better in schools. Primary beneficiary would be the children of class V to X. The main purposes of the project are:

- To help children of sex workers in achieving better results in school education
- To help minimize stigma and discrimination attached to sex workers' children
- To ensure mainstreaming of sex workers' children into formal education.
- To establish and make provision for quality coaching classes for the sex workers' children who are attending schools between V to X.
- To help improvement of the school performance of children of sex workers.

Impact Study on Manipur Food Aid Project



The Relief Distribution

An Impact study was conducted by an external consultant on Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)/ Canadian Food Grain Bank (CFGB) supported Manipur Food Aid project for victims of famine caused as a result of bamboo flowering (mautam). The short-term Food Aid Project was implemented in the North-eastern Indian State of Manipur. The support was extended to 1000 families covering a total population of 5,137. The outcomes of the relief distribution were: (i) the affected families' daily food was secured for 4 months; (ii) the variety and quality of food has greatly enhanced their health; (iii) the selling of productive assets was reduced and people started attending to their farms and agriculture. (iv) Migration for livelihood was reduced.

Flood Alert

A Flood alert was sent to ACT Alliance after incessant rains caused serious damages and flooding in East Medinipur district of West Bengal.

A Moment of Adulation for Commitment and Dedication



Proud Narmada with her award

Ms Narmada Swain staff of LWSIT Cuttack Unit received an award on 'Brave Woman of the year 2011' from National Alliance of Women , Odisha.

Her major contributions for the people of Odisha :

- ❑ Working against domestic violence in the communities, giving confidence to the people to fight against violence;
- ❑ Motivating communities to fight against violation of Human Rights;
- ❑ Saved life of a Christian couple during violence on Kandhamal issue. She gave shelter to them and bravely faced some communalists at night (11:30 pm), who came to kill the couple. She further escorted that couple to the railway station at midnight and saved their lives.

Trainings and Workshops attended by the LWSIT staff during the Quarter

Finance Workshop



Staff at the workshop

A two days workshop cum training programme on strengthening accounting system was organised in the national office. The finance officers from all the project units were present.

Youth and the Future



Accepting a certificate in the workshop

Two staff of LWSIT attended a workshop on "Youth in Development" in Cambodia. Thirty-six persons from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Cambodia participated in the workshop. The workshop highlighted on some of the core issues regarding the youth, the current situation of the youth in various countries was discussed, the need for development among the youth, different government policies for the youth, etc. A consensus was reached amongst all the participants on the role a NGO can play in the overall development of youth.

Training on Participatory Impact Monitoring



As part of capacity building for the Staff in Participatory impact Monitoring, LWSIT sponsored the following staff, Judith Hembrom Herenz, Sukanta Bhattacharya and Prakash Narzary for the above mentioned programme

Other workshops

1. "Solar Lighting and Smokeless Cooking".
 2. "Right to Food".
 3. LWF/DWS workshop on Accountability at Kathmandu, Nepal.
 4. Workshop on "Warehouse and Logistic Management".
 5. Seminar on "Preparedness for National Calamities - 2011"
 6. Climate Change Adaptation pilot project with GIZ.
 7. District level Consultation on Forest Rights Act, and Habitat Rights of Juanga tribes.
 8. District level Consultation on Promotion of Network on Early Childhood Education.
- Training on Disability Inclusion in DRR