

## **Chapter: 4**

### **Overview of the Organizations Studied**

This chapter presents overview of the organizations studied. The chapter is divided into two sections. Section 4.1 deals with High Performing NGOs and section 4.2 deals with Low Performing NGOs.

The High Performing NGOs included in the research study are, Bosco Reach Out (BRO), Rashtriya Grameen Vikas Nidhi (RGVN), North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS), Deshabandhu Club (DBC), Center for Rural Development (CRD) and Seva Kendra Dibrugarh (SKD). Low Performing NGOs included in the study are, Shanti Sadhana Ashram (SSA), Sipajhar Diamond Club and Community Center (SDCCC) and Tezpur District Mahila Samity (TDMS).

#### **4.1 High Performing NGOs:**

##### **4.1.1 Bosco Reach Out (BRO)**

**i. Origin:** This NGO was established in 1983 and is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organization by Salesian Congregations of North East India. BRO is the official social development wing of the Salesian Province of Guwahati in North East India.

**ii. Vision:** BRO visualizers a self-sustaining, self-reliant and dignified community where people live responsibly, striving for just, equal and harmonious society.

**iii. Mission:** BRO seeks to achieve Integral development through empowerment of people by enabling them to build People's Organizations and enhancing their capacities to utilize their resources optimally and have their rightful place in the society.

##### **iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To forge ahead development interventions through its al-pervasive 'empowerment' approach and through its different methodological guidelines of self-help oriented, people oriented, bottom-up, collaborative, pro-poor, result oriented, gender sensitive, culture sensitive interventions.
- b. To play a facilitative role in the efforts towards awareness and sensitization of rights issues by people's movements such as SHGs<sup>1</sup>, CLFs<sup>2</sup> and NGOs<sup>3</sup>.
- c. To ensure people's participation through formation of Regional and Zonal project Management Committees.

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<sup>1</sup> Self Help Groups (SHGs).

<sup>2</sup> Cluster Level Federations (CLFs)

<sup>3</sup> Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

**v. Organizational Structure:** BRO is governed by a Board of 15 members comprising of Silesian priests, noted social workers, nominees and representatives from developmental sector. The Chairperson is nominated by Silesian Priests from Guwahati Province.

The Executive Director is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration and stationed at its Head office at Guwahati. His tenure of office is decided by the Governing Board. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR and Administration and Finance and Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. Regional Offices at Barapani and Tura of Meghalaya and Silchar of Assam are headed by office heads to carry out operations in their respective regions.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** BRO has 15 Project Coordinators and 86 Full Time Employees. Moreover, Silesian priests and some likeminded people offer voluntary services.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** Oxfam India, Save the Children, NABARD, Catholic Relief Service, and UNICEF are some of the major Funding Agencies.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. Childline:** Recognizing the plight of street children who are exploited physically and tormented emotionally, BRO started Childline, a unique 24×7 Emergency Outreach Programme for children in distress. Childline seeks to support children through care and protection, medical help, emotional guidance, repatriation, rescue and sponsorship.

Childline based at Shillong offers its service in the state of Meghalaya. Awareness on condition of children and importance of child education is an integral part of Childline's activities. Childline advocates for rights of children and collaborates with police, NGOs, hospitals and others to enhance awareness in society.

**b. Community Health Project:** BRO has initiated the project along the line of strengthening community health as it seeks to improve overall health status in the intervened areas with special focus on women, children and the differently abled. The project aims at facilitating communities for health awareness, community capacity building and accessible health service even in the remotest of places.

The project is implemented in Doomni and Kumarikata in Baksa district, Tangla in the district of Udalguri and Gojapara in Goalpara district of Assam. The number of villages intervened range between 8 and 10. Under this intervention, 28 village health

committees have been formed in villages that look into issues of community health at village level, 88 differently abled children have been identified of which 17 have been referred for treatment, 18 cataract patients have been successfully operated, Health camps are organized at community level that provides free health check-ups and referral for treatment and Awareness programmes on immunization, water borne diseases, health and hygiene, breast feeding and antenatal, sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, HIV/AIDS and causes of disabled childbirth have helped communities gain knowledge on preventive and curative care of diseases.

**c. Community School Programme:** In the present day context education through proper learning skills has become the most desired aspect for everyone to survive and to live a quality life. To help people achieve this goal, BRO, under the able guidance of Fr. Johnson, the Director, started an ambitious society oriented programme called, Community School Programme in August, 2011.

The literal concept of the programme is to mobilize the community as a whole to sensitize and help them in the decision making process at the grass root level<sup>4</sup>. In this regard, five programme centres were identified in Udalguri, Chirang, Baksa and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam. The study centres include Tangla, Bengtol, Doomni, Kumarikata and Sojong Parishes. Each of the centres has five schools with five teachers each along with one supervisor in each key centre. A total of 1362 students between the age of 13 and 35 have already enrolled themselves in the programme. The programme has garnered enough support as the people have shown interest in learning by coming to the schools.

**d. Human Rights Education in Schools of North East India:** Together with The Institute of Human Rights Education, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Bosco Reach Out has initiated a human rights programme for school going students of North East India. Schools in the states of Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have been covered by the project. Target groups of the project are students from class V to class X. The project endeavors to foster feelings of confidence and social tolerance.

**e. NABARD<sup>5</sup> Supported Projects:** BRO has developed strong alliance with the NABARD. This alliance for community support is grounded on need assessment of communities and seeks to address key issues of housing, income generation and

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<sup>4</sup> Participating in Gram Sabha (Village level Planning Body Under Panchayat Act,1994)

<sup>5</sup> National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (An apex Bank exclusively set up for Rural Development)

environment. NABARD supported project activities of BRO can be broadly divided into two categories,

**Housing for SHG Members:** BRO has availed revolving fund assistance from NABARD for construction of dwelling houses by Self Help Group members. BRO's housing project covers 6 districts in the states of Assam and Meghalaya. In each of the two states, the project covers 75 beneficiaries as it aims to provide affordable dwelling houses to SHG members. Considering the need for a safe shelter, the project has been formulated to provide SHG members a viable loan source for construction of new house or strengthen the existing housing structure complemented by an easy repayment schedule.

**Orchard Development Programme:** BRO has carried out Orchard Development at programme in three districts from the states of Assam and Meghalaya. The programme has three component projects that are being implemented independently in the two states. The Brisoh project is implemented in Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya; the Thesere Apaibari project is implemented in Karbi Anglong district of Assam and the Bitegrim project is implemented in West Garo Hills district, Meghalaya. The programme is aimed towards development of tribal population in the two states. The purpose is to utilize fallow land deriving benefit on income and environmental front. The attempt is to make beneficiaries inculcate the values of appropriate resource management. So far, 713 families have been engaged in horticulture cultivation, 69 SHGs have participated in project activities, 15,944 orange trees, 11, 2048 areca nut trees and 5,880 mango trees have been planted.

**f. Integrated and Sustainable Community Development Programme (ISCDP):** ISCDP is the flagship community development project of BRO. The project seeks to build socially and economically empowered communities as it endeavors to build people's capacity relative to self-development and development of society. The project is implemented in 16 districts in the two states of Assam and Meghalaya. Self-help groups and cluster level federations are being promoted as part of group activities. As such, communities have been organized for awareness drive, skill development and managerial training. Similarly, functional linkage with departments has been built to provide direct support to communities through sensitization and awareness on government schemes and programmes.

As on March 2012, the Self Help Groups saving fund stand at more than Rs. 28.9 million. The groups have disbursed more than Rs. 25 million as internal loan to SHG

members, over Rs. 10.8 million have been availed by the SHGs as External loan. So far, 772 villages have been intervened, more than 2504 individual members and 389 groups have started income generating activities, 78 cluster level federations with 9055 members have been formed and strengthened so far, 37 social issues have been addressed by CLFs and 50 SHG members have been appointed as members of Gaon Panchayat or Dorbars<sup>6</sup>

**g. Don Bosco Tech India<sup>7</sup>** : Don Bosco Tech India (DBTI) is a network of all India technical institutions. The project has evolved with the realization of developing employability skills of youths in vocational trades to raise their scope for employment. The project has targeted youths of marginalized and underprivileged families who are a high-risk group as most of them fail to complete formal education.

**h. Disaster Risk Reduction:** Floods with consistent and rising intensity have been creating havoc in the state of Assam for many long years. Invaluable lives and properties have been lost. Realizing the importance of addressing the issue, BRO initiated a three-year DRR <sup>8</sup>project in Silchar and North Guwahati in Assam. The project seeks to enhance community coping measures by reducing community vulnerability and utilize resources optimally in the 19 intervened villages in Silchar and North Guwahati.

Functional linkage with government departments such as agriculture department, block development office and insurance companies have been built. Officials of these departments have facilitated communities in interface programmes and oriented communities on aspects of cropping pattern, crop diversification, crop insurance and assistance.

Under this intervention health camps have been organized among communities where people are offered free medical check-ups and referred for treatment, in all the 19 intervened villages, VLDMC<sup>9</sup> and Task Forces have been formed. The VLDMCs act as supervisory body to coordinate disaster management activities at village level and advocate at higher level, whereas the Task Forces cater to community needs such as providing disaster information, shelter home management, health care, food and rescue during flood. Moreover, Farmers have insured crops with Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited; communities have practiced systematic rice intensification (SRI); they have been imparted training on first-aid and swimming to minimize risk and

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<sup>6</sup> Local Self Governance Body as recognized by constitution of India

<sup>7</sup> A National Network of Don Bosco Vocational Training Institutions in India

<sup>8</sup> Disaster Risk Reduction

<sup>9</sup>Village Level Disaster Management Committees

loss, community in North Guwahati has been equipped with shelter home for emergency shelter during flood, 13 boats have been distributed among the flood prone communities of North Guwahati and Silchar, Tube wells have been elevated to provide communities with access to safe drinking water even during flood, communities have taken up community works like cleaning of a lake in North Guwahati region that is the source of irrigation for villagers especially during winter cultivation. People have been guided to stocked fodder for animals in raised platform and built houses in raised plinth where it is difficult for water to inundate and destroy fodder or dwelling places.

**i. Rural Resource Training Center (RRTC):** Set up as a training unit on livelihood with provision for field demonstration, RRTC has developed into a full-fledged independent organization with affiliation to BRO. RRTC acts as live-in training campus where training and interactive sessions on agriculture and livestock are provided to staffs and communities. The Center strives to promote organic farming in a cost-effective manner. RRTC seeks to serve the marginalized and facilitate in developing sustainable agriculture and livestock practices. Additionally, it facilitates people to sell product under its level.

**j. Agriculture Training Centre, Joropara:** Built along a technical line to provide in-house training and demonstration to trainees, the Agriculture Training Center at Joropara, East Garo Hills, Meghalaya has the added responsibility of providing extension service to farmers and their communities in the remote villages.

Communities are supported by the Centre through awareness and training on Compost making, integrated pest management, crop management, integrated livestock management, poultry, piggery, dairy management, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, on field demonstration for transfer of technology and Organic farming.

#### **4.1.2 Rashtriya Grameen Vikas Nidhi (RGVN)**

**i. Origin:** RGVN initiated operations in April 1990 as a national level development support organization working towards livelihood enhancement and overall development of poor. RGVN is headquartered in Guwahati, Assam and works in 14 states of the country through its Regional Offices in Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Patna and Raipur.

IFCI<sup>10</sup> is the founder sponsor of RGVN and the other sponsors are IDBI<sup>11</sup>, NABARD and the TSWT<sup>12</sup>.

RGVN over the years has nurtured and developed more than 1500 NGOs and Community Based Organizations through its various development programmes. It has also created an organizational spin- off dedicated to micro credit activities, RGVN (NE) Micro Finance Ltd. Through its livelihood and other activities, RGVN has been able to gain deep access to the communities. All RGVN's programmes are aimed at empowerment of poor and disadvantaged communities, with emphasis on women.

**ii. Vision:** Creating an enabling environment where the poor and underprivileged can ensure sustainable livelihood with dignity.

**iii. Mission:** To improve the economic and social status of the poor and underprivileged rural and urban people through institution building and livelihood enhancement.

**iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To promote, support and develop voluntary organizations engaged in the social and economic uplift of rural and urban poor, physically and socio-economically handicapped people
- b. To improve the pace and quality of economic development, specially relating to the village and decentralized sector
- c. Focus attention on groups which are disadvantageously placed in society, but have the potential for pursuing socially and economically productive activities
- d. Assist the urban and rural poor especially tribal, scheduled caste, women and children for their economic self-sustenance.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of RGVN is vested in a 13 member Governing Board comprising of nominees of sponsors IFCI, IDBI, NABARD and TSWT, and eminent persons from the banking and development sector. The Chairperson is nominated by IFCI.

The Executive Director is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of RGVN, and is stationed at its Head Office at Guwahati. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. Regional Offices at Guwahati,

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<sup>10</sup> Industrial Finance Corporation of India

<sup>11</sup> Industrial Development Bank of India

<sup>12</sup> Tata Social Welfare Trust

Bhubaneshwar, Patna and Raipur are headed by Assistant Directors to carry out operations in their respective regions. The Regional offices are supported by Development Support Teams (DST) located at strategic places to offer RGVN's services to the poor at their doorstep.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** RGVN has 47 project coordinators and 256 full time employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Tata Social Welfare Trust (TSWT), Oxfam India, CRISIL, Indian Oil Corporation, Numaligarh Refinery Limited, Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Limited, Helvetas Swiss Inter Cooperation, Concern Universal and Power Grid Corporation of India.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. SHG Federations and Cooperatives:** RGVN promoted, developed and nurtured several Self Help Groups (SHGs) that have matured to be used as vehicles for social and financial interventions. Efforts are on to build Federations and Cooperatives. In Assam two SHG Federations one in the Brahmaputra Valley and the other one in Upper Assam are on the anvil.

In Odisha, two communities owned and managed Women Cooperatives have been formed under the Odisha Self Help Cooperative Act 2001. Converting RGVN's *Credit and Savings* program into UMaSS, a state level primary cooperative has helped become a milestone in the process of women empowerment. It has an active cumulative membership of 2,887 and a total portfolio of Rs 119 lakhs (2011-2012).

**b. Institution Building supported by HIVOs<sup>13</sup>:** RGVN with financial support from HIVOs helped in capacity building of MFIs<sup>14</sup> like, CARR (Cuttack), SARC (Sambhalpur), SCRS (Nayagarh) and ADARSA (Sundargarh) in Odisha.

**c. Institution Building project supported by the J.R.D. Tata Trust:** This initiative of RGVN aims at formation of project committees to monitor and supervise the Livelihood Programme. Each Committee consists of villagers, SHGs, resource organizations and RGVN representatives. It is a steering committee that guides and monitors the projects.

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<sup>13</sup> Netherland based funding organization

<sup>14</sup> Micro Finance Institutions



**d. Institution building under the Lead Crop Project:** The Lead Crop Project supported by NABARD has a three-tier Institution Building provision. There are Village Level Committees (VLCs) formed by farmers at the village level. At the cluster level, Cluster Development Committees (CDCs) comprise of progressive farmers from the community. Certain guidelines are laid down while choosing the progressive farmers, the first being that they must have irrigation facilities for at least a hectare of land and also own farming tractors. The third committee is the District Level Committee (DLC) formed by Government Officials, the District Agriculture Officer and the lead Bank Manager. DLCs advice, monitor and supervise to ensure the participation of all the stakeholders concerned.

**e. Agriculture and Allied activities for Livelihood and Food Security:** RGVN facilitates sustainable farm-livelihoods and sustenance post-project. The chief focus is large scale capacity building of small and marginal farmers to facilitate adoption of improved technologies and practices to attain rapid growth in farms enabling them to access mainstream markets to sustain the economic gains.

Three major projects are being undertaken in Assam. The first is a project with Concern Universal (CU) funded by the European Union (EU) for productivity enhancement in six districts of Assam; the second is popularising System of Rice Intensification (SRI) as a mission in Assam, and the third is productivity enhancement of lead crops in the Barpeta District covering five villages and 5000 households.

Another area that RGVN advocates is vermicomposting. Besides Assam, vermicomposting projects are being carried out in Vaishali and Muzzafarpur in Bihar and Dhenkanal and Sambhalpur District of Odisha.

**f. SRI (System of Rice Intensification) Project:** RGVN has been one of the pioneers in introducing SRI (System of Rice Intensification) to Northeast India beginning 2007, a resource conserving technology management system. From then on RGVN reached out to more than 10, 000 farmers in 26 districts of Assam covering more than 5000 acres of land. During its promotional venture RGVN received grants from agencies like Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), North East Development Financial Corporation (NEDFi), Power Grid and the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL). Most of the farmers are small, owning about 1-3 acres of land. Presently RGVN is promoting SRI in the 12 districts of Kamrup, Goalpara, Nalbari Darrang, Morigaon, Golaghat, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi.

**SDTT-SRI:** The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) has been providing financial assistance to RGVN since 2008 for boosting promotion and expansion of the System of Rice Intensification. The project is under implementation in the districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nalbari, Morigaon, Goalpara, Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi and running for the past two years. To facilitate extensive promotion of this novel technique RGVN had resourcefully managed to garner the active involvement of various external agencies and officials like KVK's<sup>15</sup>, District Agricultural Officers, Agricultural Development Officers and the State Agricultural Department to name a few.

**NRL-SRI:** With the objective of motivating small and marginal farmers of the Golaghat District of Assam, and to enhance food security with respect to food grain, an initiative was taken by the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) department of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd., to promote SRI in some of the potential rice pockets of the district. The project was implemented by RGVN for the first time ever in the district for Sali paddy (Winter Rice) season of June 2011. The outcome of the project was encouraging with RGVN being able to reach out to 264 rice growing families amidst several situational and environmental constraints. A total of 76 acres of land was utilized for SRI demonstration purpose in the selected rice growing pockets of the district. The production of the adopted SRI farmers doubled and NRL assisted another project to sustain the SRI methodologies amongst the farmers.

**Power Grid-SRI:** The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) department of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Meghalaya also made sufficient contributions by sponsoring SRI in the Darrang District of Assam during the FY 2010-11. RGVN implemented the project by engaging a local NGO called SATRA (Social Action for Appropriate Transformation and Advancement in Rural Areas). The project reached out to 300 farmers with an overwhelming success.

**NABARD-SRI:** RGVN has also been directly implementing promotion of SRI under the NABARD sponsored Farmers' Technology Transfer Fund (FTTF) in the Barpeta, Lakhimpur and Sonitpur Districts of Assam since the year 2010. In the first year RGVN adopted 1000 farmers covering 313 acres of land under Boro and Early Ahu<sup>16</sup> crop. Average yield recorded under SRI rose to 14.2 quintals per acres while under the conventional system it was 8.6 quintals. The project is running smoothly in the districts this year also covering 1645 farmers.

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<sup>15</sup> Krishi Vigyan Kendra- Research Organization on Agricultural Development

<sup>16</sup> Local winter varieties of rice.

**g. NABARD-Lead crop Project:** RGVN has recently initiated a NABARD sponsored project on augmenting productivity of some selected crops in the Chenga block of the Barpeta District called Augmenting productivity of lead crops and activities through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. The main focus of the project is on enhancing the yield of lead crops like rice as cereal crop, jute as fiber crop, rapeseed and mustard as oilseed crop and rabi vegetables such as tomatoes and potatoes. The Project encompasses providing necessary support to the farmers throughout the cultivation period including harvesting, grading and marketing of the produce.

**h. Cross Border Transfer of Agricultural Technologies, Institutional and Market development Project:** RGVN has collaborated with Concern Universal, Bangladesh, for cross border transfer of agricultural technologies, institutional and market development project. This project is funded by the European Union and with technical support from Helvetas Swiss Inter cooperation (HSI). Under this project RGVN focuses on transfer of new, innovative and affordable agricultural practices to small and marginal farmers.

This project also aims to build up a cadre of Local Service Providers, who would impart training to the small farmers. These Local Service Providers (LSPs) are progressive farmers from the villages itself. They are provided training on modern farming practices by the government, line department and also the agriculture university under this project. The project also undertakes market development initiatives to enable the farmers to get a fair price. The project is implemented in 6 districts of Assam, namely -Kamrup, Darrang, Morigaon, Barpeta, Goalpara and Nalbari. The project is able to directly reach out of 5000 marginal farmers.

**i. Livestock, Piggery and Dairy:** RGVN provides funds for livestock farming, especially piggery and dairy. Areas undertaken for piggery are North Sikkim in Sikkim and Southern districts in Mizoram like Lunglei, Lwangtlai and Chintuipui. Dairy has extremely high potential in generating better income and food security throughout the country. During the next three years RGVN is concentrating on two dairy clusters. Jajimukh in Jorhat district of Upper Assam and Gajapati and Nayagarh district of Odisha.

**j. Handloom and Handicraft:** The handloom and handicraft sector has the potential to raise the income of poor persons, especially women, all over the Northeast. RGVN has developed handloom clusters in Kamrup district of Assam, Aizawl in Mizoram and in Borjola in Tripura.

**k. Non Timber Forest Products:** Traditionally dwellers of forest areas have depended upon Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) as a traditional source of livelihood. Flowers of the mahua tree, sal leaf plates, char seeds and tola are the main NTFPs adding income to the poorest of the poor. Other NTFPs such as amla, harida, bahida, edible jungle mushroom and honey add substantial income. RGVN is helping these people through technology up-gradation, reorganization of SHGs, formation of Cooperatives and Bank. This project is undertaken at Keonjhar District of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

### **l. Skill Development and Capacity Building**

At RGVN Skill Building cuts across sectors and stands under three heads which are as follows:

**Capacity Building for Institution Development:** RGVN builds the capacities of grass root level institutions like SHGs, NGOs, Cooperatives and Farmers' Clubs. Trainings are carried out in the field of motivation, group formation, governance, leadership skills, financial literacy and book keeping. Capacity Building for Institutional Development is central to building strong institutions among the poor and vulnerable. The training is carried out by RGVN personnel or through partnerships with other resource organisations.

**Skill Upgradation for Sectoral Interventions:** RGVN takes up Skill Building for the different sectors it works for. The skills of many of the existing staff and also new staff are built up. Skills relating to technological improvement in agriculture and allied sectors are built on a priority basis and experts from renowned agriculture institutions are involved in imparting the training.

**Skill Building for Livelihood in Service Sectors:** A number of skill building institutions and companies have tied up with RGVN on building skills for life long employability in service sectors such as – mobile phone repair, electronics repair, electrical wireman, carpenter, tailors surveyor assistant etc. as also building soft skills so that youth from the areas in which RGVN works can find suitable employment, both in their states as also outside.

### **m. CSR Collaborations:**

**IFCI CSR:** RGVN has collaborated with IFCI for the construction of low cost toilets and distribution of solar lights in semi urban areas near Guwahati, Assam. 210 toilets were constructed between 2011 and 2012; around 130 toilets were constructed during the

2012-13 phase; 250 solar lanterns have been distributed during 2011-12; around 150 were distributed in 2012-13

**HCCBPL:** RGVN has tied up with Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., for the overall development of 3 villages adjoining their factory in Byrnihat, Meghalaya. The project includes: access to sanitation (81 low cost toilets have been constructed and awareness has been brought about through informal gatherings and programmes); access to safe drinking water (4 ring wells have been constructed and one spring well renovated); construction of 3 pathways; set up of 1 Medical kiosk and organizing several health camps in the project area; scholarships to underprivileged meritorious students (54 students have benefited during 2010-11 and 2011-12); Need Based Vocational Trainings on Carpentry, Masonry, Basic Computer Education, Tailoring, Mushroom Cultivation and Mobile Repairing (around 5000 people benefited from the initiative) were imparted. RGVN is now working towards making one of the villages as open defecation free.

**n. Financial Literacy Programmes:** CRISIL extended support to RGVN to conduct 25 Financial Literacy Programmes in Assam in 2012-2013 and 50 Financial Literacy Programme in Assam, Sikkim and Tripura in 2013-14.

NABARD also supported RGVN to conduct 50 Financial Literacy Programme in Upper Assam. 150 Street plays on Financial Literacy were organized in Jharkhand.

**o. Baseline Surveys and Impact Assessment for IOCL:** RGVN conducted Baseline Surveys and impact assessments for Guwahati and Digboi Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited for identifying the needs in the villages near the Refineries and undertake development work in the areas.

**p. Other Activities:**

**Relief (2012-13): Sikkim and Odisha:** Earthquake relief was provided to the people affected in Sikkim with support from SDTT<sup>17</sup>; reliefs were given to flood survivors of Odisha with support from JRDTT.

**Disaster Risk Reduction Project with Oxfam in Assam:** RGVN partnered with Oxfam India towards Disaster Risk Reduction Programme in Assam. The 18 month project began on January 1, 2012 in 20 villages of Nalbari and Kamrup Districts being located in the flood prone development blocks. 4,500 households are expected to be covered directly by the project with a population of about 20,000 people. The major focus area of

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<sup>17</sup> Sri Dorabji Tata Trust

the project is disaster preparedness, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), livelihood generation and advocacy related to disaster. Activities undertaken are- Baseline Surveys done in 20 selected villages; Village Mapping/Micro Planning for 14 villages has been completed by using PRA; KAP (Knowledge Attitude and Practice) and Sanitary Survey were done in the selected villages; Training on PHP (Public Health Promotion) was given; Raised hand pump and sanitary latrine have been constructed; Solar Lights were distributed to 52 households in Narikuchi, Chatma Bathan and Hurmabori villages and SRI Promotion is also undertaken.

#### **4.1.3 North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS):**

**i. Origin:** NEADS started its journey in April 1990 as a grassroots level development support organization working towards livelihood enhancement and overall development of poor. The idea of NEADS was conceptualized by a group of young people in the mid of 1980. NEADS is headquartered in Bamdhekiakhowa of Jorhat district, Assam and works in five districts (Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sivsagar, Tinsukia and Golaghat) of Assam.

**ii. Vision:** To visualize a society free from Poverty, Inequality, Injustice and Unprotected Discrimination where in its People Live their Life with Dignity, Enjoy maximum rights and take part in their development process.

**iii. Mission:** To bring about a Change in the Socio-Economic condition of the Downtrodden and Marginalized communities and get them involve at grassroots democracy to achieve holistic development, Emphasizing on building of poor people's institution, Partnering with all local stakeholders in the process to attain sustainability.

#### **iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To respond to humanitarian crisis caused disaster, strengthening community coping mechanism, traditional skills in the process of building resilience to meet emergencies, mitigating disaster in organisational working area.
- b. By accessing quality education for the growth and development of rural children, enabling and empowering them to be agents of social change.
- c. To ensure women participations in decision making in micro plan development, empowering them economically by promoting community based livelihood groups in the rural areas. Building women institution and generating capacities on women rights.

- d. Mobilizing Community Based Organisation, developing young leadership and collaborate with network of local communities, social campaign, non-governmental organizations and other partners.
- e. Building mass awareness and sensitizing community for realizing their ownership over natural resource. To provide environment education on water resource development and protection, creating capacity to protect rivers and defend the rights of communities that depend on them.
- f. To adopt community rights based issues and develop strategy to strive for a sustainable development of underdeveloped part of the downtrodden community.
- g. To have interventional measures on Public Health with special reference on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Focusing Public Health Engineering (PHE), Public Health Promotion (PHP) as thrust working areas.
- h. To adopt and promote community grain bank as grassroots mechanism to ensure food security during crisis period. Economic and livelihood development by enhancing livelihood security at the household and community level through various integrated development programmes.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of NEADS is vested in a 12 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers, local politicians, doctors and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The Chairperson is elected by the governing board for the period of 5 years.

The Director is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organisation, and is stationed at its Head Office at Bamdhekiakhowa of Jorhat district. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. NEADS has seven project offices located in different places of upper Assam<sup>18</sup>.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** NEADS has 12 Project Coordinators and 44 Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** Action Aid India, ECHO, Oxfam India, Aide et Action, UNICEF, Centre for Social Development (CSD), National Rural Health Mission, Voluntary Health Association of Assam (VHAA), NABARD, Save the Children, Tere Desh Hommes Germany, AmeriCare, Good Neighbours India, Gramya Vikash Manch (GVM), Amalgamated Plantation Private Ltd and Reach India.

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<sup>18</sup> Comprising of districts , viz; Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat

### **viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP):** The basic objective of AACP is to increase the productivity and the market access of targeted farmers and community groups. Under this initiative NEADS installed total 604 nos. of STW pumps that benefitted total 1612 nos. small and marginal farmers. The respective farmers are cultivating various types of multiple crops including rice cultivation Sali, Boro, Mustard, Robi crops etc. Additionally 50 tractors were given to 100 groups consisting of total 1000 farmers. Moreover six Micro Water shed Drainage Programme were also implemented. NEADS also conducted 40 awareness meetings and motivation programmes among Joint Forest Management Committees namely Nazirating, 3 No. Borbil, Bhitari Pawoi and Baraphutia.

**b. Dairy Development Programme – A Joint Initiative of INDEV and Amalgamated Plantation Private Ltd. (APPL-INDEV):** The Project was launched for Jorhat and Golaghat districts. NEADS organised awareness building drive under INDEV/ APPL Dairy project. About 48 existing Dairy Cooperative Societies were surveyed and awareness drives were done in both the districts. In this process more than 1300 dairy farmers were covered. NEADS also formed 17 new Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS), 23 dairy self-help groups and another 550 farmers were covered in both the districts. After this process all the 1850 dairy farmers were trained about the basic steps of dairy farming. (Animal health, Feeding, Preparation of fodder, organic food etc.).

**c. Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction:** This initiative of NEADS was implemented with Assam State Inter Agency Group (The group consisting of funding agencies and other developmental organisations, like, Save the Children, Tere Desh Hommes–Germany, Gramya Vikash Manch (With support of JTT), Good Neighbours India, AmeriCare India, Action Aid India and Centre for Social Development) in the flood affected areas of upper Assam. Under this initiative Total no of households covered are 9436. Tarpaulin, Nutritional Food Baskets, Hygiene Kit, Medical health Camps, Water chlorination were provided to the affected people.

Moreover, cash-for-work was stated as short-term intervention under this programme to provide temporary employment to the most vulnerable segments of population (250 beneficiaries) affected by flood. The work programmes included repairing of roads, clearing debris or re-building infrastructure in disaster worst affected areas as an interim employment generation and livelihood support option.



To restore livelihood, Mustard, Pea, Carrot, Radish seeds were provided for kitchen gardens to 854 affected people. 540 beneficiaries were provided Fishing Kit Support, like, Khewali fishing net, Fashi fishing net etc. Eighty Female Beneficiaries were provided 50 Cft potters clay and 687 Females were provided yarn support.

50 raised hand pumps with elevated platform were Constructed, Hygiene Promotion Training was imparted among 3000 affected people, they were trained on Flood resistant shelter construction, raised elevated platform with hand pump, WASH, School based DRR programme, Measures for earthquake etc.

**d. Community Institution Building:** NEADS has taken the initiative to form district level Inter Agency Group (IAG) covering the districts Jorhat, Golaghat and Sivasagar in partnership with the existing Non-Government Organization, other socially committed community collective and concerned government line departments. NEADS designed the concept with the vision to promote local resource mobilization, networking and advocacy, better coordination with external aid agency and rapid emergency joint response for positive impact during and post disaster period.

Total twelve Krishi Bebothapana Samitis (Farmers Club consisting of 10 farmers from 10 villages) were being formed, (Mahuramukh - 7, Jhanjimukh - 3 and Majuli - 2, respectively). Looking at the traditional wisdom of rice cultivation at the context, NEADS came forward with the idea of introducing 'Boro' rice implantation in form of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for better outcome in terms of flood resilient livelihood of the community.

As pilot intervention, the selected and other interested farmers will be given capacity building trainings, seeds and tools support for SRI cultivation practices such as agricultural development activity. Hereby, NEADS collaborated with Assam Agriculture University, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and other concerned stakeholders for capacitating farmers.

**e. Livelihood Improvement Initiative under Local Rights Programme:** This program was supported by Action Aid India and implemented in Sadiya of Tinsukia District of Assam. Major interventions were Training on Organic Farming, Community Fishery Programme, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), facilitating a Study on Soil Quality, Goatery Distribution, and Support to Agriculture Producer Group. A total of 625 beneficiaries were benefitted from this programme.

**f. Education and Child Development:** This programme has targeted three aspects, viz, Child Sponsorship Project funded by Action Aid India; Developing Child Friendly

Spaces and Education in Sadiya funded by Save the Children and Promoting Quality Education funded by Aid Et Action.

**Child Sponsorship Project:** This project aimed at creating awareness among students, parents and communities about the importance of universalization of education, Right to Education. A series of fine art workshop was conducted among the children. The objective was to express their creativity by using paper, local material and spray painting. Moreover, Awareness on Right to Education (RTE)/IRC for facilitators were also conducted in different places of upper Assam.

**Supporting the Child Friendly Spaces Project:** NEEDs supported voluntary initiative of some educated individuals who have come up together for creating space for children by establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) centres in six schools. The motive behind establishing such centres is to distribute school kits to the needy children and to groom them as well as to distribute some teaching learning materials to such centres. Under this initiative 1725 Education Kits were distributed among Children and other materials to the centres.

**Promoting Quality Education:** The project area covers four panchayats<sup>19</sup> comprising 28 villages in Golaghat district of Assam. The number of primary schools, middle and high schools in the project area are 27, 20 and 9 approximately of which 10, 7 and 5 are venture schools. Many of schools in the project area are 'venture schools' and do not get government assistance of any sort. NEADS formed 5 Village Development Committees to have a mutual co-ordination between the other groups like- School Managing committee, Sanmilata Nari Adhikar Suraksha Mancha, Teacher's Resource group, Mother's group etc. Then VDC federation took up a number of activities like construction of number of bamboo bridges, implementing pure drinking water scheme within the village with a mutual co-ordination with the other groups.

Teachers' Resource Groups (TRG) has been formed in order to have a co-ordination and well monitoring of the schools to ensure quality education among the children.

A good and effective initiative has been undertaken to empower the women in the concerned area. They were sensitized on livelihood, PDS<sup>20</sup>, RTE<sup>21</sup>, prevention of girls trafficking and rights of women and RTF<sup>22</sup>, various government schemes basically for the women (such as- Majoni, Mamoni, Nabow, Baideu etc)<sup>23</sup>. These efforts were

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<sup>19</sup> Local Self Government

<sup>20</sup> Public Distribution System

<sup>21</sup> Right to Education

<sup>22</sup> Right to Food

<sup>23</sup> Schemes implemented by Department of Health, Govt. of Assam, exclusively for women.

initiated jointly by ‘*Sanmilita Nari Adhikar Suraksha Mancha*’ (Women wing formed by NEADS) and women rights activist. They were keeping regular touch with the District Welfare and Women Protection Officer, Golaghat.

**g. Gender Justice:** NEADS under its Gender Justice theme has been addressing the issues of violence against women in seven districts of Assam through various programs and campaigns. This program is supported by SCENEI<sup>24</sup>.

NEADS aim to mainstream gender justice across all thematic intervention. In addition, the Gender Justice theme of NEADS covers two programs: Reduction of Violence Against Women and Political Empowerment of Women. The goals of two programs identified for NEADS are - reducing social acceptance of violence against women and increased and effective representation of women in decision making forums in governance institutions.

NEADS has promoted women wing covering five districts of upper Assam called Sanmilita Nari Adhikar Surakshya Manch, Upper Assam. 42 branches of SNASM are actively working in their respective area. Four SHG federations are actively working for self-sustainability and formed village capital of their own. There are four federations consisting of a total of forty SHGs.

As results of a series of workshops, meeting on woman empowerment initiated by NEADS women began to take part in Gramsabha and get involved directly in decision making regarding village development issue. Women are taking leadership role at Panchyatiraj institution as elected representatives.

NEADS also provides training on Feminism with financial support from Action Aid India. The objective was to enhance knowledge of the participants as to how the female are discriminated in patriarchal society.

**h. Kitchen Garden Nutrition Project:** Considering health and malnutrition as contemporary problem of adolescence girls, NEADS in partnership with UNICEF aimed at developing this intervention to ensure the availability and use of quality local food that would help the tea garden communities maintain good health in Dibrugarh district of Assam.

At the entry phase of the programme, mobilization of the existing *Kishori Sangh*<sup>25</sup> and the mothers clubs were being turn into a major activity. NEADS organized and strengthened a total of 35 Kishori Sanghs from 15 targeted tea gardens of the district

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<sup>24</sup> Strengthening Collective Efforts in North-East India

<sup>25</sup> Adolescent girls club

under the programme. These groups are the focus for mobilizing other kishori sanghs to develop kitchen gardens to address nutritional deficiency among the adolescent girls of tea communities.

The mobilization and strengthening of adolescent clubs were followed by preparation of kitchen gardens units in partnership with respective tea garden management in community owned/shared land. NEADS assisted initiative by providing required technical inputs through trained facilitators and seed/saplings. In total 30 such gardens were being cultivated in total 15 tea estates of the districts. NEADS extended training support to the beneficiaries for maintaining kitchen gardens.

Monthly stakeholders review meeting was another major activity undertaken under the project. As the project was a joint collaborative effort of UNICEF, NEADS, ABITA, MCH Cell of Assam Medical College and the respective tea garden management, a joint stakeholder review over regular Programme progress, plan and implementation, gaps and challenges etc. is held on monthly basis. Such meetings were organized with all operational tea gardens by NEADS, where monthly progress, issues related to activities implementation and challenges are being highlighted in front of all stakeholders.

**i. Networking, Campaign, Advocacy and Right Based Action:** The main objective was to introduce the local issues with community and to solve by organizing the issues with concern authority properly. NEADS organized land right awareness meetings and Trainings of Trainers (TOT) on Reflect Circle Mechanism.

NEADS undertakes awareness building drive on downstream impact of mega dams since this issue has been emerging as a major issue of conflict in the region.

NEADS organizes Financial Literacy Awareness Camp also. The objective of implementation of Financial Literacy Awareness Programme is to create awareness and educate rural masses about management of money, importance of savings, advantages of saving with banks, other facilities provided by banks and benefits of borrowing from banks. A total of 7000 people were benefitted from this programme.

#### **4.1.4 Deshabandhu Club (DBC):**

**i. Origin:** DBC is a North East based NGO started its journey in 1966. Previously it was known as Balak Samiti. From the humble beginning as a football club; subsequently the wings of its activities were spread as the NGO started with special emphasis on minority, women, child and other vulnerable section of the society. Presently the NGO have been

working in the five districts of Assam viz, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, N.C.Hills and Karbi Anglong.

**ii. Vision:** To create a society where every citizen avails basic needs and services so as to have life with self-respect, dignity and pride.

**iii. Mission:** DBC exists to bring the socio-economic development of the citizens particularly the women and children of Assam. It aspires to provide cost effective, sustainable people's friendly health, education, economic empowerment and rural entrepreneurship services through people's participation.

**iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To provide quality education to the children for their better future.
- b. To ensure participations of women and underprivileged people in decision making for their economic empowerment.
- c. To ensure health services for the unreached and make them aware about the modern health interventions.
- d. To promote youth skill based programmes.
- e. To disseminate message on development to the masses on different societal issues.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of DBC is vested in a 15 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers, local politicians, doctors, advocates and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The Chairperson is elected by the governing board for the period of 10 years.

The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organisation. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. His tenure of office is for two years. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. DBC has ten local offices located in different places of their intervening areas.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** DBC has 18 Project Coordinators and 52 Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** CAPART, directorate of Social Welfare, Assam, Public Health Engineering department of Assam, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, NRHM, NABARD.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. Deshabadhu Vidya Niketan:** Deshabandhu Vudyaniketan is a formal school established by Deshabandhu Club in 1994. It started with 8 students and the present enrollment is 792. The objective of the school is checking illiteracy rate and imparting quality education.

**b. Aspiration Day Care Center:** The center was started in April 2008. Children of the age group of 3-6 years are being guided to develop their academic as well as social skill at the center.

**c. Health:** DBC started community health services in 1992 in few selected Gaon Panchayats under Kalian development block of Cachar District to know the level of people's ignorance about health support by statistical figure. Initially baseline survey was conducted in a few villages, and findings of the survey showed very poor maternal mortality rate, crude birth rate, immunization status etc. Henceforth, DBC started Deshabandhu Family Welfare hospital to provide care to women and children. The hospital treats women, children and elderly and mentally challenged people and provides free medicine in some cases. The president of this organization happens to be a registered medical practitioner with vast experience in HIV AIDS and mental health and provides voluntary service to the rural poor patients twice in a week. The NGO has been playing a major role in PPI (Pulse Polio Immunization) programme since 1995. It is also working for the eradication of blindness along with District Blind Control Society, Cachar, Lions Club, Silchar Medical College and Hospital.

**d. Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH):** Phase-I of RCH programme was started in 1997. Deshabandhu Club was selected as MNGO<sup>26</sup> by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and assigned to work in four districts in Assam viz Karimganj, Cachar, Hailakandi and Karbi Anglong. After the initiation of NRHM<sup>27</sup> in 2005 RCH came under NRHM. DBC was again selected as MNGO to work in two districts namely Cachar and Hailakandi.

**e. HIV/AIDS Programme:** The organization has been implementing TI (Targeted Intervention) programme in Cachar district since 2007 with funding support from Assam State AIDS Control Society. In 2007 the core group was truckers<sup>28</sup>. In the TI programme around 840 nos. of truckers, 130 nos. commercial female sex workers and 265 nos. of people from rural and slum areas of Cachar district were counseled. After completion of

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<sup>26</sup> Mother NGO

<sup>27</sup> National Rural Health Mission

<sup>28</sup> A group of truck drivers and staff recognized as highly vulnerable for unsafe sexual behaviour

the first phase, the organization was assigned to continue TI programme on FSWs<sup>29</sup> in the district of Cachar. The intervention programme was aimed to cut short further spread of virus among FSWs and general population. The organization interacts with FSWs in slum areas and other spots on their possible vulnerability to get infected with the virus; they were counseled on positive prevention to stop further spread of the virus in targeted group. Presently the organization is entrusted to work with 600 FSWs in Cachar District.

**f. Care Support and Treatment Programme:** A ten bedded Community Care Center (CCC), named Anubhuti has been run by Deshabandhu Club since August, 2008 under the funding support from the State AIDS Control Society, Guwahati. It is a CCC under NACP<sup>30</sup> phase-III. CCC monitors the adherence and treatment tolerance of ARV<sup>31</sup> drugs on newly started HIV positive patients with ART treatment, provides counseling on adherence, treatment, positive prevention and family counseling.

**g. Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme:** DBC has been selected as nodal NGO for making intervention in the five districts of Assam namely Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, NC Hills and Karbi Anglong. The main objective of the programme was to create mass awareness on TB and also facilitating in minimizing TB mortality rate.

**h. Self Help Group Formation:** DBC started forming SHGs since 2006. NABARD identified the potentiality of the DBC in the Micro Finance Sector and assigned 800 SHGs in nine development blocks of Barak Valley. It has total 8450 members out of which 7812 are female. The Organisation also gets help from SIDBI<sup>32</sup>.

**i. System of Rice Intensification (SRI):** DBC has been trained as master trainer on SRI. The organisation is trying to keep regular link with the farmers to popularize SRI and help them to train on SRI method so that they can be benefited.

**j. Common Facility Center for Artisans:** DBC provides necessary technical input to the artisans to compete at the local as well as national market with their products. Technical inputs are being provided by trainers from across the country. The artisans are trained to be active entrepreneurs. CFC has been certified for ISO 9001-2000 and 4001-2000.

**k. Rural Industries Programme (RIP):** RIP was started at DBC in 2005 under sponsorship of Small Industries Development Bank of India. The aim of the programme

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<sup>29</sup> Female Sex Workers

<sup>30</sup> National AIDS Control Programme

<sup>31</sup> Anti-Retro Viral

<sup>32</sup> Small Industries Development Bank of India

was to create 100 industrial units at Cachar district. Total 89 industrial units could be created by now.

**i. NEDFi<sup>33</sup> Information Center:** This organisation has been selected as accredited regional NEDFi Information Center. It provides information on self-employment opportunities to cope up with unemployment problem.

**m. Cluster Development Programme on Handloom:** NABARD has entrusted DBC to perform Cluster Development Programme with an aim to equip the weavers with latest training inputs, design development inputs, providing market linkage and credit linkage to weavers so that they can become competent to market their products in domestic and international market. DBC has undertaken the activity from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Till December 2012, DBC has formed 8 federations and conducted training for them.

**n. Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP):** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have been supporting the Organisation to carry out the self-employment generation programmes for youth. The Organisation not only gives training but also provide market linkage. The Organisation has been accredited as EDP training center by KVIC for Cachar and Karimganj district.

**o. Sanitation:** Sanitation programme was started in 1999-2000 by establishing Sanitary Mart with financial and technical inputs from the department of Public Health Engineering. Low cost hygienic latrine items such as squatting plate, joint pantrup, pit cover, pan trap etc. are made and sold. The Organisation provides technological support to the interested persons for preparing squatting plate, pit garbage, pit platform and draining system. Total 1744 squatting plates have been made and sold.

**p. Social Counseling and Advocacy:** It is one of the important wings of DBC. Legal Aid Cell started in 2004 with an aim to educate people on legal rights and providing legal assistance. The cell looks after marital disputes, cases on violence against women and child and land disputes. The cell has received 264 applications till December 2012.

**q. Anganwadi Training Center:** DBC is a recognized Anganwadi Training Center under directorate of Social Welfare, Assam. This center had imparted job training to the total 400 Anganwadi workers of the ICDS projects of Lakhipur, Katigarh, Tapang, Kalain and Borkhola till December 2012.

**r. Gramin Vikas Andolan:** This organization with the support from CAPART launched a scheme called Gramin Vikas Movement at Karbi Anglong district with a view to create

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<sup>33</sup> North East Development and Financial Corporation



public awareness about water conservation and management, safe sanitation and sustainable utilization of water resources. Being a nodal NGO, this organization selected one field NGO, Rural Area Development Society, Hamren from Chin Thong Development Block of Karbi Anglong district for effective implementation of the programme.

**s. Culture:** The Organization started Sangeet Vidyalaya 1989 to promote culture. Deshabandhu club has cultural troop namely Deshabandhu Cultural Mission. The aim of the mission is to disseminate message on development to the masses on different societal issues and also letting know people the people the activities undertaken by Deshabandhu Club. It also observes various cultural events.

**t. Sports:** Sports always remained a very important activity of the Organisation. This Organisation has its root in the sports as it started as Balak Samiti, a football club in 1966. The Organisation always takes initiative to promote rural sports.

**u. Anti-Superstition Programme:** The Organisation has been working about 20 years to drive away all kinds of superstitions from the minds of the common people.

#### **4.1.5. Seva Kendra, Dibrugarh (SKD):**

**i. Origin:** SKD established in 1982 is a non-profit and non-political organization. It is an official organ of the Diocese of Dibrugarh for planning social and development programme. The organization is committed to the holistic and integral development of the human person and rooted in the well-being of the society. SKD works in Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Golaghat, Tinsukia and Sivasagar of Assam and Changlang, Tirap and Lower Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

**ii. Vision:** To visualize an empowered and integrally developed society where everyone enjoys freedom, justice, peace, harmony, equality and self-reliance.

**iii. Mission:** To commit to empower and integrally develop the poor & marginalized through sensitization, education, promoting peoples organizations by networking, lobbying and advocacy, believing in the potential of the people to develop in their own cultural context.

#### **iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To bring about literacy among the marginalized communities.
- b. To empower them through capacity building so as to have access and control the resources.

- c. To strengthen the community so that they could be able to demand their basic fundamental rights.
- d. To ensure that the vulnerable communities are capable of withstanding the impact of any disaster.
- e. To introduce various participatory tools based risk assessment and apply them in the field situation with the identified community at risk.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of SKD is vested in a 15 member Governing Board comprising of Priests from Dibrugarh Diocese, different parishes and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The Bishop of Dibrugarh is the President of the Governing Board.

The Director is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organization, and is stationed at its Head Office at Dibrugarh. His tenure of office is decided by the Governing Board. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. SKD has 18 project offices located in different places of upper Assam<sup>34</sup>.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** SKD has six Project Coordinators and twenty nine Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** CARITAS India, Catholic Relief Service, Indo-Global Social Service Society, UNICEF, NABARD, MISEREOR and NRHM.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP):** Preparedness at the community is prerequisite during the disaster to reduce loss of lives and property. Hence this program was undertaken in 60 villages which are disaster prone areas. Doom Dooma, Majuli, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar and Sadiya are the centers where these programmes are implemented. The key purpose of the project is to improve the disaster preparedness and mitigate the impact of flood disaster in the project areas. CBDP minimizes the loss of livestock, lives and property due to flood, unity among the people was established, leadership created, linkages among Community Based Organisation, NGO and Government, Bank and Block were established, raised platform in all the areas, repairing of villages road and bridges by the community, and making People able to demand their

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<sup>34</sup> Comprising of districts , viz; Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat

rights. Out of 137 SHGs adapted, 97 SHGs are bank linked, 45 SHGs have received revolving fund.

**b. Village Level Planning (VLP):** Village planning supported by UNICEF, is a five day exercise at the village level where communities through various exercises assess and analyze their situation with the help of various participatory tools that include-village household survey, work and school attendance, village mapping, weighing of children under 6 years of age, mother's meeting, developing the village action plan etc. where focus is on community monitoring and selection of village youth volunteers. The project is undertaken in Joypur, Khowang and Tingkhong development blocks of Dibrugarh district. Major issues as identified are lack of safe drinking water, lack of school teacher, lack of electricity, lack of ANM<sup>35</sup>, Adolescent girls do not consume IFA tablets, lack of awareness on HIV/AIDS, absence of sanitary latrines, child labour, child marriage, incomplete immunization of children, lack of fair price shop, lack of health Sub-Centre and lack of institutional delivery.

**c. Self Help Group (SHG) formation:** SKD with the support of IGSSS<sup>36</sup>, DRDA<sup>37</sup> and CRS<sup>38</sup> undertook SHG training programme for village youth volunteers in three development blocks, i.e. Tingkhong, Khowang, and Joypur of Dibrugarh district. The Programme initiated, is focused specially in the Tea garden areas. Most of the SHGs are capacitated through awareness program on community based organization; training on SHG concept; promotion of SHGs linkages with Banks, Blocks and Local Institutions; leadership Program for President / Secretary; training on documenting, Book and Account Keeping; training on inter personal skills; training on income generating activities and marketing; workshop on PRI<sup>39</sup> and RTI; workshop on Government Schemes, training of trainers on sustainability. A total of 284 SHGs have been formed and nurtured under this intervention.

Some of the accomplishments are regular monthly meeting; emerging leadership among the group members; improved accountability; family issues resolved i.e. educating their children; 70% of groups have internal loan within the groups; schemes availed from Block and Bank; linkages adopted with NGO, Bank and Block; micro enterprise on piggery, fishery, poultry, shops; fishery pond from forest department etc.

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<sup>35</sup> Trained nurse

<sup>36</sup> Indo-Global Social Service Society

<sup>37</sup> District Rural Development Agency

<sup>38</sup> Catholic Relief Service

<sup>39</sup> Panchayati Raj Institutions (Local Self -Government)

**d. Education Program for Human Capacity Development:** This program of SKD is supported by CRS under the Title II Food Programme. It aims to improve participation (enrollment and attendance, retention and completion) of basic primary education of disadvantaged groups (SC/ST/OBC/Girl Child). Main components of education program are School feeding (SF) and Other Child Feeding both residential and institutional (OCF). Five districts of Assam namely, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat are covered under this intervention.

**SF (School Feeding):** The School Feeding program is mainly aimed at children of the economically deprived section of society. The school meal is an incentive for the child to attend school. The objectives are to support children from I-VIII (not pre-primary, nursery and kindergarten).

**OCF (Other Child Feeding):** The program is known as residential feeding program for Boarding and Orphanages covering group from 06 to 14 years. The objective is to cater support to able bodied children of both primary and post primary levels attending boarding schools.

Some of the realizations are the infrastructures of the resident schools are good; they have good accommodation facilities; study room facilities and proper dining facilities; they have sufficient remedial teaching and child counseling; the centers have sufficient cooking and serving facilities, and the food that is cooked in the centres for the children are hygienic.

**e. Safe Motherhood and Child Survival (SMCS) Program:** This is another program supported by CRS under the Title II Food Programme. The maternal and child health program activities aimed at improvement of mother and child health status. SMCS focuses to provide support towards empowering women to address their own health and development needs as well as those of their children and communities. Another component of SMCS is individual health care where any individual, incapable of any kind of work and having no one to look after him/her will be eligible for food assistance. This programme is implemented in Golaghat, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar and Jorhat districts of Assam and Changlang, Tirap and Lower Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh. Services provided under this initiative are antenatal care; safe delivery and postnatal care; safe delivery; growth monitoring and promotion; immunization and Vitamin A supplement for children; health and nutrition education for mothers; home visits; facilitation of women's group formation; village health committee

formation and monthly take home Title II food ration as a participatory incentive. A total of 1400 beneficiaries have been benefitted from this programme.

#### **4.1.6. Center for Rural Development (CRD)**

**i. Origin:** CRD started its journey in 1986 as a grassroot level development support organization working towards livelihood enhancement and overall development of poor. The idea of CRD was conceptualized by a dedicated veterinary doctor (Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarma) and his colleagues. CRD is headquartered in Guwahati and works in sixteen states of India.

**ii. Vision:** To convert poor to power

**iii. Mission:** To ensure sustainable livelihood of poor people by using local resources and skills through community participation.

**iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To organize, promote, develop, improve, support and maintain rural development activities and management of balanced physical environment.
- b. To create an information base for identification, location and intensification of agriculture and livestock production activities including the support services.
- c. To organize and promote interest among the villagers in the utilization and consumption of different agricultural and animal husbandry and veterinary services and also in setting up of independent service center based on local needs for supporting developmental process.
- d. To render technical assistance for various types of agriculture and livestock production activities and frame proposal for financial assistance from various institutions for implementation
- e. To organize programme on formal and non-formal education and also health and nutrition for children as well as women
- f. To undertake some income generation projects for the sustainability of the Society.
- g. To undertake programmes for the poor, especially tribal, schedule caste, women and children for their livelihood security.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of CRD is vested in a 10 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers, veterinary doctor, technocrats and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The tenure of President is not specified.

The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organization, and is stationed at its Head Office at Guwahati. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. The tenure of his office is for 5 years. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. CRD has seven regional offices located in different parts of the country.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** CRD has twenty Project Coordinators and eighty five Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** ARIAS Society (Under Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, Punjab National Bank, Millepede Foundation, IIT, Guwahati, Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Hindustan UniLever Limited (HUL) and some nationalized Banks.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. The Rickshaw Bank:** It is estimated that there are 8 million rickshaw pullers in India. However, hardly 10% rickshaw pullers own their rickshaws and the rest depend on the private owner on daily rental basis of Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 that vary from place to place. Neither have they had social security nor dignity at their work. The Rickshaw Bank of CRD has brought a hope to the rickshaw pullers by providing a newly designed rickshaw, with insurance and license at an affordable cost with facilitating their solidarity for rights and livelihood. The first prototype of the newly designed Rickshaw was developed by The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati. The pilot phase of the Rickshaw Bank was launched in Guwahati and later it was expanded to the other areas in Assam and outside Assam too. The project was started with much hype on November 20, 2004; and over the six years of period, it has emerged itself as the flagship project of CRD. As on date, CRD has exclusively focused on different development issues of the rickshaw pullers and working continuously with its Rickshaw Bank project.

Initially the project was started with the financial support of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Hindustan UniLever Limited (HUL) and later on different banks and funding agencies extended their philanthropic assistance. During this financial year 2013-14, CRD pleased to work with financial assistance of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Millepede Foundation- an international charitable trust.

**b. Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development (STED) Project:** Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development (STED) Project is an ambitious initiative of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India to bring about a socio-economic development of an area through the intervention of science & technology. It aims at inculcating strong entrepreneurial orientation in people that will result in effective utilization of resources both human and material of a region besides generating opportunities for employment and creation of wealth. One of the key focused areas of STED is to raise the socio-economic level of the economically weaker sections of the population in the region by enhancing their earning potential through self-employment. This is done by helping them to set up micro-enterprises through a process of empowering them with technical knowledge and skills besides business related skills. CRD under the STED Project had selected, trained and supported 80(eighty) aspiring micro-entrepreneurs in 80(eighty) Districts covering 16(sixteen) states including Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, within a period of 4(four) years starting from May 2009, providing them all kinds of guidance including skill development trainings for setting up small industrial units in order to independently assemble/manufacture eco-friendly slow-moving vehicles like Cycle Rickshaw, Food Cart, Vegetable & Fruits Cart, Garbage Cart, Fish Carts, Momo Cart etc. The target group was unemployed youths who may or may not possess necessary skill to launch a micro-unit but have the necessary desire and aptitude for such venture.

**c. Social Mobilization Activities under Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) - A World Bank Funded Programme:** CRD since 2000 has been working with the ARIAS Society, as the District Nodal NGO in Kamrup district, for implementing the Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP). Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) is an ongoing project of Govt. of Assam funded by the World Bank. The programme is meant for the development of agricultural infrastructure and market-led extension service to enhance livelihood for the rural people. The project has its four different components in Kamrup district i.e. Agriculture, Fishery, Dairy and Forestry. While technical services of the programme are being rendered by the relevant line departments, the social mobilization process has been facilitated by Non- Governmental Organizations (NGO) in each districts of Assam.

The AACCP is mainly facilitating market driven agricultural intensification and diversification by assisting farmers to become more competitive and able to take advantage on emerging economic opportunities.

## **4.2 Low Performing NGOs**

### **4.2.1 Shanti Sadhana Ashram (SSA)**

**i. Origin:** SSA was set up by some of the followers of Acharya Vinoba Bhave in 1982 in Guwahati, Assam. Since then, Ashram has been offering its services in the field of health, education, training and income generation on one hand, and peace, harmony, human understanding, national integration and equal respect for all religions and diverse Indian culture and civilization on the other under the leadership of Hem Bhai.

**ii. Vision:** To empower the downtrodden.

**iii. Mission:** To ensure sustainable livelihood of poor by using local resources and skills through community participation and social harmony.

**iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To organize and promote interest among the villagers in the utilization and consumption of different agricultural and animal husbandry and veterinary services and also in setting up of independent service center based on local needs for supporting developmental process.
- b. To render technical assistance for various types of agriculture and livestock production activities and frame proposal for financial assistance from various institutions for implementation
- c. To organize programme on formal and non-formal education and also health and nutrition for children as well as women
- d. To undertake some income generation projects for the sustainability of the Society.
- e. To undertake programmes for the poor, especially tribal, schedule caste, women and children for their livelihood security.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of SSA is vested in a 19 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers, veterinary doctor, technocrats, scientists and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The tenure of President is 5 years.



The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organisation, and is stationed at its Head Office at Guwahati. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. The tenure of his office is not specified. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements. The Ashram has 13 branches covering 6 districts of Assam. Besides, the organization is spreading its network of branches also in other states outside Assam (land and other infrastructures donated by the well-wishers of the Ashram). Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra are the states where Ashram has already opened its branches.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** SSA has four Project Coordinators and fifty Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** National Aids Control Organisation, Voluntary Health Association, EZE-Germany, Small Industrial Development Bank of India, North Eastern Council, CAPART and RGVN.

**viii. Activities Undertaken:**

**a. Education through Non-formal Method:** “Jeevan Sadhana Vidya Niketans (JSVN’s)”:

This program was initiated in the year 1992. The Ashram has been running 8 schools in two districts of Assam namely- Kamrup and Lakhimpur where no formal education was accessible to the communities. The DRDA (District Rural Development Agency), Govt. of Assam and Local Gram Panchayat and World Vision helped in development of school buildings and pucca urinals and latrines. AIRTEL Telecom Services has provided two school libraries for the children of schools.

**Health Education and Awareness: “KHOJ” :** In the sector of health the “KHOJ” programme was an initiative of the Ashram in Integrated Development of Health and Income Generation. This programme was launched in the year 1994 in 20 villages of Dimoria Development Block of Kamrup District and continued till 2003 with financial help from EZE Germany through Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi. Under this programme the Ashram had started health and awareness activities in sanitation, safe-drinking water, malaria eradication, mother and child health care and general treatment to common ailments through a 4 bedded hospital at Bamfor village with doctors and 10 health workers of said block and district. The traditional unsafe treatment practices among the community have been gradually wiped out. The initial child delivery complications could be obliterated to safe mode by training to the local

“Dhai’s” (midwife) under this project. The awareness among the pregnant women increased the flow of ANC and PNC cares in Government Sub- Health Centers/PHCs. Though this project was continued till August, 2003, the Ashram still continues its health services in the said areas in collaboration with a local nursing home namely Dispur Polyclinic, Guwahati.

#### **Income Generation through Handloom, Handicraft and Mushroom Spawn:**

In income generation activities the Ashram has been working through different initiatives. One of its major activities in this sector is Handloom. Through this handloom activity the Ashram could provide financial support to most of the backward women specially the tribals. The tribal women who initially did not have any income source now are getting Rs. 1200/- to 3000/- per month through production of handloom items. This earning among the rural poor weavers could provide a big support to their families in educating their children, better health care and in normal livelihood. It is to be mentioned that most of the tribal women who traditionally used to produce local unsafe “Liquors” as a source of their income have discontinued said practices and started using practices of handloom in their homes or in Ashram’s production centres.

The Ashram started this handloom activity with the help of SIDBI, RGVN, CAPART and is now spreading to different parts of the state through its branches in 5 districts. The North-Eastern Council (NEC) has also recognized this institution for this activity and helping for giving training to more and poorer women. The Ashram receives high demand for its silk and cotton products now in National Markets also.

In handicraft sector the Ashram provided training to many rural youths with assistance from North- Eastern Council.

In Mushroom Spawn production the Ashram’s laboratory could occupy the best rank in entire North- East (NE) for quality spawns. The Ashram has been receiving good demands for Mushroom Spawn from individual growers, other govt. /non govt. institutions in each year from entire NE. In implementing Mushroom Cultivation trainings to rural unemployed youths also the Ashram occupies the premier status among the institutions in NE. The spawn production laboratory of the Ashram has produced about 5000 packets of oyster mushroom spawn of 250 gm each and sold to mushroom growers at nominal cost.

#### **b. Ashram's Regular Activities:**

**Handloom-** Ashram continued its activities in production of mulberry, non-mulberry silk and cotton products. While the weavers earned handsomely, the Ashram made a sale of Rs. 14.04 lakhs during the year 2012-13.

**Food products-** The food products of the Ashram viz squash of orange, pineapple, jackfruit, mango, blackberry, kordoi, pickles of mango, olive, amara, bamboo shoot, chilli, brinjal, mushroom, jackfruit, lemon, spices- powder-chilli, turmeric, black pepper, coriander, jeera etc.

**Ayurvedic Medicinal Products:** The Ayurvedic medicine center produces Brahmi Tone-S (Brain tonic) Liv up-S (Liver tonic) Kasanta Kalp (cough syrup) Panduharan (jaundice) and Bel powder, Triphala churna, blackberry powder, Aswagandha churna etc.

**Steel Fabrication:** The training cum production unit of steel fabrication in the Ashram started in 2012 has been doing better during the year and the unit has been able to train up 10 youths who produced standard quality products of steel furniture.

#### **c. Ashram has executed the following ongoing projects**

- i. Cluster development project with the financial assistance from North Eastern Council, Shillong. The project covered nearly two thousand beneficiaries under the training on weaving, handicrafts, food processing/preservation in the district of Sivasagar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur and Kamrup.
- ii. Targeted Intervantion of HIV/AIDs migrant laborers in Sivasagar district: The first phase of the project in Bihubor area under Sivasagar district has been completed successfully. The project envisages addressing problems of 1000 beneficiaries.
- iii. Rapid Multiplication Unit: The RMU of black pepper under the financial and technical support of the Spices board has been maintained by the Ashram and produced quality rooted cuttings of improved varieties of black pepper.

#### **4.2.2 Sipajhar Diamond Club and Community Center (SDCCC)**

**i. Origin:** SDCCC established by some of the footballers in the name and style of Diamond Football Team in 1931. Since 1996-97, the trend has been changed and the Organisation started working as Non- Government Organisation for the community. Thus it came forward to work towards all round development for the needy in the area of

agriculture, fishery, health, sanitation, income generation, environmentally hazard protection, entrepreneurship development etc.

**ii. Vision:** Sipajhar Diamond Club Community Center emerges to provide opportunity to everybody for making a positive change in their lives.

**iii. Mission:** Sipajhar Diamond Club Community Center exists to help people for upgrading their lifestyle.

**iv. Core Objectives:**

a. Mobilizing Community Based Organisation, developing young leadership and collaborate with network of local communities, social campaign, non-governmental organizations and other partners.

b. Building mass awareness and sensitizing community for realizing their ownership over natural resource. To provide environment education on water resource development and protection, creating capacity to protect rivers and defend the rights of communities that depend on them.

c. To adopt community rights based issues and develop strategy to strive for a sustainable development of underdeveloped part of the downtrodden community.

**v. Organizational Structure:** Governance of SDCCC is vested in a 13 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers, artists and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The tenure of President is 5 years.

The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organization, and is stationed at its Head Office at Sipajhar in Darrang district. He is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. The tenure of his office is two years. He is assisted by a team from the Resource Unit, HR & Administration and Finance & Accounts, and integrates operations, develops plans, policies and budgets and meets statutory requirements.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** SSA has seven Project Coordinators and sixteen Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** ARIAS Society, National Rural Health Mission, Public Health Engineering Department, Govt. of Assam and NABARD.

**viii. Activities Undertaken**

**a. Nodal NGO for Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP):** Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) which is funded by World Bank recognized this Organisation as Nodal NGO for Darrang and Udalguri districts of Assam in Agriculture, Dairy and Fishery sectors.

### **Agriculture:**

**Irrigation:** The organisation has been promoting Agricultural Service Groups (ASGs) to provide STW to the farmers in the field. Awareness creation, forms distribution, beneficiaries selection and to establish link-up with Agriculture department are the activities undertaken by this Organisation.

**Farm Mechanization:** The Organisation has promoted 100 Agriculture Service Groups and helped them to get access of agricultural equipment like tractors, power-tillers from Agriculture department. It has also conducted training programmes for these groups on repairing of these equipments.

**Land Development:** This Organisation is also developing Agricultural land by promoting Micro Watershed Development Projects to help farmers during cultivation. Till December 2012 the Organisation has developed 18 Micro Watershed Development Projects in Darrang and Udalguri.

### **Fishery:**

**CIG & CTG Formation:** To develop individual and community fisheries SDCCC has formed 29 Common Interest Groups (CIG) and 5 Community Tank Groups (CTG).

**Mini Hatchery:** This Organisation has promoted 10 CIGs having 10 members each for nursery tanks and 26 CIGs for rearing tanks. SDCCC monitors the civil works undertaken by these CIGs and verifies the input distribution process of these CIGs and CTGs. Besides it imparts training on pre-stocking management and record keeping, post stocking management, water quality management, disease control, harvesting and marketing, feedback and evaluation. It also evaluates and gives grades to the CIGs of the 8 clusters of the district.

### **Dairy:**

Till October 2012, the Organisation has promoted 54 Dairy Co-operative Societies (DCS) and 195 Dairy Self-Help Groups (DSHG) in Darrang and Udalguri district and helped them to register under societies registration act 1860. SDCCC also provides training on different aspects of marketing and establishing linkage with the line departments. The organisation sent 27 DCSs from Patharighat, Namkhala, Mahaliapara and Kharupetia to Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in order to provide them basic ideas of running their organisations. Likewise SDCCC sent 14 DSHGs to Bihar for exposure visit.

**b. Mother NGO for Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Project:** SDCCC has been entrusted as mother NGO by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRHM) to implement

Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Project since 2006-07. The project is functional in the underserved areas of Darrang district covering three Block Public Health Centers (BPHCs) namely, Kharupetia, Jaljali and Sipajhar. As mother NGO SDCCC selects field NGOs, un-served/under-served area selection, capacity building of Field level NGOs, conducts base line survey, project proposal preparation, door-step service delivery and functions as bridge between Government and Community. Selected field levels NGOs are ROAD, SEED and CARD. The main components to intervene under RCH project are:

**Ante-Natal Care:** The field level workers conduct counseling sessions, group meetings, workshops and advocacy meetings so that a link would be established between Sub-center and Pregnant Women (PW) so that they could avail the facilities offered by Government.

**Institutional Delivery and Delivery by Skilled Birth Attendant:** Field Workers conducted a base line survey in the operational blocks and found that only 8 out of 100 women attended Institutions for delivery; the rest delivered their child at home by untrained “Dhai” (Midwife). As a result many more deformities occurred at the time of delivery and post-delivery. They were also deprived from vaccines. SDCCC has been trying to motivate the people especially women on the importance of Institutional Delivery.

**Child Immunization:** Child immunization is only 2% in the operational area. SDCCC has started its intervention with the community by conducting group discussions, small group meetings, counseling and sometimes by demonstrating, conducting free health camps etc.

**ASHA Training Programme:** Being the MNGO in Darrang District for RCH project SDCCC has trained 776 ASHA workers.

Moreover, SDCCC has been working on Family planning issues, Reproductive Track Infection etc. But due to discontinuation of fund flow the target given could not be realized.

### **c. Programme under NABARD:**

**Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP):** SDCCC conducted training on Pig Farming, Goat Rearing, Waving and Duck Farming at Deomornoi, Mazgaon, Sipajahr, Kuruwa.

**Skill Development Initiation Programme:** SDCCC imparted training to 80 youths of 2 no. Sengapara of Darrang District; who are engaged with pottery work to enhance their skills so that they could produce eco-friendly and locally usable products.

Besides SDCCC also helps District Administration, Darrang to conduct PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) in different villages and conducts Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme for the youth.

**d. Programme under Public Health Engineering Department:** SDCCC constructed 150 House Hold Latrines (HHL) under Sipajhar Gaon Panchyat for BPL (Below Poverty Line) families.

**e. National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme under Health Department and UNICEF:** Under this programme SDCCC trained 177 master trainers and animators from different schools and colleges of Darrang District so that they could create awareness among the community. Moreover SDCCC also has been monitoring the progress of the work.

Furthermore, it runs a Music College, conducts national level Volleyball Competition, publish a monthly newsletter named, 'Diamond Barta', training programme under District Rural Development Agency, awareness campaign under NRHM, Directorate of Health Services, Nehru Yuva Kendra etc. Likewise SDCCC celebrates Global Hand Washing Day, Sishu Divas, World Women Day, Independence Day, Republic Day etc.

#### **4.2.3 Tezpur District Mahila Samity (TDMS)**

**i. Origin:** TDMS is a grassroots non-governmental organization that was formally established in 1928. TDMS is among the oldest women's organizations in the North East and consists of a federation of 120 Primary Village Mahila Samities<sup>40</sup> with membership of over 10,000 women. TDMS has its ideological roots in Gandhian principles and philosophy. Its primary aim is to make marginalized communities and women self-reliant.

**ii. Vision:** To broaden the social ideals.

**iii. Mission:** To foster social change by empowering and educating women and other marginalized sections.

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<sup>40</sup> Women Organisation

**iv. Core Objectives:**

- a. To address and change gender biases
- b. To sensitize social agencies that impact and affect women
- c. To foster awareness in women about their rights
- d. To resist and educate against domestic and sexual violence

**v. Organisational Structure:** Governance of TDMS is vested in a 20 member Governing Board comprising of social workers, teachers and representatives from local Mahila Samities, house wives and members from supporting and sponsoring agencies. The tenure of President is 5 years.

The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of overall administration of the organisation, and is stationed at its Head Office at Tezpur in Sonitpur District. She is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. The tenure of his office is not specified.

**vi. Full Time Employee and Volunteers:** TDMS has twelve Full Time Employees.

**vii. Sponsoring and Supporting Agencies:** NRHM and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship.

**viii. The Activities Undertaken:** TDMS approach towards social change has been multi-dimensional, encompassing health, legal rights, education and aid, literacy, micro credit and thrift programs, weaving, sericulture and development of other agro based livelihood skills. It has served as an agency for facilitation, training, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of projects.

TDMS has seen growth and success in many of the institution and capacity building projects it has undertaken. Though weaving has remained an essential approach and a valuable method for the pursuit of self-reliance, it has been over shadowed by other activities of the samiti.

**a. Weaving and Sericulture:** The handloom department had its official beginning in the 1930's and saw rapid growth from its early days. Initially known as Sipini Bhoral, it later changed to Samabay Sipini Sangha or the Weavers' Cooperative. Training in Weaving was imparted to many women through various programs that have been conducted over the years. The weavers are awarded a certificate by the samiti at the end of the training program, and a large number of them are self-reliant, with independent weaving units and viable small businesses. The samiti has aided independent weavers in the acquisition of looms and has provided other forms of assistance as well.



The Training cum Production Centre (TCP): The TCP is situated on the premises of the TDMS office complex in Tezpur and has been functioning at its present form from 1991. Popularly known as factory the TCP was initially funded by Oxfam America for the purposes of training weavers and promoting the production of handloom. It consists of twenty traditional looms and two tara looms. The TCP utilizes traditional Assamese, Bodo and Mishing designs and it is one of the few units in the state that has remained faithful to authentic traditional patterns, in which every aspect of the production is hand crafted by the weavers. TDMS' weavers have been trendsetters and as a result there has historically been a high demand for those cloths, and few finished products get to the TDMS store. Most of the weavers on the looms on which the weavers currently work are pre ordered by customers and hence are sold even before they are completed. Currently there are fifteen full-time weavers. TDMS has onsite residential facilities in which free accommodation, water and electricity are provided.

The Nidhi Handloom Unit: Rural Mahila Samitis: The second unit of handloom production is known as "Nidhi", which comprises seven Primary Mahila Samitis located within a radius of 70 kilometers of Tezpur. Nidhi represents approximately one third of the volume of the total sales of handloom. The items woven by Nidhi are cotton *mekhela sadors*<sup>41</sup>, *gamosas*<sup>42</sup>, shawls, napkins, table covers and yardage materials.

The Yarn Bank: Yarn of different counts such as 2/40, 2/60 and 2/26, mercerized cotton are purchased from wholesalers in Guwahati on as-needed basis. Yarn is normally brought to Tezpur by a representative of TDMS. *Eri Silk* and *Muga silk* yarn, indigenous to Assam, are procured from Borsola, Jorhat, and other areas. Yarns are kept in two stores-one for the TCP and one to meet the requirements of the Rural Mahila Samitis for the Nidhi Project. Separate accounts are maintained for the day-to-day issuance of yarn to both the above units.

The Handloom Department that consists of TCP and Nidhi has been at the forefront of revitalizing and popularizing traditional Assamese designs within and outside of Assam. It is one of the few departments and projects that has been the least dependent on external funding. When funds have been received, both units have been successful in returning loans, and yet, tremendous potential for additional growth could still be realized.

**b. The Tailoring and Embroidery unit:** The Tailoring and Embroidery Unit has been functioning since the 1950s, and as its name suggests, the main purpose is to provide

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<sup>41</sup> Traditional Assamese dress for women

<sup>42</sup> Towels

training for machine embroidery and tailoring. TDMS has obtained accreditation from the state government to issue certificate to successful candidates. The unit is one of the TDMS's self-sustaining units where the trainers' remuneration is generated from the tuition fees. A percentage of this income is allotted for the general fund. This unit also serves as a consultant to different organizations, and the Army wives Welfare association regularly commissions this unit to conduct examinations and provide certificates for the trainees.

**c. Jute Diversified Products:** In 2000, the National Jute Development Project, based in Kolkata, funded a project to train women in the production of jute household products such as tablemats, rugs, bags, coasters, decorative items and doormats. The jute center has made substantial contributions to the general fund. Now, fund is required to upgrade the jute handicraft skills of women to improve existing designs and quality, and to adopt alternative designs for product development and better marketability in order to enhance revenue possibilities.

**d. Annapurna Food Counter:** TDMS recently added a canteen for the provision of refreshments to trainees and participants of workshops. This allowed housewives and marginalized women to generate supplementary resources by selling homemade food at the counter, which also serves to generate for the general fund of TDMS. Annapurna is yet to emerge as successful commercial venture.

**e. Legal Aid and Counseling Cell:** The Legal Aid Cell provides free legal aid and counseling to the victims of violence, dowry death, desertion, rape, molestation and abuse. The project was started in 1992 and received legal education through the New Delhi based non-governmental organisation, Sakshi. The Legal Aid Cell continues to offer legal awareness and gender sensitization within Assam and has provided free legal support in over 1000 cases. Other initiatives have been awareness raising and gender sensitization of service providers, students, and the general public.

**f. Credit and Thrift Banking:** The fundamental concept of the women's thrift and credit cooperative known as Mahila Sanchay Samabay (MSS) is a small savings and credit program for women to access money for loans, income generation, and asset creation on their own names (rare in a traditional and poor economy). Women's participation in economic activity through the MSS was expected to generate large-scale changes and boost their social and economic status. The long term goal of the MSS continues to be an elevation of women's role in economic activity in order to stimulate autonomy and increase power and status within their households. TDMS approached Rashtriya Gramin

Vikas Nidhi (RGVN), a donor agency for financial support to the program as the requirement for the fund was substantial. RGVN provided financial assistance of Rupees 4.99 lakhs in August 1994. TDMS proposed to form twenty six credit cooperatives within a year. In May 1997, RGVN sanctioned a “Not Returnable Grant” of Rupees 2.67 lakhs. This program addressed a range of economic difficulties rural communities face, and by providing monetary infrastructure for women and underserved population to generate money independently. The MSS provide services to a clientele comprised of largely poor, illiterate women engaged in self-employment or agricultural labour. Many women entrepreneurs and small businesses have emerged as a result of this initiative. The credit and thrift program has also served as a doorway through which a variety of other programs, such as legal education and reproductive health, have been introduced, thereby enabling significant changes in the villages.

Data from TDMS’ study of 150 women, demonstrated that only 11% women were matriculates. Data regarding characteristics of the loans demonstrated that 47% of the loans disbursed to individual women are below the amount of Rupees 500; 31% borrowed between Rupees 500 and 1000, 20% between Rupees 1000 and 2000, and 2% of loans borrowed were above the amount of Rupees 2000. Seventy five credit and thrift banks were established of which forty one are monitored by TDMS. Currently most of the banks are operating independently with minimal supervision from TDMS. The major problem that TDMS is facing that it’s funding for MSS has exhausted even though its role as a facilitator to provide critical support to MSS continue.

**g. Strengthening Reproductive Health Access:** Empowering grassroots women on issues of reproductive health has been a primary focus of TDMS. Under this program a large number of healthcare and awareness meetings have been conducted. TDMS worked closely with National Rural Health Mission, Assam and the Voluntary Health Association, Assam. This Ford Foundation funded project is aimed at providing education and empowerment on reproductive health and gender justice from a right based perspective. This project also trains groups of health workers and women leaders in rural areas. Additionally, project workers conduct advocacy campaigns to generate public awareness on violence against women and reproductive health rights. This project had some success in promoting an understanding of women’s rights.

**h. Reproductive and Child Health Project:** As a nodal agency for the Voluntary Health Association of Assam, TDMS has been involved in the Reproductive and Child Health Project since 1999. The objectives of this initiative are to bring awareness of reproductive

health issues, implement measures to safeguard the health of new born babies and promote the adoption of contraceptive methods to limit population growth. The field base activities are field surveys, resource group training, traditional birth attendants training, sex education, health camps for the detection of reproductive tract infections, and medical problems related to reproductive health, HIV training for adolescent groups, and other health awareness programs.

This Chapter dealt with the NGOs studied and their services. Likewise, emphasis was given on how the services are delivered, and methodologies and interventions adopted by these organizations.