

ADIBASI SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION NET-WORK

Regd. under W.B.Societies Regn.Act XXVI/1961

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Mission School Students' Annual Sports Meet & Members

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT-2016- 2017

1. Genesis of "ASWASAN":

In India the tribal people are the most backward community in every aspect of life. Almost all the Govt. development & Welfare program were basically meant for the rural Tribal people. The Corporate Houses & NGOs are also involved in the welfare and development process.

But we find that the areas are developing but the tribes are left out still now, they have become the "Marketable Goods" like. Poverty and Socio-Cultural & Educational backwardness, and after all the simplicity, culture of silence, etc. of the tribal have been exploited shamelessly for decades by the Land Lords, Traders, Politicians, Vested interest peoples, corrupted Govt. officials and even by the big "Social Work Organizations." Tribes as well as the whole rural Communities have become the worst victims of the complex Socio-Economic & Political situation of India.

For quite a long time tribal human resources have been abused by different political, Non-Political and by the Socio-Religious Groups, and the Tribal Social Leaders, educated youths, Elites and intelligentsia have become confused and rudderless !

Keeping in mind all those, the "ASWASAN" was officially formed in the year 2003 by the trained tribal Social Work Professionals (MSWs) and Socio-Educational & Cultural Activists under the Leadership of **Mr. Panchanan Kisku** (MSW, Spl. in MPSW, TISS, Mumbai) to work genuinely and in a better manner in



Gen.Secretary



the fields of empowerment of the tribal Women Folk and thereby of the whole tribal Society at large in India through implementation of the Welfare(Education, Health, Socio-Cultural, Capacity building Training, etc.) and Development (Agriculture, Occupational diversification, SHGs & Cooperative formation, etc.) programs following Social Work Philosophy, Methods and Strategies.

2. **Vision:** Building of a prosperous ,exploitation less, united, and developed nation based on equality, human rights, Social justice, equal opportunity, mosaic pattern of Socio-Cultural heritage in India and in human Society at large where the tribal human Resources can get due and proper place to grow, flourish and in building nationality.
3. **Mission:** To motivate and organize the tribal and other rural communities through participatory method. To ensure human resource development, To diversify the occupation of the tribal & other poor, To increase rate of literacy especially among the rural Girls and higher education among the STs/SCs, To work for tribal & other poor families' food security. To promote voluntarism & voluntary actions amongst tribes and other backward communities. To orient people about eco-friendly & sustainable agriculture, Horticulture, promotion and proper use of Land, Water, etc. resources.
To work for cultural integrity and communal harmony. To work for empowerment of tribal society. To generate awareness about social justice, Legal literacy and human rights among the tribes and rural population. To document & record the important events of tribal peoples struggles, works & achievements in print / electronic media to protect and to enrich the Indian cultural Heritage.



4. ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED DURING-2016-'17:

- 1) **Women empowerment Program:** In tribal Communities the women play an important role in maintenance, in making family sustainable economically, in educating the Children and in achieving a Healthy family. The tribal women are basically potential for working in groups in collective actions and in Co operative entrepreneurship. We do believe that SHG format can be the best strategy to combat the ages long chronic poverty prevalent among the tribal families. Our SHGs have been continuing 'Savings & Crediting' activities very successfully. They are being motivated to undertake small business with the help of the Group fund and outside loans on the basis of local resources & local market base that is fitted to their skills and culture.
- 2) **Family Planning & Small Family Norms:** The rural families have been suffering from chronic poverty for ages long period. Family Size of the rural families was one of the main reasons in this regards. Tribal & other backward families are the main beneficiaries of our organization mainly because we wanted them to be aware of about Small Families making norms and Methods. Accessibility of Govt. Health Services was very less to such families. And prevailing illiteracy among the eligible Couples are also very high. We hold the Family Planning Awareness Camps and take the interested Couples to the nearby Health Centre for getting them habituate to visit Health centers for Family Planning purposes. It has got quite a good impact on the target eligible Couples and others of both the Sexes.
- 3) **Community mobilization:** Tribal, the Sch. Castes and the other backward Communities live generally in a village/ community groups. Their strengths and weaknesses are almost the

same. But we, through holding motivational and socio-Economic awareness trying to bring positive changes in their thought process.

This priority program of our Association was very much successful. Village level Motivation meetings, Workshops, addressing the Social gatherings and Melas, Public annual Worship occasions, etc. are arranged/ attended with some prepared program Messages following local IEC materials and folk media. Through this program Voluntarism among the tribal people especially amongst the youth ones was promoted and scope provided for practicing in the society.

- 4) **Santali Ashram School running:** Pandit Raghunath Murmu, the inventor of the 'OI-Chiki' Script for Santali have shown Tribal people mainly the Mundari linguistic groups a newer way to grow and to be empowered.

'Mission Schools' have been running by the 'ASWASAN' in the district of Bankura (W.B) for last one decade. More than 628 students have been taught Santali in OI-Chiki Script at the Primary education Course curriculum and they have been admitted in nearby Govt. Secondary schools. Hope we can increase such residential Schools to meet the demand of the locality very soon getting Govt./Non Govt. supports.

- 5) **Environment Awareness:** The Santhals and the other Tribes live in forest areas do love and feel for the natural Forest main because they earn for their bread and butter from this Forest. They may be called the 'Priest & Protectors of Nature'. They worship trees, they let the forest grow through protecting it for they generally earn a lot from forest to maintain livelihood.

Keeping in mind all those we held the awareness camps to discuss the environment, pollution and roles of the villagers. Now the villagers of remote and forest fringe areas are very active in protecting their natural wealth taking quite a mentionable challenges.



- 6) **Tutorial Classes:** The rural Communities- the STs, SCs & OBCs are striving against the illiteracy and mentionable performance in education and in skill-based training courses. We, honouring their interests and struggles for better social and community life organize the Tutorial Classes and career building camps for them. Guardians of the beneficiary children /students are also very happy with our Tutorial Classes and Career motivation camps.

- 7) **Training of Staff Volunteers:** Skill up gradation of the field workers, Village level Volunteers, Primary School Teachers etc. was the basic priority program of our Association. Fresh Volunteers and other staff members are provided the induction and fresher's capacity building trainings. Topics covered include-Communication, Community organization, Project activity details, Mission, Vision and goals of the Association, Reporting, Collection of field data, etc.

- 8) **Tribal Art & Culture Promotion:** Cultural Heritage of a Community /Nation does have a positive and strong impact of its every member. Tribal communities are very fond of Music, Dance, Songs, etc. performing Arts. Basically the stage performance for Competition taking the folk dance, traditional Songs, plays, etc. are covered under different age and Sex groups of Contestants. In the annual Program prizes are awarded to the successful contestants. It has been an attractive and successful program of the Association.

- 9) **Games and Sports Program:** Rural youth mainly the STs/SCs/OBCs are found to most interested in indoor and out door Games & Sports. To organize and strengthen the rural tribal youths and their Clubs/Operas the annual Sports Meets are organized at Central village and

Block levels. The tribal Women, Girls and the School students are the majority participants here. Villagers attend the Games & Sports Meets in a festive mood from even far away villages. Attractive prizes and food are provided to the contestants (individuals & groups). We are very happy with the fund raising drive of our field workers/ Volunteers/Members and of the local influential persons.

10) **Legal Awareness/ Advocacy Program:**

The rural communities and mainly the STs, SCs and OBCs are found to be unaware about their Constitutional safeguards and Rights as Scheduled Castes. They are not even aware of the Human Rights, RTIs, Rights to Education, etc. The tribal society



women do enjoy more freedom in family management and in personal life-lead. But in present complex society they too have been suffering from some socio-cultural and economic problems. We, through our advocacy program give voice to the women's issues and socio-cultural and economic problems. Legal Awareness Camps are organized mainly for the women residing in remote areas of the district. Local humanitarian Lawyers and Socio-cultural Activists and the tribal traditional social Leaders participate as the Resource persons. Villagers and the individuals contribute in cash

and in kinds to meet the program cost. We are happy with the performance of our Volunteers and the professionals who voluntarily attended most of our Programs.

[PANCHANAN KISKU], MSW(TISS, Mumbai)

Gen. Secretary, Adibasi Social Workers' Association for Social Action Net-Work