



ACTIVITY REPORT

2013-2014

AASHA BORA FOUNDATION

HEAD OFFICE

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ACTIVITIES DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR-2013-2014

VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Over the years Aashaa Bora Foundation has been working consistently for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for various communities of the region. *“Training for Livelihood”* has become one of the major components of our organizational activities.

We took the initiative to provide vocational training on the use of Water Hyacinth for minority communities, for which the raw material required is abundantly available in many water bodies of the region. The objective of the training was to popularize the making of eco- friendly handicraft products among the Community.

The targeted area of the training programme was Vill: Panigaon, Dist- Morigaon, Assam, for 20 beneficiaries comprising of rural women from 04.05.2013 to 13.5.2013. The design inputs for the product training were provided by Dr. Aashaa Bora, President of ABF.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTHCARE

Aashaa Bora Foundation organized a programme regarding awareness of mother and infant health care. In this programme the special focus was on mother’s groups of targeted area; Village: Nangoli Bilpar, Dist: Morigaon, Assam from 08.06.2013 to 11.06.2013.

A counseling session was also held during the programme for mothers. Information was provided regarding the advantages of breast feeding. It was followed by a questions and answer session among the groups. A quiz competition on topic on breast feeding was also held. At the close of the programme a short Documentary on breast feeding and its benefit was shown to the participants.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

On 17.07.2013, Aashaa Bora Foundation started taking initiatives to strengthen the women groups in rural areas. The special focus of this programme was on capacity building; skill development; developing leadership quality among women.

The Primary objectives of our Women's Empowerment Program are – to develop women's leadership; to strengthen women's organizations; to ensure women's rights and their personal security; and to create new political and economic opportunities for women. The target groups of this programme covered the areas – Sonapur, Dist – Kamrup (M), Assam and Shillong, Meghalaya.

The main output of this intervention was – increasing the self reliance of women by enhanced productivity by undertaking income generating activities. The women's groups who benefitted from this programme were involved in various economic activities like – managing grocery stores, variety stores, candle supply, stationary stores etc. This programme concluded on 23.07.2013.

MOBILE/TV REPAIRING PROGRAMME

During the year, Aashaa Bora Foundation took up initiatives to organizing a programme on mobile/TV repairing. From 21.08.2013 to 27.08.2013 a Mobile/TV workshop was conducted for beneficiaries from Tetelia, Dist – Kamrup (M), Assam at our Field Office – Near Forest Range Office, Sonapur. A total of 20 students attended this training.

The main components of the Training Programme were – starting with the fundamentals of television's form and function and then tackling more advanced topics. Advanced classes focused on techniques using TV testing equipment, which is a vital component to troubleshooting. Toward the end, classes focused on advanced theory for repairing,

analyzing and servicing televisions involving circuit work and voltage examination, along with understanding special effects and features of modern television sets.

DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON HANDICRAFTS

A Design & Technical Development Workshop on Handicrafts was organized at St., Mary's Convent, Shillong, Meghalaya from 02.12.2013 to 16.12.2013 for 15 beneficiaries. The main objective of this programme was to develop prototypes of handicraft products through integrated designs. The Resource person for the workshop was Dr. Aashaa Bora, President of the organization.

Handicrafts designs

The trainees were educated about the relevance of tastes and preferences prevalent in different markets of the country. Therefore, designs have to be improvised accordingly. Three types of designs were introduced to the trainee's viz., conventional, modern and combination of conventional and modern which are usually adopted by artisans today.



Product planning and development in Handicraft



Training was also imparted on Product planning and development of handicraft products. This is vital factor in relation to Handicrafts because they involve a lot of creativity and workmanship. In this workshop the trainees developed 10 prototypes of handicraft products to be sold in various fairs and exhibitions in the region. The fact that Handicraft is a life skill for many women in the North East region of India; it could be used as an important income generating activity for livelihood generation.

CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

Aashaa Bora Foundation has been providing a helping hand for underprivileged children over the years. Under the child sponsorship programme in the year 2013; two children named - Imanul Haque (Class VI) and Dhiraj Das (Class IV) were sponsored at Royal Public School, A.K.Dev Road, Datalpara, Dist – Kamrup (M), Guwahati, Assam and Saraswati Shiksha Niketan, Mirza, Dist – Kamrup (R), Assam respectively.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Besides the above mentioned activities Aashaa Bora Foundation undertook the following activities:

- Rehabilitation of victims of communal riots
- Agricultural development programme
- Fishery development programme
- Seminar and training programme on medicinal plant
- Workshop on ginger and turmeric cultivation
- Employment generation programme
- Computer application training
- Marketing assistance to craft persons
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana
- Enhancing opportunities for education on minorities

SUPPORT TO ASSAM AUTISM FOUNDATION

Mental Health has also become a significant issue in our contemporary society. We have to remember that *differently able and special children* are also an integral part of our social

fabric. The cycle is symbolic to the challenges of autism, as most of the affected children find cycling challenging. Therefore, Aashaa Bora Foundation took an initiative for an awareness campaign - **First Guwahati Cycle Scavenger Hunt** in association with *Assam Autism Foundation* on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April, 2014

The main theme of the programme was to organize and mobilize people to help spread awareness of autism as well as encourage people to impart equal respect to the differently able children.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING PROGRAMME

Aashaa Bora Foundation has taken an initiative to assist the needy youth and women by providing professional training to empower them. From the social prospective, it has been proved that many youths are able to achieve the professional skill through industry related trainings.

In an era where the cost of professional training is very high, it is impossible for students of BPL families to gain access to specialized trainings on skill development. After a meaningful appraisal on this issue, Aashaa Bora Foundation decided to implement a pilot project on Hospitality sector.



Objective of the project-

- 1) Create more employment opportunity for the underprivileged youth.
- 2) Capacity building.
- 3) Sensitize parents and peers on the issue of gender equality/removal of gender biases.

The pilot batch of hospitality group students started from 21st April 2014 and concluded on 21st June. The organization offered training free of cost to the candidates. Training was conducted for this batch in the areas of - Restaurant service, Front office management, House Keeping, Room Service, and Customer Care Assistance. The training was held at the

training facility of Aashaa Bora Foundation, 345, Nikita Complex, 1st Floor, G.S. Road, Khanapara, Guwahati – 781022, Assam.



In the first month trainees were provided theoretical classes and in the subsequent month the students were sent to various reputed hotels of Guwahati for internship. These hotels included - Hotel Gateway Grandeur (Christianbasti, G.S. Road), Hotel Viswaratna (Paltanbazaar, A.T. Road), Hotel Kiranshree (Paltanbazaar, G.S Road).

CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 5th of June, World Environment Day is being celebrated in the world. On this day, global awareness is being generated among the masses about conservation of our environment. Aashaa Bora Foundation took a step forward in this regard by evolving a theme - '*SMALL ISLAND AND CLIMATE CHANGE*' celebration at the office of ABF and Guwahati University Model School in the University Campus.



Objectives of the Programme:

1. To mobilize the common people for a green earth.
2. To create awareness among people about urban waste.



Sapling Distribution: The first activity undertaken by Aashaa Bora Foundation on World Environment Day was distribution of saplings. Saplings were distributed to the employees of Vijaya Bank, Khanapara. Mr. K C Talukdar, Dy Director of Agriculture Department,

Govt. of Assam was present during the occasion and took the initiative of distribution of saplings.

A celebration was also undertaken at the Guwahati University Campus in association with GU Model School.



A Signature Campaign was organized in support of a green and healthy environment. Signatures were taken from the renowned guests present in the office of Aashaa Bora Foundation. In afternoon signatures were taken from the teachers and students of GU



Model School. Eco- friendly bags (disposable bags) were distributed to the common people who were present on the programme to generate awareness that paper bags should be used instead of polythene bags, polythene bags being the main reason for pollution of both soil and water in the city.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON CLUBFOOT

Clubfoot describes a range of foot abnormalities usually present at birth (congenital) in which baby's foot is twisted out the shape or position.

In clubfoot, the tissues connecting the muscles to the bone (tendons are shorter than usual). Clubfoot has grave physical and social consequences. If untreated, educational and employment opportunities are less for these children born with clubfoot, besides the stigma attached to them by the society in large. Clubfoot is often misunderstood as polio, whereas it is treatable and can be corrected.



The Foundation in partnership with CURE International India Trust (CIIT) decided to work with clubfoot people as part of the CURE Clubfoot Worldwide (CCW) campaign.

Objective of the Programme:

1. To generate awareness among the common people to prevent from clubfoot.
2. Forwarding helping hand to the victims of clubfoot by conducting them and refer them to the organization for treatment.

Aashaa Bora Foundation organized an Awareness Programme on Clubfoot at Maloubasti, Kalongpar, Sonapur, Dist – Kamrup (M), Assam on 07.06.2014. Around 150 participants were present. Participation of the rural folk was very satisfactory. Mr. Rontu Sangma from Cure International was the chief resource person and Ms. Immotila Longkumer was the Counselor for the programme. The basic objectives of the Cure Clubfoot Worldwide Campaign were shared with the participants. The campaign envisages a process of generating awareness – identification of clubfoot patients – and treatment.

The treatment process is divided into two parts. First is a plaster cast and the other is the use of special shoes made of brass. The treatment process is free of cost in Guwahati Medical College at Guwahati, Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh. There were many physically handicapped people amongst the participants who did not have clubfoot. Hence they had to be identified in separation.



Counseling session by resource person:

The resource person of Cure International India gave counseling to the villagers about clubfoot and its consequences in our contemporary society. The various stigmas attached to the disease that impeded the physical and mental development of those children who have clubfoot was also highlighted during the counseling session. There are various superstitious beliefs prevalent in certain rural areas regarding clubfoot people. This issue was also addressed by the Resource Person. The resource person counseled about issues regarding - treatment procedure which is not a short term.



Wall painting & wall writing for generate awareness regarding clubfoot

To generate awareness among the community on clubfoot, Aashaa Bora Foundation took the initiative by a wall painting depicting the entire treatment process of clubfoot, along with the Helpline phone no. on the wall of Maloubasti Primary School.

ONGOING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In partnership with Apollo Technical Education Foundation –ATEF, Aashaa Bora Foundation is currently conducting livelihood trainings on Information Technology (IT)/Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) & Health Care for NERLP.

A total number of 60 beneficiaries are availing this training at our training centre in Guwahati. All the beneficiaries are from Tuensang District of Nagaland. The duration of the training is 6 months and the minimum criteria for selection of beneficiaries are 10th pass/matriculate.

This training programme commenced on May 2014 and shall continue till the period of December 2014 after which new batches of students will commence training.

Sector: IT/ITES, Name of the course: Domestic BPO



Competency expected:

1. Write, edit and print documents using MS Word and Excel
2. Do tabulation of data
3. Prepare presentation using MS Power point
4. Use of internet and E-mail

5. Understand the concept of BPO operations and use them effectively as customer relationship in a domestic BPO

Sector: Hospitality, Name of the course: Hospitality



Competency Expected:

1. Carry out housekeeping in a simulated environment
2. Carry out F and B Service in a simulated environment
3. Demonstrate Customer Interaction in a simulated environment
4. Demonstrate selling skills in a simulated environment
5. Demonstrate point of sale Handling Procedures in a simulated environment
6. Work as an effective hospitality person and handle customers in large/ sales outlets

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FOR WOMEN LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

Aashaa Bora Foundation undertook initiatives on focus group discussion on 01.07.2014 with women. The topic of discussion was livelihood opportunities for women. The prime aim of discussion was formation of SHGs and involvement in income generating activities. The venue of discussion was village - Ahom Gaon, Dist: Tinsukia, Assam. During the period of discussion the facilitator gathered information regarding the available resources, economic status of the women and their interested area of working etc.



ASSESSMENT FOR LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUTH AND WOMEN



For better livelihood opportunity, Aashaa Bora Foundation has been taking an initiative for underprivileged and school drop outs. Under this programme the organization provides skill development trainings on Hospitality, IT and Health Care sectors. A pre assessment programme was held in Panitola High Secondary School, Dist: Tinsukia, Assam on 2.07.2014. Around 70 people were present in this programme. Arup Kr. Borah (Head Project Coordinator) Aashaa Bora Foundation provided information about the training programmes of the organization. A Group Discussion was also held with the youth on skill development training.