



The NRO(Northern Regional Team),
New Delhi, with the students from Eden
Social Welfare Society,Taiwan,under the
IGSSS International Student
Exchange Programme

DEAR READERS,

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT,
SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACK. PLEASE SEND US YOUR
OPINIONS REGARDING THE THEMES/ISSUES YOU WANT
US TO PUBLISH IN THE FORTHCOMING ISSUES OF THE
NEWSLETTER.

WE WISH THIS JOURNEY OF COMMUNICATION SHALL
CONTINUE.

Contact us at :- doc@igsss.net,
amit@igsss.net,
sohini@igsss.net

Editorial Team :

Dr.Joseph Sebastian,
Executive Director, IGSSS

Ms.Shikha Srivastava,
Manager Programme, IGSSS

Mr.Amit Kumar, Asst.Manager,
Comm. & Resource Mobilization, IGSSS

Ms.Sohini Bhattacharjee,Asst.
Comm. &Resource Mobilization,IGSSS

Upcoming Events at IGSSS

Training on Result Based Management for the
partners of Assam and Manipur from 17th to 19th
September.

AGM (Annual General Body Meeting) in New
Delhi from 15th – 17th September, 2009.

NGO Consultation on Salt Pan Workers – North
Western Coast of India from 30th September – 1st
October,2009 in Bharuch,Gujarat.

IGSSS Adresss



Contents

Developments at IGSSS 2

From the Field-Success Stories 3

IGSSS Workshops/Seminars/Campaigns 5

Food For Thought 7

Expressions 8

ED'S Desk

Being PAID to do good work...

Looking at all the challenges in the development sector (especially the ones related to one's own employment) we are so overwhelmed by them that we forget to live the life for which we do all this 'development'. However we do have those who are able to see the wonderful part of their work. As a colleague of mine shared, -- at the end of the day I am happy because I have been part of the exercise which helped touch lives of 100s of people.

Recently I met a group of NGO staff. Most had more woes to share about themselves and their work than those of the people whom we serve. I was wondering whether the NGO staff needed intervention or the people they were trying to help out. And believe me it was not the burn out syndrome.

I did try to cheer them up and the session was worthwhile. However, I started thinking whether all this tension, stress is what we are in this sector for. At the same time we have those like my colleagues who are so happy (and forget their own worries) with what they are doing and sleep better because they believe that they are helping people in their time of need.

What is the difference: when we see the work we do as a job and income source we are bound to be trapped into the pit holes of tension and stress. If we see it as part of life and our giving back to the world then the tension and stress (which will always be there) will not be at the level it is otherwise.

Yes income is required, career is important, one has to be ambitious but all of that should not be at the cost of the commitment to the job that one has to do. Today in the development sector we have four types of people

1. Who love to do the job and do it as it is their vocation.
2. Who love to do the job and do it as they need a job/income.
3. Who love to do the job and do it as they are career oriented.
4. Who love to do the job and do it as they believe in themselves and in what they are doing.

The development professionals of today should be able to take # 4. This of course does not mean that 1, 2 and 3 are not important, they are. As a professional you have the skills and are supposed to have the required aptitude which includes working in tight and asking situations. This would mean meeting timelines, delivering quality work, being creative and most of all doing what one is supposed to be doing with the joy that has to go with it.

Life will be tough and it's going to be the same in the future too if not more. But if the more and the less experienced can stop worrying about worries, believe in themselves and in what they are doing our future will be a better place.

If not anything at least let the development sector think "Most of us get paid to do good work":

Smiles...Joseph

Relief Distribution

Cyclone Alia: IGSSS distributes relief aid

West Bengal experienced another devastating cyclone 'Aila' on 24th May -25th May, 2009. The cyclone hit the State at a speed of 120 Km per hour mostly destroying the river side villages, in many places trees were uprooted, mud houses were destroyed and the villagers were trapped in debris.

IGSSS Eastern Region Office (ERO), immediately responded to the situation, and sent a team for providing relief to the affected families.

The relief operation was undertaken in Pather Pratima Block, South 24 paragana district of West Bengal, covering 500 families. Relief materials like tarpaulin sheets to provide temporary shelter, rice and packets of biscuits were distributed among the affected families. Our partner organisation Digambar Angikar co-coordinated with IGSSS - Eastern Region team, to carry out the relief operation.



Helping..... hands

Thus, the timely help of IGSSS provided succor to the needy families in the time of crisis.

Mr. K.C.Sahu, Manager, IGSSS ERO (Eastern Region Office), Kolkata.

IGSSS News – in-brief

- IGSSS, NERO team conducted a three day training programme from 11th -13th August for orienting the NGO partners about the newly launched People Empowerment for Accessing Right to Livelihood (PEARL) programme in Chirang district of Assam. Baseline survey for all the partners in Assam and Manipur has been completed and compilation of data is in progress.
- The management of two Homeless Resource Centers was handed over to IGSSS by Delhi Government under the Mission convergence. The aim of the Government is to improve the quality of life of its citizens especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the society.
- Homeless intervention was aired in the Doordarshan News.
- IGSSS is planning to launch CARAVAN; a campaign for strengthening the voices of the homeless and urban poor. The purpose of the campaign is to mobilize the community for the upliftment of the Homeless in Delhi.
- As a part of IGSSS international student exchange programme, 36 students from Eden Social Welfare Society, Taiwan, visited Delhi from 5th – 30th August, 2009. The primary objective of the programme was to sensitize the students about the realities of the homeless and the urban poor in mega cities like Delhi.
- An orientation meeting for the PEARL (People's Empowerment for Accessing Rights to Livelihood) partners was organised from 19th – 21st August, 2009 in Delhi. 40 partners attended the meeting and they were officially given the partnership agreement papers. All the CSU (Cluster Support Unit) officers also attended the meeting.
- Strategic planning meeting of IGSSS youth programe 'SMILE' was held in Delhi on 27th – 28th August. All the staff members under the SMILE programme attended the meeting.
- Manager's meeting was held in Delhi on 1st – 2nd September,2009.

WE CAN MAKE OUR MOVE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change may be a big problem, but there are many little things we can do to make a difference. Driving a car or using electricity is not wrong. We just have to be smart about it.

Things we can do

1. **Use Bicycle and Walk**
You can save energy by sometimes taking a ride in bicycle, or walking.
2. **Talk to Your Family and Friends**
Talk with your family and friends about climate change. Let them know what you've learned.
3. **Plant Trees**
Planting trees is fun and a great way to reduce greenhouse gases. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air.
4. **Using Recycle products**
Recycle cans, bottles, plastic bags, and newspapers. When you recycle, you send less trash to the landfill and you help save natural resources, like trees, oil, and elements such as aluminium.
5. **Carpooling**
For example, four people can ride together in one car instead of driving four cars to work.
6. **Save Electricity**
Whenever we use electricity, we help put greenhouse gases into the air. By turning off lights, the television, and the computer when you are through with them, you can help a lot.
7. **Using ENERGY STAR® Products**
Many things, like computers, TVs, stereos, and VCRs, have special labels on them. The label says "Energy" and has a picture of a star. Products with the ENERGY STAR® label are made to save energy. Buying products with ENERGY STAR® labels will help protect the environment.
8. **Tapping Solar Energy- Solar lantern, solar cookers, solar geysers.**

Source : Internet



IGSSS organised a one day advocacy workshop on Kandhamal-“Where are We” in Delhi

Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) organised an advocacy workshop, Kandhamal-“Where are We” on 3rd August 2009 at IIC (Indian International Centre), New Delhi.

The main objective of the programme was to discuss about the present scenario of the people in Kandhamal, Orissa, aftermath the communal riots, which was triggered by the killing of Swami Lakshamanda Saraswati on 23rd August, 2008. A large number of Christians were killed by the Hindu fundamentalist groups, their properties were destroyed and they were overnight displaced from their native villages.

The core issue of the programme was to build public opinion and form an advocacy group to pressurize the Government to take action against the convicts, to address the impunity existing in the State and to rehabilitate the victims.

The programme was chaired by Mr.Suhas Borker, independent film maker, and the three panelists were Mr. K.P Fabian, former Indian ambassador to Italy and Gulf Countries, Mr.Anto Akara, Journalist and Ms.Laxmi Parida, social activist from Kandhamal.

The workshop started with a pictorial presentation, showing violence on Christians at Kandhamal. The three eminent speakers strongly emphasized on the importance of secularism and the value of Fundamental Rights.

They also highlighted the failure of Government and State machinery to safeguard the people and address the situation of lawlessness of the State.

Mr. K. P Fabian said that we should not perceive the attack on the Christians in Kandhamal as a minority issue but view the carnage from a Human Rights perspective. Finally, he said that, the State, Civil Society and everyone involved in rehabilitating, should make efforts to restore normalcy in the region substantiated by the peaceful life led by the people and the State should firmly ensure that the recurrence of such violence is nullified.

Mr. Anto Akara said that Kandhamal should be seen as a graveyard of Indian secularism as the constitutional rights guaranteed to every citizen were openly marauded. He spoke about the plight of the estimated 50,000 Christian population staying in relief camps without proper food and sanitation system. He also showed the map of the funeral procession of Swami Laxmananda Saraswati and explained the conspiracy behind the violence.



Quest for peace...



Tribute...

Ms. Lakshmi Parida spoke about her personal experience during the riot, she said that how she and her family was pressurised by the fundamentalist groups to join them in killing the Christians, but she stood by her secular beliefs and vehemently opposed them. Laxmi also spoke about that how the attacks were pre planned and executed accordingly.

She also said that many Christian families are still living outside their villages, they have not yet returned to their homes fearing attack from the Hindus.

The panel discussion was followed by an open – house session, and the programme ended with a Candle Lighting event by all the participants.

Mr.Subroto Chatterjee, Programme Executive, IGSSS H.O. (Head Office) New Delhi.

Success Stories

My own house..... Bigni

After the death of her husband, 40 year old Bigni Devi was left alone. Coming from Dalit background she had to face an uphill task of rebuilding her life. In a bid to escape her misery, she joined a Self Help Group (SHG) run by **Nav Jagriti, IGSSS NGO partner** in Bihar.

She took keen interest in the group meetings and training programme and it helped her realize her potential. During one of the SHG meeting she came to know about Government housing schemes for the dalits.

Soon she met the Block Development Officer (BDO) and explained her pitiable condition. The BDO encouraged her to apply for a house under the Indira Vikas tYojna and also initiated action on the same. Eventually, she received money under the scheme and constructed a house of her own.

Bigni is now living happily with her children and proud owner of a house in the Sargatti village.

Mr. Zafar Khan, Sr.Executive, IGSSS NRO (Northern Region Office), New Delhi.

Yesterday I dared to struggle, today I dare to win..... Hareefa

The 33-year-old Hareefa, hailing from Tigam village in Kashmir was struggling to make ends meet. Her husband a vegetable vendor used to travel everyday to Srinagar to sell vegetables. His monthly earning was only Rs 500 just not enough to meet basic requirements. In a bid to revive her financial situation and to provide better education facilities to her children, she joined Gulshan, an IGSSS supported self help group (SHG) functioning in their village.



Smile of Success....

Hareefa took a loan of Rs. 1000 from the SHG and started a business of her own. She purchased seeds of varied vegetables and took 4 kanals (approx. 2023 square metres) of land on lease from one of her neighbours. She started sowing seeds and maintained her vegetable field with great care, and got support from her husband. The grit and determination in the field paid rich dividend as she had a bumper produce and earned Rs 20,000 in one season.

Motivated with the results she used her profit in repaying her loans and also gave Rs. 5000 to the land lord. And reinvested her savings to start local provisional store and also took another installment of Rs. 10,000 to purchase raw materials for the shop. Gradually her husband also joined her and now helps in maintaining the accounts and also plays a pivotal role in running the shop properly. Hareefa is quite happy now but she wants to motivate others in her community to start their own ventures.

IGSSS Northern Region Team, Kashmir.

Broken Stethoscope...

Jaya Kalal's village is in Falasiya Tehsil Jhadol of Udaipur district in Rajasthan. Her father stays in Ahmedabad, where he is working as a driver, Jaya's mother is a housewife and she has two siblings – a brother and a sister.

Jaya along with her siblings are studying in 'Swami Vivekanand Upper Primary School'. She always dreamt of becoming a doctor but the dismal infrastructure and education scenario in her school has posed a serious threat in the quest for her dreams.

There is no academic institution in the village which provides education in Science & Technology, as such if Jaya wants to pursue her education in Sciences, she will have to go to Udaipur, which is approximately 70-80 km from her village.

Indigenous Child Right Platform formed by IGSSS has given her a ray of hope. These platforms provide the children to voice their opinions and to share their concerns regarding the education scenario in their villages. The issues are then discussed at the Village Child Rights Committee (VCRC) which takes necessary steps such as involving Government mechanism and the concerned institutions towards addressing the problem.

Jaya's problem has already been discussed at the VCRC and it has initiated necessary steps towards setting of Science Institutions in the village. Today, Jaya is an empowered child, and with renewed confidence and enthusiasm, she has set on the journey of realizing her vision of becoming a 'doctor'.



Spare me a thought...

IGSSS Northern Region Team, Udaipur.

Welcome on Board....

July – August

1. Mr. Abhishek Khurana, Executive, I.T & Admin, H.O. (Head Office).
2. Mr. Amit Kumar, Asst. Manager Resource Mobilization & Communication, H.O. (Head Office).
3. Mr. Petchetti Satyanarayana, Executive Accountant, CSU (Cluster Support Unit), Vishakhapatnam.
4. Mr. Prem Prakash Prince, Executive Accountant, CSU (Cluster Support Unit), Pune.
5. Ms. Rajani Sridhar Srikakulam, Officer Programme, SRO (Southern Region Office), Bangalore.
6. Dr. Shubhamitra Das, Officer – Cluster Co-ordination, CSU (Cluster Support Unit), Vishakhapatnam.
7. Mr. Sujeet Kumar Sharma, Executive Accountant, NRO (Northern Region Office), New Delhi.

Ms. Preety Bhatnagar, Executive H.R., H.O IGSSS (Head Office) New Delhi.

IGSSS organizes a mass mobilization campaign in Maharashtra against malfunctioning of government run schemes

An advocacy campaign was launched on 24th August, 2009, at Marathwada region of Maharashtra by Mahila Rajsatta Aandolan and Samaj Vikas Samajik Sanstha, partner organisations of IGSSS.

250 people participated in the campaign launch, they gathered in front of the Tehsil office (Administrative Division) of Umerga Taluka and expressed before the Tehasildar (Chief Official) their strong discontentment regarding the malfunctioning of the Government schemes and corrupt officials. They also voiced their concern about several issues such as fair survey should be conducted to select the BPL (Below Poverty Line) beneficiaries, people should get employment under the MREGS (Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), corruption in execution of the PDS (Public Distribution System) should be stopped, distribution of quality food for midday meal and ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme), prompt processing of applications under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, to process linkage of SHGs with banks and ensure credit availability at 4% interest rate.



Voicing... rights

Ration shop opens for only one day in a month and people are discriminated on the basis of caste during the ration distribution. Also due to the caste dynamics, villagers oppose to give Nutrition Supplement contract under ICDS scheme to certain SHGs.

Ms. Shilpa Toro, Sr. Executive, IGSSS WRO (Western Region Office), Pune.

Capacity building workshop for IGSSS NGO partners organized in Karnataka

The Pune – CSU (Cluster Support Unit) team of IGSSS organised a workshop from 5th - 7th August, 2009 at Belgaum, for the NGO partners to make them aware about the concept of the PEARL (People's Empowerment for Accessing Rights to Livelihood), a newly launched programme of IGSSS, and the strategies to be adopted for the effective implementation of the programme.



Learning...

The resource person's were Mr. Dilip Kamat from Parivartan and Mr. GN Simha from REACH, they spoke about the Right Based Approach, NRM (Natural Resource Management), Government schemes under Right to Food, Functioning of NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) etc.

Mr. Harith Sharma, Executive Director, Human and Institutional Development Forum, (HIDF), Bangalore, emphasized on the the importance of effective process documentation and Monitoring – Evaluation of the projects, for the optimum success of the programme.

Ms. Shilpa Toro, Sr. Executive, IGSSS WRO (Western Region Office), Pune.