

## INDO-GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY



Smiles in caring shelters...

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### ED's Desk

**What is popular may not be Right and What is Right may not be Popular!** This is the punchline of a poster I saw many years back while working in a new era hi-tech college down south. A Reverend who put it there believed in doing the right thing and naturally was not...

In modern day world we often get caught in a dilemma between YES or NO. Many a times we compromise and a Yes becomes No and a No becomes Yes. There are many books written on Self – Help or how to be firm in life, but when it comes to everyday affairs, it's never easy to make a choice. The simplest example is the child at home who gives you a smile and gets his chocolate but then it's the same child who helps you smile when you return home stressed out after a long hard day in office.

From experience it's easier to decide if one has the long-term vision, objectivity and specific reasoning. Evolving is a natural phenomenon but at the same time painful as we leave behind the familiar threshold. As IGSSS is evolving into a new structure which may seem natural in the changed developmental world scenario, but for us who are part of it, the whole process is painful. Even in these challenging times one can see a lot of good initiatives happening in the IGSSS world. SMILE youth initiatives, Shelter for the Homeless, Joyful Learning through Exploration for a group from U.P. to Maharashtra, efforts to bring in a Happy, Peaceful and Positive Society through the Land Housing Rights for Women Campaign.... It's this never say NO attitude that makes the development world a wonderful place to work in.

We, from the third sector, are influencing lives for good (or bad). Lets strive to influence lives the RIGHT way and not the Popular way. Being RIGHT maybe subjective as some say, but at least each of us can strive for the RIGHT approach as best seen or felt by us for the people who give us the big opportunity to serve them.

Smiles... Joseph

**"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give"**

Arthur Ashe

### Creating shelters... building hope



The misery and plight of the homeless people inspired IGSSS to start an initiative to provide basic services for the homeless in Delhi.



A study was conducted on the homeless living in Delhi by IGSSS-Northern Region Office (NRO), in the month of June, 2008. The study revealed that the number of homeless people in the city has increased and their living conditions also deteriorated or at best remained the same since 2000.



A tent I call 'My Home'...

On the basis of the study, IGSSS aimed at providing relief to the homeless people during winters and concentrated on setting up tents and shelters. Networking

with Government Officials, NGOs, Institutions and individuals is being undertaken and an alliance of NGOs working on the same issue has been formed. The network is called "Shahri Adhikar Manch" (SAM) and 27 organisations are members of the same.

As a result of the joint efforts of IGSSS and the other organisations, 7 shelters (3 tents and 4 community centres) are now being facilitated in different parts of Delhi namely Sarita Vihar FlyOver, Kotla Mubarakpur, Kalkaji Temple, Gali Rivi Das, Avantika Chowk - Rohini, Chabiganj - Kashmere Gate and Gali Boriyan. Das Foundation, an NGO, also came forward and joined hands with IGSSS for shelter management.

Apart from the management of shelters, IGSSS along with the SAM partners is also advocating for Ration and Voter Identity Cards, Medical facilities and Legal Counselling for the homeless. Moreover, IGSSS has also linked up with the 'Hope Project' for providing Medical Support to the

homeless.

Thus, destination may be far away but IGSSS has begun the journey with all its enthusiasm and sincere efforts towards fulfilling the dreams of several homeless citizenry of the country.

- NRO Team, New Delhi.

### ICCO - HIV Mainstreaming Conference

HIV/AIDS is one of the most catastrophic health threat facing the world today. The prime concern is to prevent its spread and to address the socio-economic issues raised by AIDS. Realising the same, IGSSS joined hands with the India desk of ICCO (Inter Church Organisation for Development Co-operation)

in 2005 for enhancing its knowledge and strength on the technical aspects of HIV mainstreaming.

The partnership helped IGSSS learn the various aspects of internal and external context of HIV mainstreaming. Several consultations were organised by IGSSS in different parts of the country and it also enabled the organisation to develop a draft workplace policy.



IGSSS's efforts and achievements in the context of HIV mainstreaming were recognised and shared in the 'Linking and Learning Conference' of ICCO and was also appreciated by other ICCO partners.

- Ravi Agarwal, Asst. Manager,  
NRO, New Delhi.

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# SMILE.....

## Redefining youth

### A page from my diary....

SMILE is very close to my heart not only because I am working in the SMILE Project but also it has given me the opportunity to explore different places and interact with youth across the country. I got another such opportunity in January when I went to Raipur to attend a meeting and a promotional workshop.

The venue of the motivational workshop was Catholic Church, Lawan, a small place about 120 kilometers from Raipur. The workshop was organised for two days, 17th -18th January, 2009, and 20 youth from Lawan and Amsena villages participated in the same.

The first session began with a brief introduction of SMILE by the SMILE Coordinators of West Bengal and Chhatisgarh and the participants were also informed about the various phases of the workshop.

The participants were mostly school and college goers but a few of them were also school dropouts. They expressed their desire to become Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, IAS officers, Nurses, Teachers and some even expressed their desire to be a Priest or a Nun and work for social upliftment.

The resource person Fr. Aruldoss, Parish Priest of Lawan, spoke on "Developing Leadership Qualities" and the salient points discussed were: definition of a leader, qualities of a leader, role of a leader and how a person can develop leadership qualities.

The next session was conducted on the second day with a quick recapitulation of the day before. The resource person Fr. Prakash, Youth Director, Archdiocese of Raipur, spoke on "Personality Development." He stressed on the importance of personality development and steps to build confidence and Self Esteem.



Sharing Knowledge...

The sessions were very informative and

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interesting, the participants actively interacted with the resource persons and the workshop concluded with a vote of thanks.

- Amrita Mukherjee

SMILE Co-ordinator, ERO, Kolkata.

## Pen is mightier than Sword



If you want to express your opinions, ideas and experience through writing, we will give you the platform.

Please send us articles for our forthcoming publication of Great Concern on 'Youth and Livelihood'.

Great Concern is an IGSSS publication focusing on pertinent social issues. The publication is distributed to a vast network of NGOs, Social Activists and to International Agencies.

Please send in your contribution latest by 25th March 2009. You may send your contribution through post to Documentation Department, Indo - Global Social Service Society, 28 Lodhi Road, Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110003 or e-mail us at [doc@igsss.net](mailto:doc@igsss.net)

*"If there was ever a time to dare, to make a difference, to embark on something worth doing, it is now. Not for any grand cause, necessarily - but for something that tugs at your heart, something that's your aspiration, something that's your dream. You owe it to yourself to make your days here count."*

*Have fun.*

*Dig deep.*

*Stretch.*

*Dream big."*

### Youth Alliance for Climate (YAC)

A two-day workshop on 'Climate Change' was organised by SMILE North Eastern Region Office, on 27th - 28th September, 2008, in Guwahati. The participants hailed from various districts of North East like Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong, NC Hills, Morigaon, Nalbari, Guwahati, Kokrajhar, Sivsagar, Jorhat, Barpeta, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.



### Challenge Green...

After rigorous discussion and debate, the participants felt the need for a youth network to address the issue and thus "Youth Alliance for Climate" was formed. Mr. Rahul Mahanta, Lecturer, Deptt. of Physics, Cotton College, Guwahati, agreed to mentor the network.

The Alliance comprises of college students and professionals from different backgrounds like Law, Environment, Humanities, IT, Media, Management and youths working actively with United Nations on various programmes.

The participants gave their commitment to work towards preserving ecological balance and conserving natural energies. The workshop closed with a vote of thanks.

-Akali Shikhu  
SMILE Co-ordinator  
NERO, Guwahati.



### Daring boundaries...

SMILE Arunachal Pradesh in September, 2008. To create a deeper impact and to achieve our aim we invited local youth organisations to be part of the campaign following which The All Tawang & West Kameng Students Welfare Association, (ATWKSVAI) Itanagar, YUVODAYA and Nyokum Lapang Youth Welfare Association, Itanagar, collaborated with us.

The event was promoted through word of mouth, posters, pamphlets, literary competition, signature campaigns and the local media, which proved to be very effective in sensitising the community.

A public meeting was organised in which more than 100 participants participated from different walks of life. The main speakers during the programme were Mr. Taring Mama, Lawyer and Social Activist, Mr. Taku Tayu Stephen, Executive Director, Arunachal Epitome, a News Agency and author of the book "Lephia-The Lock" on the tyranny of forced marriage, Fr. Ivan, Director of Itanagar Diocesan Empowerment Association (IDEA) and Mr. Kripa Raja, a Social Activist. The weeklong campaign ended with a mass rally.

We are grateful to the civil society organisations, the district administration, teachers and the student community, media and the general public for their immense support and cooperation which made the campaign a huge success.

- Akali Shikhu  
SMILE Co-ordinator  
NERO, Guwahati.

"Wherever I go today, help me leave heart prints...  
heart prints of kindness

and genuine concern. May my heart touch a lonely neighbor, or a helpless child, or an anxious mother, or perhaps an aged grandfather. And if someone should say,

"I felt your touch,"... May they also sense the love that is deep within my heart."



IGSSS Annual Report – 2007 –08



Right to Information – A booklet providing insight into the Right to Information Act substantiated by relevant Case Studies and Illustrations.



Mangalgee Lambida ( In the Path of enlightenment) – An IGSSS Audio – Visual Production on HIV/AIDS. This documentary tells the story of four women Affected – Infected by HIV/AIDS, their trials,

and tribulations and spirited fight back... a positive story of everyday heroes discovering a meaningful life.

Explorations

Reality Check...

As the saying goes, 'If you give a man a fish, he will have a single meal. If you teach him, how to fish, he will eat all his life'. With the same vision, the Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan works towards helping the mentally and physically challenged children's live a better life.

IGSSS hosted a group of 18 EDEN Volunteers, who came for an exposure trip to India. The purpose was to help the volunteers explore and understand the development issues in India through field based exposure.

The group was welcomed by Mr. Ravi Agarwal, Asst Manager, Northern Region Office, who gave a presentation about IGSSS and briefed them about the initiatives and efforts of the organisation.

Thereafter, the volunteers were taken to visit the Homeless Program Areas in New Delhi. They were surprised to see the 'struggling life of people on the streets' and appreciated IGSSS's efforts on the issue.

After Delhi, the Volunteers travelled to Rajasthan, where they were welcomed by the IGSSS Child Rights Project team. They visited Child Rights Platforms and Child Rights Committees and also got a chance to attend and inaugurate the local Rajasthan Fair and met the local M.P and the M.L.A.

The EDEN volunteers returned back to Taiwan on 8th February 2009, with lots of good memories from incredible India.

- NRO, New Delhi.

EDEN Volunteers exploring India



Forging Relations...

## Joyful Learning



IGSSS, Uttar Pradesh, organised an exposure tour from 19th - 23rd January, 2009, for its partner NGOs and representatives of 11 NGOs enlisted

themselves for this study tour. The group visited Jan Vikas Samajik Sanstha (JVSS), a partner organisation of IGSSS Western Region situated in the Kaj block of Beed district, Maharashtra.

JVSS is addressing the issues of Dalits and the Landless with a Rights Based Approach.

The dalit women are organised and motivated to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) which operates both at the block and district level. At the district level a trust is formed called **Savitribai Phule Mutual Benefit Trust** which functions as a bank for these marginalised communities. It gives credit to different groups/ members and the interest accumulated by this trust is about Rs.60,000 per month.

Besides this, the SHGs are working against social evils like dowry, child marriage, female foeticide, liquor addiction, atrocities against dalits and the underprivileged. Their effort also succeeded in realising the property rights for women.

In the context of the land related issues, **Livelihood Promotion Committees (LPC)** are set up both at the block and district level. These committees constitute of both men and women and advocate for social concerns. Thus, it can be summarised that JVSS is doing praiseworthy work for the rights of the marginalised community.

The participants also thoroughly enjoyed the exposure tour and it was a great learning experience for them. They were inspired by the initiatives of JVSS and vowed to replicate the same in their respective work sphere.

- Manorama Jana  
State Co-ordinator,  
NRO, Uttar Pradesh.

## Perspective

### Beyond Curtains...

Domestic Violence is one of the worst forms of criminal offence inflicted upon women within the confines of their own home and it cuts across the barriers of caste, race, religion and socio-economic status.

Around two-third of married women in India are victims of domestic violence and one incident of violence translates into women losing seven working days in the country, a **United Nations report** said.

**The National Family Health Survey III** also reveals that, 51% of the men surveyed, think that beating their wife is acceptable if they show disrespect to them.

The root cause behind such atrocities is the patriarchal structure of the Indian Society, gender inequality and insensitivity compounded by ignorance, illiteracy, socio – cultural obligations and practices.

But with the changing times, the status of women in the society has also metamorphed. Today, women are atleast trying to raise their voice against discrimination and injustice. Sustained efforts of Civil Society, Women's Movement across the world and Government empathy has succeeded in initiating legal reforms and measures to protect women against such social evils. Several campaigns have also been launched by welfare organisations and Government agencies to sensitize the society.

**UNIFEM's 'Say NO to Violence Against Women (VAW)', a Signature Campaign, and very recently 'Ring the Bell Campaign (Bell Bajao)' launched in partnership by Breakthrough, UNIFEM and Ministry of Women and Child Development are some of the milestone efforts in this direction.**

But another face of the truth is that only a few section of women in the society are able to raise their voice against the torture meted out to them. Fear of being stigmatised by the society and several other inter related factors, still today forces many a women to bear all forms of violence – silently, shedding tears within the threshold of their homes without any support and oblivious to the world.

Thus if we want to uproot violence from the face of the society, we need to think beyond the Laws and the Act; we have to think of a more humane medicine. We should start a 'Gender Revolution' wherein we sensitize every men and women to respect and value each other, every school, college and institution should initiate gender education and every home should lay

the foundation of just treatment, thereby creating a 'Happy, Peaceful and Positive Society'.

- Archana Sharma  
Campaign Co-ordinator,  
Land & Housing Rights for Women

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## Recap

### IGSSS going Techno Savvy

IGSSS is moving towards a new direction in the context of technological initiatives. The organisation has installed **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)**, a software, for its operations which is developed by DeoGracia InfoTech Pvt. Ltd, an IT company, focusing on social initiatives.

The software will connect all the organisation units and clusters across the country enabling instant consolidation of data, reporting and centrally managed systems. It functions comprehensively, provides wider scope and has an easy user interface.

The software will thus multiply the productivity of the organisation and will help IGSSS to create an alert and vigilant set – up.



- Roshin Mathew  
IT Consultant, IGSSS.



What say...

Many are not tech savvy, but then we have reached an era in humanity where one cannot do without Information Technology. With all its down sides of misuse and abuse, IT helps everyone who wants to use it for the better for humanity. IGSSS is getting itself ready for this, I wish the IT committee all success.

- Dr. Joseph Sebastian  
Executive Director, IGSSS.

- ★ The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 was brought into force by the Government of India from October 26, 2006.
- ★ Domestic violence under the act includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic.
- ★ The Act seeks to cover those women who are or have been in a relationship with the abuser where both parties have lived together in a shared household
- ★ One of the most important features of the Act is the woman's right to secure housing. The Act provides for the woman's right to reside in the matrimonial or shared household, whether or not she has any title or rights in the household.
- ★ The other relief envisaged under the Act is that of the power of the court to pass protection orders that prevent the abuser from aiding or committing an act of domestic violence or any other specified act.
- ★ The draft Act provides for appointment of Protection Officers and NGOs to provide assistance to the woman w.r.t medical examination, legal aid, safe shelter, etc.
- ★ The Act provides for breach of protection order or interim protection order by the respondent as a cognizable and non-bailable offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees or with both. Similarly, non-compliance or discharge of duties by the Protection Officer is also sought to be made an offence under the Act with similar punishment.

"Great hopes make everything great possible"

- Benjamin Franklin

IGSSS is moving from Text Savvy to Tech Savvy.

- Sushmita Das Pattanaik  
Executive, Programmes.

Hey! IGSSS moving from Bullock Cart to Cyber Mart?!

- Sashmita Mahapatra  
Executive, Programmes.



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## *Fare You Well*



Dear Nemdeikim and Suman,

As we walk in the journey of life we meet many people and form beautiful memories. We met you when you became associated with the IGSSS family and together we worked on many issues, shared learning's and laughter, wonderful conversations and joyous moments.

And now as you tread ahead in life, we wish you all the very best. May you soar high and may God's blessings be always with you.

*Good Bye with Good wishes.*

With lots of love,  
IGSSS Family

## *Christmas Celebrations*



*" We can be lights for each other, and through each other's illumination we will see the way.  
Each of us is a seed, a silent promise, and it is always spring"*



## Newsletter

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