

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit organization working with the mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity.

Advisory Meeting on the National Food Security Bill

Ranchi, Jharkhand: A meeting on the National Food Security Bill was held on 15th September, 2013, at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The meeting was attended by representatives of 11 NGOs across the state, academicians and social activists. The prime objective of this advisory group meeting was to design an intervention strategy towards universalization of food security in the state of Jharkhand.

Mr. John Dreze, International Sociologist and Activist, who was one of the speakers during the occasion, shared that the biggest challenge plaguing Jharkhand is the lack of political commitment and to ensure this dialogues with political leaders need to be initiated. He further opined that there is lack of transparency in the socio – economic caste census and the data need to be verified. Mr. John Dreze, also shared that there should be a criteria adopted by the Gram Sabha for the identification of beneficiaries.

Mr. Balram, Commissioner to the Supreme Court, shared that the state is trying to introduce private companies to serve ready to eat food as part of provision of the bill. However he suggested that the community managed/cooked food should also be promoted by the government to efficiently transfer the ownership to the community. Mr. Balram further added that the PDS reforms should be one of the key advocacy issues for the Government. Professor Sharan from Ranchi University said that there is no mapping of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and the state government needs to be enquired about the gap.

Mr. Gurjeet, convener of NREGA watch, said that the criteria of beneficiary identification should be precisely defined and specific groups such as single women, poorest of the poor and primitive tribe groups should be automatically included as beneficiaries.



Following this meeting it was decided that the issues which emerged during the course of discussions will be taken as advocacy issues with the state government and the various other stakeholders will also be included in the process.

Resolving Conflict Building Peace: SMILE

Senapati, Manipur: Senapati District Student Association (SDSA) and Kuki Student Organisation (KSO) are two influential student bodies in Senapati district of Manipur. SDSA comprises of members from Naga community and members of KSO are from the Kuki community and they both work on the issue of youth development. A conflict in the 90's between the two communities resulted in mass destruction, deaths and displacement. The intervention of the State Government helped the conflict between the two community get resolved however there always existed a subtle tension and discord between them. During its intervention in the Senapati district, IGSSS under the SMILE initiative started taking efforts towards initiating dialogues through networking with both these two influential student organisations.



After a series of initial level meetings, it was decided to conduct a district level PEACE programme at Senapati Indoor Stadium on the theme of 'Building Relationship through Music'. Around 2500 people such as community leaders, cultural representatives, chiefs, village authorities, educationist, political representatives, youth leaders, and students cutting across all boundaries participated in this event.

This initiative proved to be successful and now the two student organisations are taking positive steps towards burying the hatchet of the past and promoting better relations and peaceful co – existence between the Kuki and Naga community.

Block Level Youth Orientation Meeting

Baramulla, Srinagar: Block Level Orientation Meeting for Youth was organized from 4th -6th September for 150 youth members from Baramulla and Bandipora district on leadership and advocacy issues at Singhpora Pattan, Baramulla, Kashmir. During the training sessions, the youth were provided knowledge on harnessing skills of good leadership; they were familiarized with the concept of team building and its need towards achieving broader objectives and goals. The participants were also given

trainings on stakeholder analysis and accordingly devising strategies to address the issues concerning the development of their village.

After attending the meeting the youth shared that the knowledge on management skills will help to create an environment of motivation and trust within the youth group members, their working relation will be strengthened and will help in building a supportive team culture. The participants further shared that they will now be able to design advocacy strategies in accordance to the need and priorities of the community.



National Forum for Housing Rights (NFHR) Strategic Meeting

Bengaluru, Karnataka: Ghettoization of the urban poor and rampant evictions across the country brought together more than 50 housing rights activists representing 32 organisations from 19 states at the three-day strategy meeting of the National Forum for Housing Rights (NFHR). The meeting was held at Bengaluru, from 11th to 13th September, 2013. Indu Prakash Singh, Head, CityMakers Programme, IGSSS and Convener, NFHR, shared that the Housing Bill is pending since 1980s and the forum needs to strengthen advocacy to realize its enactment. He added that 'housing' meant the right to have a house with all other basic rights, which also include the right to livelihood.

Participants from various states expressed their concern that despite various laws, policies and schemes there are wide gaps in their implementation. Hence, they have decided to work on an action plan to challenge the denial of housing rights of the CityMakers (urban poor). They have planned to study and analyze the various housing policies of states across the country and demand progressive

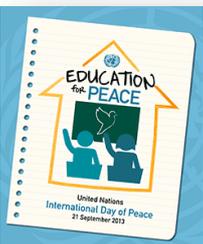


legislation. The forum will launch a nation-wide campaign to challenge the orchestrated efforts of the state to deny the Right to City for CityMakers. It reconstituted its working groups on Policy Analysis, Advocacy, Community Mobilization, Legal Support, Networking and Resource Mobilization.

The participants also visited the families who were forcefully evicted at Ejjipura, Bengaluru. The three-day meeting was organised by IGSSS in partnership with ActionAid.

FRI DAY TITTERS

World Peace Day



On World Peace Day today “let us pledge to spread the value of tolerance and mutual respect”. Around 25 Youth participated in a workshop on 19th September in Srinagar. These Paintings by them reflect the essence of the World Peace.

