



JUST Newsletter

REGD.NO.3007/97

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) is a Social Development Wing of Agartala Diocese.

Quarterly Newsletter Of JUST

21 Years of Service in Tripura

January 2018 to March 2018

Volume: 8

Issue: 1

From Director's Desk.....

Dear Friends

Today's world is abuzz with change.

As a change-maker and innovator working to make the world a better place, you're being called on to step out in a bold way. To share your voice, your message and your action.

In fact, we are all being asked to reflect on our deeper values and what we stand for. Not just as individuals, but as a people.

People Led Development is the Approach (PLDA) JUST is convinced of, from its past experiences. PLDA ensures sustainability of any development initiative as it creates sense of ownership.

Hence, JUST takes utmost care in involving target communities right from the beginning of any initiative to its end.

This News letter reports the different activities of Change that were implemented with People Led Development Approach with a special focus on inclusive development, during this quarter.

This quarter witnessed events on capacity building of teachers, students, youth, SHG women, and religious leaders on peace promotion, Farmers on reviving the knowledge on herbal remedies and collective action for self governance and food security, Persons and Children with Disability to avail their entitlements, linking with govt. departments and service providers besides livelihood support and aids and appliances distribution.



Thank you all for being part of our change making initiatives to make our state a better place.

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Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD
Director, JUST

Awareness on Preserving Traditional and Cultural Practices.



A series of awareness programs were conducted in the month of January 2018 for 264 members of the Farmers clubs. The Facilitator explained on the importance of preserving the cultural practices by taking the points like Hukbar, Food Habits and Dressing patterns. The Animators shared about our traditional way of practicing Jhum, how people used to go for finding suitable plot for cultivation and how signs were marked for booking the plot. He said that Jhum Cultivation is a Cultural Practice so it is important to preserve without affecting the eco system. Similarly food habits like Gudok, Awandru, Chakhui, bermabwtwi and many others are important in preserving our traditional food habits rather than losing them. He also shared about traditional dress like Chamwthui Bar, Risa, Rangbwtang and many other traditional dresses of all the different sub tribes. He shared that Traditional Dress is an identity of any tribe for every community so it is important to preserve these kinds of practices.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Organic Farming



Awareness programs were conducted in the month of February 2018 for 214 members of JUST farmers clubs. The resource person shared to the farmers that use of any chemical in the farm is harmful for the soil as well as for human beings. He told them the differences; vegetables which is organic is small in size and which is with chemicals looks very beautiful and big and people who are not aware of its harmful effects tend to buy the chemical products but who are aware always prefer to buy organic products. So the resource person advised to the farmers to promote more and more organic farming and use different kinds of manures which are without chemicals like vermin compost, weed compost etc. He also told the farmers to spread the news on the ill effects of chemicals and encourage others to use organic or traditional farming systems.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Capacity Building Training for DPO Leaders.



Two days capacity building training for Disabled People's Organization (DPO) Leaders of JUST BDPO Project was organized on 14th & 15th March 2018 at B.C.Nagar Block Conference hall. Twenty-five PwDs participated in the training among them 15 were male and 10 were female. The training was given on DPO formation, functions and role of DPO, DPO visioning, DPO governance, methods of advocacy, rights and laws of PwDs. JUST BDPO Project Coordinator also organized a Certification Camp in collaboration with DDRC Udaipur. During the camp the Certificates of 35 PwDs were renewed and 60 PwDs who are not our target group received Certificates

By Mr. Tapas

Promotion of Seed Banks



Numbers of awareness programs were conducted in the month of March 2018 for 236 farmers in view to promote Seed Banks. The resource person began the program by explaining to the farmers on the importance of indigenous seed banks. He then continued saying that during our forefather's time there was nobody who depended on others for any seed for sowing or cultivating. He also spoke on the ill effect of hybrid seeds. People preserve themselves for their own use in their own household. He then shared the process of preserving the seeds, The farmer chooses the best matured seeds and then he takes out the seeds and dry it under the sun for at least 3 days. Then, he keeps it in a dry bamboo in the kitchen on top of the cooking place or some farmers preserved it by wrapping with a cotton cloth and keep it in a safe place in the house. Then they use those seeds for the next season for cultivation. The farmers are also given awareness that they should not depend every time to get free seeds from other sources but save it when they get it free and use it in the next season for cultivation

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Home Based Intervention



JUST has been implementing a project namely Community Based Rehabilitation to improve the quality of life of the Persons with Disabilities under Telimura R.D. Block since 2014. Different measures are taken to serve the persons and children with disabilities. One such is Homes Based Intervention. JUST-CBR Staff regularly visit the home of the identified 16 children with disabilities. They teach the children and the care takers about the Activity Daily Living Skills (ADL). Among the 16 children 7 are with intellectual disability and the rest are with cerebral palsy. The children are showing tremendous improvement

By Mr. Prasanta Chowdhury

Children's Clubs.



In order to achieve the inclusive development in education, JUST is taking effort to send the children with disability to regular schools in their respective areas. Initially there was hesitation from the schools as they were not familiar with sign language. Due to continuous awareness creation, the schools are now welcoming the CwDs. In order to provide psycho-socio support in the school, JUST has formed Children's Clubs among the students. The members of the club help the children to be sensitized regarding the needs of the children with special need. Thus the Club children came forward to help the children with special need during the school hours. Even children take interest to take the CwDs to school along with them. Hence children's clubs have become source of great support to the CwDs.

By Mr. Prasanta Chowdhury

Formation of PTA



JUST is running 10 NON-Formal Coaching Centers under Ganganagar R.D. Block in Dhalai District. Parents Teachers Association (PTA) has been formed at 10 Coaching Centers in order to involve the parents in the education of their children and by bringing into closer relation with the homes and school that parents and teachers may cooperate more in the education of their children. Usually it is not lack of interest that keeps parents from becoming involved in their children. Many parents like to play more active role in their children's education but they do not know how therefore a parent involvement is a must. So JUST has taken an effort and has formed 10 PTA under Ganganagar R.D Block in the month of February and March, 2018.

By Mr. Lilimohan Reang

Sawachcha Campus Drive



JUST in partnership with SMILE Foundation India is managing non-formal mission education centers at Damdamia and Nepalibasti in West Tripura. The children are given special coaching before and after their school hours. Besides teaching they take up different activities as part of learning. During the month of March 2018 the teachers together with the children took up swachcha school campus drive. This initiative was to teach the children about the importance of cleanliness and safe environment. All the children along with the teachers went around in the school campus cleaning it. It was a great learning experience for the children.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Success Story



Mrs. Sarmila's shop managed by Husband

Mrs. Sarmila Debbarma of Hamkarai SHG Bodol, from Chankhala Bazar, is one of the successful business women in her group. Her group Hamkarai SHG bodol was formed in the year 2013. Sarmila did not know the process of getting loan, livelihood support and other government schemes, before joining the SHG. She said JUST Field Supervisor Mrs. Sheela Rani Debbarma gave her lots of business plan and ideas. She then had a basic knowledge about, how to start a business, as she was guided by Field Supervisors. Mrs. Sarmila had taken a loan of Rs.5000/- in 2014 for the purpose of weaving and earned a profit of Rs. 1600 by seeing her work she was encouraged by her family. In 2015 Mrs. Sarmila had received a tailoring machine from JUST supported by IVDP which was of great help to stitch the traditional attire after weaving. In 2017 she had taken another loan of Rs.5000/- and she bought slippers and shoes for her shoe shop and earning a monthly income of Rs. 2300. Mrs. Sarmila expressed her gratitude to JUST and IVDP for their contribution towards their community development.

By Mr. Nelson Debbarma

End Plastic Pollution



Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized an awareness program on "End Plastic Pollution" during Annual Peace Day Observation at Don Bosco School Mandai (Kairai) and Holy Cross School Panisagar on 23rd and 27th March respectively. The peace staff explained how plastic affects the environment, the effect of plastic bags in waterways, the effect of plastic bags on land, alternative to plastic bags, effect of plastic pollution and solution to plastic pollution.

By Chiril Darlon

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Peace club Animators



Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized a 3 days training for teachers on "Human Rights, Child psychology and Child Rights" with the peace club Animators at JUST hall Agartala from 19th to 21st March 2018. The Resource Person Fr. Dr. Paul Pudussery and participants from different Schools were welcomed by Fr. Jeevan Kennedy, Director of JUST. There were 17 teachers from different target of the Schools. During the training the teachers were trained on Human Right, Child psychology and Child Rights.

By Chiril Darlon

Success Story



Yapri Thansa SHG group of Khathalia, Twikarmaw under Chung Mari society was formed in year 01/01/1998, PS-Santir Bazar, South Tripura. The Yapri SHG group is one of the oldest SHG group under JUST, and it is also oldest group under Chung Mari Society Federation. This SHG has 14 members. Initially Yapri SHG group did not receive any money from any where. They were saving Rs.10/-per month. As the time pass this SHGs saving was accelerating and after four years of saving they could buy six and half kani of land with Rs.11, 000. As their group saving had started increasing, their income generation got better. This Yapri bodol SHG has taken their first loan in 2007 for plantation of rubber. At first this group had planted 300 rubber saplings in 2007 and then 200 saplings in 2014. Yapri Bodol SHG has begun to receive the income from the rubber plantation since 2016. Their annual income from rubber since 2016-2017 April is Rs.1,56,000/- (one lakh fifty six thousand). At present Yapri Bodol SHG has the capacity to help other groups through inter-loaning process. This group is now sustainable and could provide a good education to their children and also help in community development process. Not only their income is growing but their monthly saving is also increased to Rs.100 per month. The group is well managed and had created lot of assets which ensures sustainability.

By Mr. Nelson Debbarma