From Director’s Desk........

Dear Friends,

I am happy to present you our first quarterly newsletter of the new year 2019. It was an eventful quarter with a lot of activities.

A new project titled SFOORTI has been launched. The project focuses on increasing the socio-economic status of the SHG women through various capacity building trainings coupled with providing livelihood options. Women’s day celebration, Kisan Mela to enhance the farmers sustainable income. Skill building training on peace promotion for the peace club members and animators, certification camp and distribution of aids and appliances for the PwDS and CwDS, livelihood support to nearly 100 economically backward women towards ensuring steady income of the women were the highlights of the quarters.

As the first Nor’wester storm on the last day of the quarter has brought down the roofs of thousands of families and left them to take refuge in the relief camps, we have a lot to do for the relief and rehabilitation in the coming days. We have been assessing the situation and in touch with some donors to support their relief and rehabilitation. We are also looking for more support for their relief work. You can be one of them to join us to bring relief for the storm affected families.

Fr. Jeevan Kennedy, SVD
Director, JUST

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Visioning Workshop for the SHG Women

JUST organized Visioning Workshop for the SHG women on 4th February 2019 at JUST Hall, Agartala. The resource person for the programme was Mr. Dhananjoy Debbarma (TCS). 30 SHG women federation leaders participated in the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to build consensus and help to prioritize values for the master plan development of the federations throughout the year. The resource person shared about Panchayati Raj system, where women can participate in the panchayat election and become a chairman of a village and get involved in decision making process. He also added that women should get in to the system of functioning of the governance through these basic units of local administration such as Gram Panchayat, Block Samiti Zilla Parishad. The resource person said that if there is no involvement of women in politics then there will be no development. Then the resource person explained about different schemes such as MNREGA, PMAY, Mudra Loan, (PMVV), Betti Buxho Betti Padho and Women Helpline.

By Mr. Nelson Debbarma

Aids and Appliances Distribution

JUST Agartala in collaboration with CRC Agartala organized Aids & Appliance distribution camp at Teliamura. JUST CBR staff helped the CRC staff in organizing the program smoothly. In the morning, at about 11.30 A.M registration process was started. After the registration, distribution of Aids & Appliance done. Total 13 aids & appliance were distributed among the PwD/CwDs, 3 Try-Cycle, 4 Wheel Chair, 1 Pair Crutch, 1 Walker, 2 Blind Stick were distributed. All beneficiaries were happy to receive the aids & appliance. The quality of the materials was very good.

By Mr. Prasanta Chowdhury

Community Action by Farmer’s Club

Mr. Sankar Debbarma, Secretary of Hamari Farmers club in their monthly meeting in the month of January 2019 expressed a need for a community action to clean the road from Radhanagar para to Mohandas para. During the meeting the group decided to invite their fellow farmers from Dinurakarik to help them on cleaning the road. The road was narrow and full of bushes that made difficult for the people especially the school going children to cross the road, which made the groups to take action on it. So on 17th January 2019 2 farmers’ clubs cleaned the road and now the school students and the villagers are able to use the road safely.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Women’s Day Celebration

Women’s Day was celebrated at Ganganagar Community Hall on 22nd February, 2019. The program was organized by JUST supported by Diocese of Rotenburg. The objective of the program was to create a platform for SHG women to come together and share their experiences and success stories through which they learn to be inspiration for others. The program was also aimed to disseminate information on different government schemes from the Block and other institutions.

The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Rajib Debbarma Block Development Officer of Ganganagar R.D. Block and the guests of honour were Mr. Agor Reang (SMC Chairman), Mr. Parimal Debbarma (Asst. IS) and Mr. P.G Majumdar (ASI). In his speech the chief guest spoke about the socio economic development and livelihood opportunities for the women. He also told the women not to be scared to approach him for any assistance.

The Director of JUST Fr. Jeewan Kennedy gave a concluding speech and gave a short message for the women. He said that unity is strength so he asked the women to always work as a group. He also thanked the chief guest, all the other guests and all the participants for their presence and concluded the program.

By Mr. Lilimohan Reang
Visioning Workshop for the SHG Women

JUST took an initiative to promote inclusion of children with Disability in the Schools by forming Children’s Club. 12 Children’s Clubs are formed in Teliamura area in the village as well as in some Schools. Children with Disability and their friends are the members of the club. The Children help support the CwDs whenever they require help and support.

By Mr. Prasanta Chowdhury

Training for School Peace Club Leaders

JUST organized a training for school peace club leaders on “Drug abuse and Human Trafficking” at JUST hall Agartala on 18th February 2019. There were 44 peace club leaders from 8 schools who participated in the training. The topics during the training were; Drug abuse and human trafficking. The resource person was Mr. Sushant Chopra from Mumbai, Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Organization. The resource person shared the differences of Drug Misuse & Abuse. He also shared a note on Alcohol abuse its causes & measures to overcome it. The resource person showed a short video clip on human trafficking and shared 3 most common types of human trafficking which are sex trafficking, forced labour, and debt bondage. He also explained the 13 SIGNS of human trafficking through short videos and showed a video clip on “good touch and bad touch” to make the participants aware and raise voice when they come across such type of harassment. The participants were also divided into a group according to their school and were asked to write down what they have learned from the training and also to make an action plan.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

International Women’s Day

JUST in collaboration with the Women’s Commission organized International Women’s Day on 8th March 2019 at JUST hall with the theme “Better Balance Better world.” 203 women from all over Tripura took part in it. The Program was inaugurated by lighting of the Lamp by Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro C.C Chairperson of JUST, Mrs. Barnali Goswami Chairperson, Tripura Commission for Women the other dignitaries. There after Sr. Mary David F.S Secretary to Women’s commission welcomed the Chief Guest and Resource persons with the Rasa. Mrs. Barnali Goswami spoke on the theme Better Balance Better world. She said women have to bring peace and unity among the people to create better world. She also trusted on the importance of the education and their rights. Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro Chairperson of JUST spoke on Gender Balance. Mrs. Bodita Jamir spoke on Woman’s role in the family. And Ms Purnima Roy Ex Chairperson Commission for women gave talk on Women Empowerment and important of education. The program came to an end at 4:30 pm.

By Sr. Mary David

Brain Storming Sessions with Entrepreneurs

On 27th March 2019 JUST organized a “Brain Storming session with a women Entrepreneurs from different Districts of Tripura. There were 36 SHGs members who participated in the session. The resource persons for the session were Mr. Sanjit Bandapaty and Mr. Prasanta Deb Nath (MBA). Mr. Sanjit Bandapaty during the training shared about the meaning of entrepreneurship, how to become successful entrepreneurs, how to develop and how to execute the plan for achieving the target. He also spoke about the concepts of market which are: 1. Production concepts. 2. Sales concepts. 3. Marketing concepts. Mr. Prasanta Deb Nath (MBA), who is specialized in mushroom cultivation shared about the health benefits of mushroom, saying that mushrooms are nutritious food, they are in low calories with great content of fiber and protein, and also rich in vitamin B. He shared some of the famous mushroom cultivation in Tripura which are: oyster mushroom, button mushroom, milky mushroom, paddy straw mushroom. After the training Fr. Jeemon Kennedy Director of JUST gave motivational speech and evaluated the training and ended by making an action plan and what activities to be taken by the SHGs and how much duration will be required and who will be responsible person for the activity.

By Mr. Nelson Debbarma
JUST organized the Annual Peace Day Observation with the theme “Protection of our species” with the target schools on March 2019. The peace staff explained the need to protect our environment and species as it is becoming worse day by day. The peace staff also shared the causes for the change of our environment. Some of the important ways to help and save the environment are as save water, using less paper, Switching off electricity when not in use, planting trees, using stairs instead of lifts etc. They also shared the importance of endangered species as some of the birds and animals which were once in huge numbers are now decreasing due to the environment factors. Some of the animals like One-Horned Rhino, Clouded Leopard, Red Panda, Sangai, Phayre’s Langur, Hoolock Gibbon, Gaur/Indian Bison etc are found in various parts of North East India, there are also so many endangered species in the world and are declining in population.

By Mr. Cyril R Darlong

JUST Organized Kisan Mela on 29th March 2019 with the Farmer’s Clubs at Borkhal Boys Hostel ground under Hazamara R.D Block. There were 160 Farmers who participated and showcased their organic products produced by them. Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro DD, Chairman of JUST and Caritas India was the Chief Guest and Dr. Pawan K. Kaushik Regional Manager, PRCLE was the Guest of Honour. The Special Guests were Dr. Gulab Singh Yadav and Dr. Anup Das from ICAR. The program began with words of welcome by Fr. Jeevan Kennedy, SVD, Director of JUST Agartala which was followed by an overview explanation of the project by Mr. Robert Lushai, Coordinator. There were more than 200 people who came to the Mela for the purchase. The Farmers had put up 20 stalls where they displayed and showcased their organic Agricultural products. The Mela was an opportunity for the Farmers to sell their produce in a large scale as well as to get linked with the market. Over 90% of the products brought by the Farmers were sold successfully.

By Mr. Robert Lushai

Training for Religious Leaders

On 16th March, 2019 JUST organized a workshop as part of Peace Promotion with the religious leader on the topic “Media and Religious life” at JUST hall Agartala. The resource person was Fr. Louis and there were 55 Religious leaders from different Districts of Tripura. The program started with the introduction about media, he explained that media is the communication outlet or tool used to store and deliver information or data. The resource person shared about the advantages and disadvantages of media in human life. The resource person shared his idea about how photography has a positive impact in all spheres of the society. The resource person shared his idea related to the Role of Social Media in Religious life. There was also discussion on responsible use of media for constructive purpose by identifying and avoiding fake news. Media could be used as a powerful means for peace promotion.

By Mr. Cyril R Darlong

Promotion of Arts and Games

To keep the students physically and mentally fit JUST has promoted arts and games and distributed various sports items like football, volleyball and skipping rope in all the 10 centers. The promotion of arts and games makes the students physically and mentally active. Besides this painting, drawing, singing, dancing, etc are involved in the class regularly to provide the students a chance to use the imagination and develop creative skills.

By Mr. Lilomohan Reang

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