

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

1. STD / HIV / AIDS PROGRAMME

A. HIV/AIDS Awareness

AIDS has come to be the most pressing public health problem of this century. Despite the fact that AIDS is a preventable disease, it is spreading rapidly all over the World in a speed which never witnessed before in case of any other public health disease. Unlike other public health disease, there is no cure for AIDS. The possibility of developing a safe and effective vaccine to control the spread of the virus is still a long way off. The most important and effective strategy for controlling the spread of infection at present is through public education to bring about positive behaviour changes that emphasize safer sex and awareness of High risk behaviour. To destroy the roots of these devils what is needed is the cultivation of mass awareness among people, especially among the High risk groups. Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) is playing a great role in this regard. Many meetings, rally, awareness camps, workshops are held to create mass awareness. Such a camp was held at Dhanyasara, Birbhum from 3rd July to 5th July 2004 on the occasion of Hool Utsav. And it was inaugurated by Mr. Manasa Hansda, the honourable Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad. Moreover, Mr. Barun Roy, District Magistrate, Birbhum, Mr. Akhil Roy, Superintendent of police, Birbhum, Mr. Nikhil Kr.Sinha , Secretary , Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity were the dignitaries present to add to the grace of the camp . It was a very fruitful camp because through statistics, display of pictures, through the distribution of leaflets, booklets, red ribbon, condoms and through speech & effort was made to make the people aware and educate on HIV/AIDS.

B. Conference on HIV / AIDS & Motivation on Safe Blood Donation

It was 8th October 2004 when a seminar was held in the Geetanjali Auditorium, Bolpur. A discussion was held about how to prevent the killer disease like **STD/HIV/AIDS** and also to motivate people about Blood donation. About 200 people took part in the discussion. What must be mentioned here that many young chaps, many school students, the alumna of Viswa Bharati University and also of Bolpur College were present and took part in the discussion.

Again, it must be mentioned the names of those who devoted their valuable time in the discussion. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Sujit Basu, Vice Chancellor Viswa Bharati University. Moreover, Mr. Apurva Kr. Ghosh, General Secretary, West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donor's Forum, Mr.Jagadish Chandra Maity, District Project Officer, D.P.E.P & S.S.A ,

Birbhum, Mr.Tapan Hore, M.L.A, Bolpur, Mr. Nikhil Kr. Sinha, Secretary, Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity, were the august dignitaries to take chairs there.

C. World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day at Bolpur and Illambazar was a big event. Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) Observed 'World AIDS Day' on 1 December, 2004 with the help of West Bengal States AIDS Prevention & Control Society. A procession with many club members, students and common men joined the rally that started from Duckbanglow Mart and moved through the whole town and terminated at its starting point. It must be mentioned that N.C.C & N.S.S men were present in the rally. Again, mention must be made that Dr. Manabendra Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital and Asst. Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur led the rally. More than 250 people turned out to march in support of AIDS afflicted persons and AIDS prevention efforts.

On the same day a discussion was held at Illambazar Bus stand among the High Risk Group at 10 A.M beginning with a rally that marched through the Illambazar town. In the discussion Mr.Madhusudan Roy, BDO, Illambazar Block, Dr. Madhusudan Mirdha, BMOH of Illambazar BPHC, Mrs. Dipanwita Chatterjee, Sub- Divisional Cultural and Information Officer, Bolpur, Mr. Nikhil Kr. Sinha, Secretary, Santiniketan RatanpalliVivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity, cattle market of Illambazar took part. Men from all classes of people paid their attention to the discussion. Among them were Bus drivers, Rickshaw pullers, Truck drivers and many other young boys and girls of schools and colleges.

Again, on the same day a discussion was held at the famous cattle market of Illambazar at 4 o' clock in the afternoon among the High Risk Group. Many truck drivers, helpers, cow dealers and many other men were present there. The dangers of **STD/HIV/AIDS** were highlighted through video shows, posters, pictures, booklets, and red ribbon. Condoms were (1000 pcs) distributed among the High Risk people. The discussion ended through quiz contest and by singing song(Baul) on the theme of STD/HIV/AIDS. It will be incomplete if the role of Mr. Abu Hasna Mondal, Secretary, Illambazar Cattle Market Businessmens' Association is not mentioned regarding the mammoth gathering of the truck drivers and helpers.

On the next day (2nd, December 2004) a discussion was held in the Rabichchhaya auditorium at 4 PM. It was inaugurated by Dr. Manabendra Ghosh, superintendent, Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital and Assit. Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur. Again, Mrs. Dipannita Chattejee, Sub-divisional Cultural and Information officer, Bolpur, Mr. Anirban Mukherjee, Sub-inspector of schools, Bolpur Nibir Chakra, Mr. Nikhil Kr. Sinha, Secretary, Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity, Mr. Debabrata Chakraborty, Vice-president, Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity and many others delivered their valuable speeches. Many truck drivers, auto drivers, helpers and a great numbers of young men and women were present. The gathering of people, as it was estimated, was about two hundred (200) heads'-formation.

D. HIV/AIDS Mass Awareness Programme

Common people are very little aware of the burning problem of **HIV/AIDS**. SEVAKS is trying much to make the common run of people or the mobile vulgus aware of them through holding processions, street corners meeting, lectures and performing street plays. So far six (6) street dramas have been performed in the various important places of

Birbhum district. Most noted places are Illambazar, Bolpur, Suri, Rampurhat, Nalhati, etc. This type of awareness programme has a special appeal to the High Risk people as it strikes their senses directly. It is very living to them than that of the publicities through Radios and TVs.

E. Awareness among truck drivers and helpers at Illambazar cattle market

Illambazar Cattle Market is so much so important regarding its vastness and congregation of a large number of people that SEVAKS has rightly chosen this place for holding any discussions that are worthy of being discussed in such a high risk place. To have a mental picture of the vastness of these markets, readers must go through the statistics in approximation that 2000 trucks gather here on the market day. Every sensible person will admit that most of the truck drivers and helpers lead High risk behaviour. So continuous awareness programmes are held here round the year to make the people aware and educate on STD/HIV/AIDS.

F. Video Show

To make the people aware of the diseases VIDEO SHOWs on the theme of STD/HIV/AIDS are held in many places of Birbhum district. So far 10 shows have been organized at Illambazar, Bolpur, Suri and Nalhati. Through pictures people have formed an idea about how people sag to the lap of death bit by bit when he is affected by HIV/AIDS. Through shows people are warned against the diseases.

G. Local folk songs and cultural programmes

SEVAKS is diurnally thinking about how to prevent the problem like STD/HIV/AIDS. So folk songs and cultural programmes on HIV/AIDS are very often held in many places of Birbhum district to make people aware and educate on STD/HIV/AIDS. During the year four (4) programmes of folk songs (Baul) and cultural programmes on HIV/AIDS have been held at Bolpur, Suri, Rampurhat and Nalhati in Birbhum district. These types of programmes have special appeal to the common people to prevent HIV/AIDS.

H. SHG Member's training on STD/ HIV/AIDS

A vital training camp was held in the Rabichhaya auditorium, Bolpur on 02.12.2004. The main aim of this program was to make people aware of the killer diseases like HIV/AIDS by reaching the remotest corner of rural areas. This was done in a novel way. Different people like club members, rural practitioners, self-help group leaders and deputy leaders and many other public minded men and women took part in this training. Their number was sixty (60). They are called mentor because they were taught about the ways of eradicating STD/HIV/AIDS and their side effects and symptoms also. These people after having proper knowledge about the diseases from this training camp go to the remotest corner and make people aware about the dangerous effects of these diseases. By organizing this training SEVAKS has got many volunteers to work in this regard. It has been found that some HIV/AIDS affected people

have confessed their problems to these volunteers whom they call as their ‘Counselor’ because they have shown them the better ways of life to lead. The Counselor were trained by Dr. Manabendra Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur, Sub-divisional Hospital and Assistant C.M.O.H, Bolpur, Mr. Yubabrata Mazumder, counselor, **HIV /AIDS** of Burdwan Medical College VCTC and many other **HIV/AIDS** experts.

I. HIV/AIDS Awareness stall at Poush Mela

Who is there that has not heard the name of Poush-Mela and does not pine for paying a visit to this international rendezvous? It is an amalgamation of different caste, creed and sex. One can not but be amazed at the mammoth gathering of people in the Mela though it experienced a congregation of a limited number of people when it was started by Moharshee Debendranath Tagore 109 years back from today. But in the last year of 2004 ignoring the chilly cold prevailing from the 23rd December to the 26th December almost 7 – 8 lakhs of people, both native and alien, assembled here to share the cultural flavour of this grand Mela barring its joy and mirth. Rightly SEVAKS organized a unique stall here during those Mela days with the help of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society and the objective of which was to make people aware and educate on STD/HIV/AIDS and THALASSAEMIA. The stall was inaugurated by Mr. Manasa Hansda, the honourable Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad. Many other dignitaries like Prof. Sujit Kr. Basu, Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, Mrs. Annapurna Mukherjee, Karmadhyaksha, Birbhum Zilla Parishad, Dr. M. Ghosh, superintendent, Bolpur Sub-Divisional hospital, Mr. Prasanta Ghosh, Karmadhyaksha, Bolpur-Sriniketan Panchayet Samity, Mr. Sushil Chowdhury, President, SEVAKS, Mr. Nikhil Sinha, Secretary, SEVAKS, and Dr. Prodhan, CMOH of Visva Bharati Pearson Hospital enhanced the grace of the function. As it is seen in most cases that the dignitaries take their seats in the dais and keep-up a distance from the audience, it was not so here because they created a cordial rapprochement or rapport with the men in front of them through mutual discussions about the dangers of the diseases (STD/HIV/AIDS).

It is general that men may forget what they here. Keeping this in mind attractive booklets, leaf-lets, red ribbon were distributed to them and these will surely help them in understanding the present ratio of the aforesaid problem and also will have a guideline to solve their problems in the matters of these types of diseases, the problem of which is a burning question not only for India but also for the many advanced countries. What was more effective in educating people about these diseases was the display of VIDEO SHOWs and replay of same scenes on demand of the audience.

Here is a at a glance report regarding the performance of SEVAKS. In the Mela almost 4 lakhs of people were in touch with the discussions that went on during the four (4) days.

i. Spot Counselling:

SEVAKS made an arrangement for the spot counselling about the diseases. By keeping up secrecy of those men who came forward for the discussion on these diseases, be it is his own or a case of other people, SEVAKS continued the discussion programme with experts of these diseases. At least 64 persons took advice on the spot. Thus the discussion stall was highly fruitful. Again, many posters, pictures were displayed there that fed people with the primary knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

ii. Condom Distribution:

The works of SEVAKS in the Mela stall was not limited to discussions only, it distributed some contraceptive materials like condom also, free of cost. The recipient of this Condom was 2800 and the number of demonstration of the same was 698. With the distribution of the condoms people were educated about the proper use of this materials and it was also taught that condoms can prevent the attack of these diseases. But a greater stress was given on living a good moral and normal life.

iii. IEC Distribution:

Earlier it is told that leaflets were distributed in the stall but here is the graphic picture of distribution of IEC materials. To educate people on STD/HIV/AIDS and blood contamination total 7865 pieces of leaflets and 1500 booklets and 870 red ribbons were distributed for this purpose. What is more important to note is that many common people were ignorant about the red ribbon, its meaning and its purpose and its indication, etc. Now it was clear to them that red ribbon is the symbol of AIDS.

iv. Survey:

In a novel way a survey was carried on to know people's general knowledge on STD/HIV and AIDS. It was done by distributing written questions to the audience at random and they after receiving the question sheet ticked the possible answers to the questions on STD/HIV/AIDS and returned them to the stall after sometime. 500 candidates extended their answers.

v. Video Show:

To create mass awareness on the menace of HIV/AIDS video shows were displayed in the Mela. Some C.D. cassettes supplied by WBSAP&CS bearing the title (i) AKRANT, (II) Kalo Rokte Sada Manush, (iii) Rokter Asukh (iv) Jiboner Gaan, (v) Fir Milenge were displayed. The audience, the large section of which comprised of truck drivers, rickshaw pullers, and taxi and van drivers, daily labourers, and the students watched the shows with rapt attention. Thus these people were educated on HIV/AIDS through amusement.

vi. Birbhum Boul:

The Boul song of Birbhum district has a special appeal to the hearts of men because they are so thought provoking songs that only to here this song many native people as well as alien friends throng in this Mela. SEVAKS capitalizes this great opportunity of getting a large number of people at one place. EVAKS has composed the lines of folk songs or boul songs on the theme of HIV/AIDS and requests the singers to sing these songs in the Mela stall. What can be more fruitful medium of educating common people than this?

vii. Quiz:

A spot quiz contest on STD/HIV/AIDS was conducted by the Organisation in the Mela. At least 500 people on each day participated in the contest and this went on for four (4) days in the Mela. In this way a mass awareness was created in the Mela. It will not be too much to say that 500 pens were distributed among the successful participants.

viii. Prize Distribution:

No competition is not complete if there is no prize. These are meant to encourage people and to give fillip to the participants. Keeping this in mind SEVAKS, though its financial help is still limited, has distributed many prizes to the participants. Six (6) books on the title of RAKTADAN and six pieces of cassettes were given to them. They were also given certificates by N.C.S.T.C. Students and stall owners bagged the prizes. Mr. Apurba Ghosh, General Secretary, West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum, was kind enough to give away the prizes. Besides, Mr. S.Sanyal, Programme Executive Officer, Doordarshan Kendra, Santiniketan Mr. Ashok Das Executive Officer Sriniketan-Santiniketan Development Authority, Mr. Nikhil Sinha, Secretary, SEVAKS were the dignitaries present in the function and kindly extended their help in their respective fields.

J. Awareness Stall on STD/HIV/AIDS

SEVAKS observes red letter days through organizing awareness camps on those days. Likewise it observed the Independent Day by organizing an awareness camp at Sudhamayee Primary School on 15.08.2004. Posters and pictures were displayed there and discussions were held on the topic of HIV/AIDS. Many men and women were present there.

Next in January 2005 another awareness camp was held at Bhubandanga, Bolpur, Birbhum. The camp went on for three days from 24 January to 26 January 2005. Here many posters were displayed to educate people on the problems of STD/HIV/AIDS. Many Leaflets, booklets, red ribbons & condoms giving many accounts on the said diseases were also distributed free of cost.

K. Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centre (VCTC) Programme

i. Introduction:

With the growth of civilization one nuisance is continually intimidating modern people as to take their lives untimely and this menace is acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which is commonly known as AIDS. Though researches are going on, no nation is able to find out a medicine against it or a vaccine to prevent it as yet. As soon as the first case of AIDS was detected in the U.S.A. in 1981 it made the doctors very thoughtful because no medicine was fruitful to cure it. Then some doctors following the gestures of the famous scientist Archimedes jockingly cried out, 'Eureka, eureka, eureka' i.e. – a medicine has been discovered. But what is the medicine ? The medicine is to lead a complete moral and disciplined life, specially in the matter of mating and blood transmission.

The common symptom of AIDS is that it breaks down the immune system leaving it vulnerable to many life threatening infections and malignancies. This disease is now spreading

rapidly in an epidemic form in Asia where new infections are increasing faster than the case of anywhere else in the world. It is very sad news that India has the highest number of HIV patients in comparison to the numbers of all other countries and India is next to South Africa in this regard.

The number of HIV positive in is estimated to be 4 millions cases.

HIV has a unique enzyme reverse transcriptase, which copies the viral ribonucleic acid into deoxyribonucleic acid that eventually integrates into the host cell chromosome, thus making difficult to remove the virus from the today.

The possible conductive of HIV/AIDS are blood, semen and vaginal fluid etc. So people should be aware of these elements.

ii. Route of transmission of HIV infection:

- A. Indiscriminate sexual intercourse because some of them may be HIV infected person,
- B. Transmission of HIV infected blood: Every people should be sure that the blood he is taken, is free from HIV/AIDS germs,
- C. Syringe and needle: Injection is a most common thing in the field of treatment but we should be careful least the syringe and its needle should be vectors of HIV or AIDS germs. So patients should always use a new syringe,
- D. Parents to child: If a mother is HIV infected during her pregnancy or delivery, her new born baby is likely to be affected with the disease. Not only so but also breast feeding of an affected mother to her baby is also dangerous.

SL. No.	Mode of transmission	Risk of transmission	Contribution to the total no. of cases
1.	Sexual transmission	0.01% – 1.0%	>80%
2.	Parents of Child Transmission	30%	1.0%
3.	Blood Transfusion	90%	3.0% - 5.0%
4.	Infected syringes and needles	0.5% - 1.0%	5.0% – 10.0%

First some people unknowingly carry HIV and then they are turned into AIDS patients within 7 to 10 years. And he has no alternative way than to meet a premature death.

To prevent the ever increasing growth of HIV/AIDS patients, the blood test of people is most necessary. This is done by SEVAKS that organizes blood test programme through VCTC. This institution inspires or advises people to get their blood tested in Burdwan Medical College (VCTC) and to be sure that their blood is good and not infected.

iii. Implementation of VCTC:

There are 22 VCTCs are in West Bengal. SEVAKS has taken the responsibility of one VCTC. It is situated in Burdwan Medical College since September of 2002. It had been continuing the counselling service in the department of Microbiology, BMC up to August 2004 but at present it is organized by WBSAP&CS, Govt. of West Bengal itself.

VCTC is an institution in the miniature of a centre where any information or advice about HIV/AIDS is given. Here is also given testing services at the cost of only ten (10) rupees.

The primary object of VCTC is to encourage people to live a moral life and to ask them to control their behaviour, if not it is a good one.

iv. Objective of VCTC:

- ❖ Tracking the geographical spread of HIV in the country,
- ❖ Referral services for the diagnosis of HIV infection.

v. The VCTC process consists of the following:

- Pretest Counselling
- HIV testing
- Post test Counselling
- Follow-up Counselling

vi. Facilities of VCTC

- a. Improved health status through maintaining of good personal hygiene and health education.
- b. Earlier access to care and treatment.
- c. Prevention of HIV related illness.
- d. Emotional and psychosocial support.
- e. Better ability to cope with HIV related anxiety.
- f. Awareness of safer options for reproduction and infant feeding.
- g. Motivation to initiate or maintain safer sexual practices.
- h. Motivation for drug related behaviour.
- i. Safer blood donation.
- j. Adequate supply of condoms in the counselling centre.

Thus SEVAKS has been running the VCTC in the said institution. We can not mention the name of HIV positive people for the sake of privacy and without the permission of WBSAP&CS, it cannot be done.

vii. Blood Bank:

For the behoof of the general public SEVAKS in collaboration with WBSAP&CS, has posted a counsellor at Burdwan Medical College & Hospital Blood Bank ,Thalassaemia Unit. main function is to give guidelines on the matters of blood test and counseling for Thalassaemia. This programme has been taken up directly by WBSAP&CS on 2005.

2. NEW WING OF SEVAKS (Birbhum Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum)

With much pleasure it may be informed that SEVAKS has extended its work-area and in a treaty with West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum, it has obtained permission of working as a unit of Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors Forum. This achievement goes to the credit of SEVAKS.

SEVAKS started working in this new field by organizing a blood donation camp that was inaugurated by Mr. Milan Sinha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality on 8 October 2004 in presence of Mr. Apurba Ghosh, General Secretary, West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors Forum, Mr. N.K.Sinha, Secretary, SEVAKS, Dr. M. Ghosh, Superintendent of Bolpur Sub Division Hospital. In that blood donation camp 26 volunteers came forward to donate blood and 2 women were among them.

Every conscious person knows that there is always a dearth of blood bottles in Blood Bank. The main reason of it is that most people are still in superstition or fear in donating blood. SEVAKS is working in this area because it motivates people about blood donation. So far SEVAKS has organized 19 camps in the various places of Birbhum District in the last six months. Again, it goes to the credit of SEVAKS that it has been able to procure 544 units of blood from the motivated blood donors. It is crystal clear to the medical men that in the subdivisions of Bolpur, Rampurhat and Suri there is an acute crisis of blood and SEVAKS has come forward to solve this problem through motivation and organizing voluntary blood donation camps in the remotest corner. It has also organized training camps with club members, conscious villagers, students and teachers in this regard.

3. THALASSAEMIA

There is no denial of the fact that Thalassaemia is one of the most dreaded diseases in the world. In India the number of Thalassaemia patients is very alarming. Many renowned persons have come forward to solve the problem of this disease. Most of us have heard of the generosity of the film star Mr. Mithun Chakraborty in solving this problem of Thalassaemia by donating money and everything necessary for the purpose.

SEVAKS is not nonchalant in this regard. It, though its financial capacity is limited, is trying to help the Thalassaemia patients by donating blood indirectly because it motivate people to donate blood and it collects blood and it offers blood to the needy patients. SEVAKS is now to set its foot to the new precinct of work. It is going to detect the vector of Thalassaemia through blood test.

4. HEALTH CAMP

SEVAKS organized a health camp at Kaliganj on 17.12.2004. This camp was inaugurated by Dr. Manabendra Ghosh Superintendent of Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital in presence of Dr. S. Pradhan C.M.O.H., Visva-Bharati Hospital, Dr. Gora Chand Khan, Prof., Social Work Department, Mr. Nikhil Sinha, Secretary, SEVAKS, Mr. Debabrata Chakraborty Vice President, SEVAKS and other eminent personalities from all walks of life of Bolpur Sub-division. People from Balipara-Kaliganj, Pearson Palli and Baganpara were participated at this health camp. Total 85 people were examined and checked by the Doctors and medicines are also provided free of

cost. Dr. S. Pradhan and Dr. Gora Chand Khan delivered the lecture on health and hygiene to make the people educate on primary health (pre & post natal care immunization etc.).

5. INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED (IED)

A. Introduction

Just a decade ago the disabled children, especially those living in the rural areas , could not even dream that they have some philanthropic souls to think for them and to try their best to juxtapose them with the multitude of general students without any deformity in them , be it Mental , Physical or anything abnormal . So came forward Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) to meet-up the needs of the disabled children in the fields of their education and vocational trainings. As a matter of fact, India has for decades been famous for its voluntary agencies, their mechanism and methods of collaboration. SEVAKS is also a voluntary organization. If it is given certain incentives and is provided with the requisite facilities and are not looked upon with disfavour by officials, it can ensure better results in the social and economic arenas. It is true that voluntary bodies, especially those working at the grass root level, can render service of which official agencies and their staff are incapable. When Birbhum district aimed at spreading literacy to all, it was observed that a large section of children is far away from the light of education because of their deformities. No nation can progress if a portion of her total population is left out from any programme. It needs involvement of all people in any programme. Rightly Birbhum District Primary Education Programme tries to address the illiteracy problem especially among the disabled children along with the normal students. Rural people still believe that physical deformity is a curse and children with such deformity are always an object of ridicule and fun. But D.P.E.P. and S.S.A. Birbhum have done much to remove the above mentioned prejudices of some people. It goes to the credit of two programmes of D.P.E.P. and S.S.A. that these have enhanced Literacy percentage almost to the full target in Birbhum district.

B. Aims and Objectives

Every plan and program has some objectives. D.P.E.P and S.S.A. is not an exception to it. Here it goes to the fitness of things to point out that D.P.E.P. is now changed to the Name of S.S.A. but the objectives are unchanged. If we try to sum-up the motto of D.P.E.P.; it reads like;

1. Disabled children are not disabled any longer.
2. They can compete with general students. They have right to read and learn with general students.
3. They can earn their living by themselves.
4. Extension of every kind of facility to the disabled children in their reading and learning process.
5. To give home service where necessary.

6. To teach them the lesson of self help.

So to ensure all the above mentioned facilities to disabled children is the main objectives of Sarva Siksha Abhijan.

c. Executive Summary

By keeping the lofty mission in mind, 21 special educators are rendering their services to the disabled students both in primary schools and giving home services to them. The term deformity embraces a lot of problems that the children face from the very moment of their birth or after birth as an aftermath of an accident in life. So acquired or congenital deformity is dealt equal care and tenderness. We have three kinds of special educators working in their respective fields like M.R., H.I. and V.I . the areas they cover are Nalhati-I and II, Rampurhat II, Suri I, Illambazar, Nanoor, and Bolpur blocks. It is more important to point out that the rural disabled children of these blocks are equally competing with the normal students in schools or in the playgrounds. Their pictures in action as are shown in the concerning offices like S.I. office, D.P.E.P and S.S.A. office, DLRO (SEVAKS) office and in magazines testify to this fact.

D. Programme Planned / Implemented

With a view to achieving total success of the programme as taken by D.P.E.P .and DLRO (SEVAKS) a unique plan has been taken. The plan and services of the special educators are as follow;

i.Services in their Educational institutions:

In most of the Primary Schools some numbers of disabled children have been found initially by the concerning school teachers and then by the special Educators of the different areas. Then a special camp is held with the disabled children where expert doctors of different branches come and examine them and also offer their valuable suggestion regarding treatment and operations also. This camp is held in Block level for the convenience of the disabled children. This camp runs with the help of the special educators who tick primarily the deformities of the disabled children and final checking is made by expert doctors. When it is found that the disabled children need more special help and guideline in the process of their reading and learning with the normal students, the special educators pay regular visits to the concerned schools. They hold healthy discussions with the teachers first about how to behave with the disabled students. Because their school teachers are their regular friends. Then the special educators take initiative to teach the disabled students in their schools with their normal friends.

ii.Service at Dwelling Sets (home based):

Not only so but also the special educators pay regular visits in their homes and with a great many scientific appliances and special teaching aids they teach them. What is more important in the matter of home services is that the disabled students are more and more interested to learn with the help of their parents who are again taught by our special educators – the way of teaching a disabled child . As a result in the absence of the special

educators they get a whole time teacher. Without the special educators the training of the parents as well as of the students would not be possible.

iii. Service to the Society:

It has been found that many people of the rural areas do not even know that their disabled children may be imparted proper education. It is because that they found no one to think for their deformed children. When SEVAKS took a programme for educating their disabled children they began to see some unknown faces to pay visits to their local primary schools. In course of time they came to know that these unknown faces are the special educators for their disabled children. From then on the community became aware that those children born with physical deformity are not a pest of the society but they can do a lot for the society. A Special Educator by holding discussions among the villagers have created a mass awareness about the teaching of their disabled children. Without the special educators who cycle from village to village, from school to school, no such mass publicity was possible. Because most of the villagers have no connection with mass media like radio and T.V. So the living mass media like special educators play a great role to the ignorant villagers. They get necessary information from them. They get education for their children from them and they themselves are enriched about what prospects are laying ahead for their disabled children.

E. Bottlenecks

No sensible man can deny that without proper number of workers no plan or programme can be totally successful. Our survey report says that every school has disabled children in the average. But the number of special educators is not adequate to the need. So more special educators are needed to guide the disabled children properly. So far, as the number of the special educators is not raised, daily-meet with the disabled children is not possible. So it may be expected that more special educators will be appointed to render service to the students who need special care and help in school or at home. So shortage of staff is a great bottleneck in making this noble plan feasible and fruitful.

F. Future Plan

Keeping in mind the improvement of the disabled children SEVAKS are trying to solve the above mentioned problems. More special educators are likely to be employed in the different fields of special teaching to the disabled children. What is most needed is that the parents of the disabled children should be brought into a Block Level training camp where they should be taught how to prevent congenital deformities first then they should be taught how to behave with an abnormal child, how to make him understand that in spite of being handicapped he is not lagging behind from a normal student in reading and learning. Deformity is deformity. Notwithstanding some cases like deaf and dumb, blind and mentally retarded and also severe cerebral palsy children should be taken greater care in their homes and schools. For them necessary teaching materials should be supplied free of cost. A blind student can learn a little unless their Braille Slate, Stylus and Braille papers are supplied. These are not available in local rural markets and most of the guardians are unaware of these also. So the society has decided that all the necessary materials will be supplied to the disabled children in the very – very near future. The plan of the society is to bring the disabled children to the front fore of competition in these days of tough competition.

G. Picture at a Glance

Here is a Block wise picture of the children who need special help and also service provided to them by the special educators of SEVAKS.

SL. No.	Name of the Block	M.R.	V.I	H.I.	O.H.	Others	No. of School covered
1.	Nalhati-I	71	25	100	106	12	116
2.	Nalhati-II	72	35	72	73	5	60
3.	Rampurhat -II	85	26	36	56	20	95
4.	Nanoor	52	31	55	65	27	108
5.	Suri-I	56	32	38	62	26	84
6.	Illumbazar	48	31	45	105	35	102
7.	Bolpur	42	37	46	66	15	95

Grand total disable children covered :1708

Grand total primary school covered : 660

6. WORLD DISABLED DAY

Among many global problems the problem of the children who need special help, is a burning one and it has appealed all human souls that something must be done for these helpless children. So a day in the caption of “WORLD DISABLED DAY” was fixed. It is the **3rd December** of each year. On this day many plans and programmes are taken for the upliftment of the disabled children in the global context. Likewise the world Disabled Day was observed by Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity and Bolpur west C.L.R.C at Santiniketan on 03.12.2005. It was observed with much pomp and élat. A grand procession with a multitude of students, teachers, guardians, moved along the township areas creating much enquiries among the common people. Many elites, dignitaries, well-wishers, concerning authorities took part in the function with greater heartiness and responsibility because the function was meant for the upliftment of disabled children. Swaswati Samanta, S.I of school, Bolpur West C.L.R.C started the rally. Moreover, Supria Ghoshal, Savapati, Santiniketan-Sriniketan Panchayet Samity, adorned the chair as a guest. Again, Mr. Nikhil Kr. Sinha, Secretary, Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity, enhanced the dignity of the function by being cordially present in the function.

After the rally was completed, a cultural function started with the disabled children. Many items like highlighting personal problems in the process of reading and learning was highlighted by the students themselves. This was much appreciated by the audience and they paid their rapt attention to the speeches of the students. This has improved the society much because practical problems of the students came to the fore through discussions and speeches. Then followed recitation, dance and song programmes. The common men earned the conviction

that the disabled children are no longer pest to the society. They have enough capacity to take part in a cultural function in spite of their debility.

Then followed sit and draw competition .The paintings of the disabled children asserted the fact that they may be flanked by Leonardo-Da-Vinchi in future if a little more training and facilities are provided to them .

The function came to an end with the prize giving ceremony in the afternoon. The chief guest gave away the prizes making an earnest request to us all that we may stretch our helping hands to these disabled children taking them for our own brothers and sisters or sons and daughters.

7. ROAD TO SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES FOR DISABLED

With much pleasure it is stated that Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity paves the road to the Special Olympic Games for the disabled children. To go a little back it must be stated that a workshop on a Special Olympic Games was held in YuvaBharati Kriangone, Kolkata on 08.02.05. Many workers and Samity members joined it and were enriched with proper knowledge on the methods of training of disabled children for the said games. Now they are working in their respective fields giving much care to the disabled children so that they may take part in the glorified games.

8. MASS AWARENESS ON INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED

It is needless to point out that the Pous-Mela of Santiniketan is an international occurrence. Here we find many native as well as alien visitors to pay their much coveted visit to this renowned place which is coated with the memory of the world poet as well as Noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Aptly this is the most convenient place for spreading any kind of knowledge and information through sketches, pictures, data and cultural function.

In the last Pous Mela of 2004 a stall was set up there from 23rd December 04-26th December 04 and it was inaugurated by Mr. Manasa Hansda, the honourable Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad. Many dignitaries spent their valuable time in the stall by establishing friendly rapport with those who expressed their eagerness to know something about the disabled children, their prospect of education, their ways of livelihood, their job assurance and many other enquires about them. This was very- very effective because visitors got direct answers from the elites and the Special Educators through question-answer method. No camp, no workshop, no propaganda can be so fruitful as a direct link was established there between two sides. Moreover, a large number of educated personalities offered their valuable advice and mentioned the names of a lot of disabled students who have come in contact with them as a student. Respected Prof. Sri. Sujit Basu, Vice Chancellor, Visva Bharati University, Sasthya Karmadhaksha, Birbhum Zilla Parishad, Mr. Susil Choudhuri, President, Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity, Mr. Niknil Kr. Sinha, Secretary, Santiniketan Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity and many others added to the grace and dignity of the awareness camp.

Apart from this Pous-Mela the Society set up a stall at Dhannasara, Birbhum from 03.07.2004 to 05.07.2004. This was also inaugurated by Mr. Manasa hansda, the honourable chairman, Birbhum Zilla Parisad. Besides, a lot of officials were present at this stall. They are Mr. Barun Roy, District Magistrate, Birbhum, Mr. Akhil Roy, Superintendent of Police, Birbhum, Mr. Samir Bhattacharya, S.D.O, Bolpur. The objective of setting up a stall there is to make local people aware of the services offered to the disabled children by the Special Educators of the Society.

Another stall is set up at Bolpur Bhubandanga Sudhamayee Primary School on the 23rd, 24th and 25th January 2005 in the Chatra-Yuba Utsab. This stall was inaugurated by Mr. Nibir Banarjee, Vice- President, Bolpur Municipality .Leaflets, hand bills were distributed and printed pictures were shown to dispel the prejudices and wrong belief of common men about the disabled children. It was explained to them that deformity is not a curse and we have a lot of things to do for them and in turn they can do a lot of things for us also and can enhance the national prestige through games and sports. What is more important about setting up stalls and running workshops at different places is that they can educate rural people about the hollowness of some prevalent social customs or misbelief about the disabled children.

9. SPECIAL FURNITURE FOR DISABLED

Here is a piece of good news for the disabled children that required special furniture will be distributed among them soon this year with the help of Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Kolkata. The number of furniture like straight back floor seat, potty chair, and chair with cut of tray are 120 pieces. More furniture will be given to them for their home use. The society is going to distribute them in different places of Birbhum district. It may be expected that the life of the disabled children will be more and more enjoyable after they get them. They will be a great help to them because many guardians do not know which furniture is more convenient for his disabled child. Again, it is a great pecuniary help to them.

10. SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR DISABLED

It is for the information of the people at large that this society is running a special school at Santiniketan. 24 disabled students coming from the fields of M.R, H.I, and V.I are reading in this school. Special Educators teach them thrice in a week. It is more important to note that these disabled students are given vocational training here and rightly it may be expected that these disabled children will be able to earn their bread by themselves. When the students work in groups they throb with energy and vivacity. An attempt has been taken to enrol many other disabled students here and to provide a scope of their prosecuting studies here. Three (3) special teachers (VI, HI & MR) are constantly imparting lessons to them. The students also take vocational training here.

11. NON-FORMAL CENTRE

A Survey report says that many students have left their schools in the mid-way. It is because of their poverty and non-availability of a school near their residence. So SEVAKS has set-up three non-formal schools for the general students also. These schools are situated at Taltore, Moldanga and Phuldanga, Birbhum. Not only formal education but also vocational training is given here. As a result the 'drop out'

students have got a scope to start their life again. Without these schools these students could have gone astray. Three (3) teachers are constantly imparting lessons to them. The students also take vocational training.

12. PULSE POLIO.

It is not that SEVAKS works in its own field only but it is linked with many other Government Programmes. Hence its objective is many faceted. Pulse polio programme is being carried away earnestly by our Government and SEVAKS is an institution to stand by the Government in its programme. So SEVAKS has worked in two pulse polio centres (i) Bolpur Nichupatty, (ii) Bolpur Chowrasta by sending their volunteers to the centres and they have assisted the concerning staff of health department.

13. SELF HELP GROUP.

India is still far away from being a developed country because many people live here below poverty line and many of them are emaciated for want of square meals a day. SEVAKS is by these starved men because it has inspired them to form self help groups so that they may earn their living by themselves and may live a prestigious life. So far it has formed 87 SHGs in the rural and tribal areas of Birbhum District. The group men are trained on the vocational planes like food processing, kitchen garden, needle works and bamboo works. SEVAKS in collaboration with DRDC and NABARD is trying to reach the remotest corner of rural villages to make them self supported. Many spouses of rural farmers by forming groups have been able to earn money creating an instance that woman also can earn money by running cottage industries in their homes.

14. OBSERVANCE OF IMPORTANT DAYS

There are some days that are deemed to be important to all nations and these days are observed globally with much grandeur and dignity. SEVAKS also is very careful in observing these days when they come.

A. World Anti Drug Day

“Drug is deadly, don’t take it friendly” – so runs the warning of the doctors. It is a very alarming news that some youths almost of all countries are more or less drug addicted and it is a most sad event that students also take drugs. If the pillars of a nation is ruined in this way, who will lead the world? SEVAKS is trying much to bring the drug victims to their normal life. But it is not an easy task. It needs motivation among the youths to make them lead a moral life and SEVAKS by observing ‘ANTI DRUG DAY’ that falls on the 6th June of each year tries much to save the youths from destruction.

On this day in 2004 a big rally comprising of 250 heads started to march from Bolpur Duckbunglow maidan and after maching through the town it ends at the starting point. It must be noted that NCC & NSS joined the rally also. Then went on discussions. Many students delivered speeches on the bad effects of drug addiction and also SEVAKS made a cordial request to the

audience to send the drug addicts of the locality to SEVAKS for getting necessary guidance and help.

B. National Voluntary Blood Donors' Day

We know that NVBDD falls on the 1st October of every year and it is observed World-wide. No man can give life, it is true but it is also very true that a man can save life. Gold, diamond and jewels have a market value. But nothing has been able to cost the value of a unit of blood in the market. So blood is priceless. Everyman has this priceless thing in his possession and he can give it away to the distressed people and save his life. But fear and lack of proper knowledge prevents men from donating blood in some cases. SEVAKS motivates people in this regard and this year on 01.10.2004 it has organized a blood donation camp at Bolpur Lodge More. It was inaugurated by Mr. N.K.Sinha, Secretary, SEVAKS. 40 units of blood were collected from the voluntary blood donors.

C. World Anti Leprosy Day

Leprosy is a term that makes people panic stricken because most of us have no proper knowledge about the disease. We believe that it spreads through contact among men. It is very heart rendering news that many lepers have been out-cast from the society. All these happen for lack of knowledge. SEVAKS is an institution that fights against this types of misbeliefs and misconceptions. This year on 30.01.2005 SEVAKS organized a rally that marched through Bolpur town. The rally comprised of 150 persons coming from all classes of people – students, youths, club members, NCC & NSS. The rally was inaugurated by Dr. M.Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub Division Hospital.

D. World T.B. Day

Tuberculosis that is better known as T.B. was so rampant only a century ago that many geniuses withered untimely. Who is the student that has not heard the name of Sukanta Bhattacharjee, the famous Bengali Poet who was born only to die untimely? And it was T.B. that took his life. But at present T.B. is totally cureable but what is most exigent regarding recovery from it, is early detection. In rural villages T.B. affected people conceal their disease for fear of social oppression and for being ostracized. Here the works of SEVAKS begin. Because it educates people about the nature and effect of T.B.

In the last year, on 24.03.2005 SEVAKS organized a rally that marched through Bolpur town. Here mention must be made that world T.B. Day falls on 24 March each year. The rally was started by Dr. M.Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub Divisional Hospital. It has been stated over again how NCC and NSS co-operates with SEVAKS. This time too SEVAKS got their co-operation in organizing the rally in which near about 300 people took part. At last Dr. M.Ghosh Superintendent Bolpur Sub Divisional Hospital made an effective speech on the consuming effect of T.B. and on the need of treatment shaking off all misbeliefs and prejudices.

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6. Sri Sujit Kr. Basu, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University.
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