

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

1. 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 Ratanpalli 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 are 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. Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM), Birbhum have done much to remove the above-mentioned prejudices of some people.

It goes to the credit of SSM that this has enhanced Literacy percentage almost to the full target in Birbhum district.

B. Aims and Objectives

Every plan and program has some objectives. SSM is not an exception to it. If we try to sum-up the motto of SSM; 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 Mission.

C. Executive Summary

By keeping the lofty mission in mind, 28 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 SI office, SSM office, District Level Resource Organisation (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 SSM and DLRO (SEVAKS) a unique plan has been taken. The plan and services of the special educators are as follows:

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 assessment 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 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 television, 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. Necessary teaching materials should be supplied to them free of cost. A blind student cannot learn a little unless they are provided with Braille Slate, Stylus and Braille papers. 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 these days tough competition.

In spite of many difficulties, for the year 2008-2009 all the Special Educators working in this field under our supervision have providing special services regarding education and special training to three hundred and thirty two (332) numbers of disabled children in order to improve their day-to-day living, social behaviours etc. at their schools and homes. Apart from the above the Special Educators are performing several duties such as the preparation of updated list of disabled children in respective blocks with all relevant data, admitting the out of school or drop out disabled children in formal schools, conducting special teachers training programme for the teachers of formal schools and the guardians of Disabled Children etc. Further, in the session 2008-2009 total two hundred and one (201) disabled children are admitted in class I and IV in the local schools.

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	H.I.	V.I.	M.R.	O.H.	Others	TOTAL	Number of School covered
1.	Bolpur	099	090	103	0198	083	0573	159
2.	Illambazar	067	059	086	0139	044	0395	107
3.	Nalhati – I	238	103	164	0308	089	0902	121
4.	Nalhati – II	139	079	107	0159	059	0543	086
5.	Nanoor	132	101	114	0196	046	0589	112
6.	Rampurhat – II	108	068	154	0189	092	0611	105
7.	Suri – I	066	063	106	0129	085	0449	120
GRAND TOTAL		849	563	834	1318	498	4062	810

- Total number of disabled children covered: **4062**
- Total number of schools (Primary, Junior Basic, Part Basic, Converted, Madrasah, High etc.): **810**

2. 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 has to be done for these helpless children. So a day in the caption of “**WORLD DISABLED DAY**” was fixed. It is on **3rd December** of each year. On this day many plans and programmes are undertaken for the upliftment of the disabled children in the global context. Likewise the world Disabled Day was observed by Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity at Bolpur on 3.12.2008. It was observed with much pomp and show. A grand procession with a multitude of students, teachers, disabled persons and children, guardians moved along the township areas with decorative tableau and placards with written messages on disability creating many enquiries among the common people. Many elites, dignitaries, social activists, concerning authorities and above all disabled persons took part in the procession with greater heartiness and responsibility because the programme was meant for the upliftment of disabled children.

After the rally was completed, a cultural function started with the disabled children at Bolpur Rotary Bhawan. Many items like highlighting personal problems in the process of reading and learning 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 guests District Coordinator, IED Programme, SSM, Birbhum and Assistant Teacher, Sri Nanda High School gave away the prizes making an earnest request to us so that we may stretch our helping hands to these disabled children and care them as our own brothers and sisters or sons and daughters.

3. MASS AWARENESS ON INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED (IED)

It is needless to point out that the Poush 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 Poush Mela of 2008 a stall was set up there from 23rd December 08 to 26th December 08 and it was inaugurated by Smt. Annapurna Mukherjee, Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad and Sri Tapan Saha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality. 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 others 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. Sri Bishweswar Maity, District Magistrate, Birbhum, Sri Sunil Ranjan Sikdar, Sub-Divisional Officer, Bolpur, Birbhum, Sri Bishwajyoti Roy, District Social Welfare Officer, Birbhum, Dr. Jayanta Sukul, Assistant Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur Sub-Division, Dr. Subhabrata Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Sri Sushil Kumar Chowdhuri, President, SEVAKS, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President, SEVAKS and many others added to the grace and dignity of the awareness camp.

4. SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR DISABLED

It is for the information of the people at large that this society is running a special school named Navodyam Sikshaniketan at it's premises at Ratanpalli, Santiniketan. 45 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. Four (4) special teachers (VI, HI & MR) are constantly imparting lessons to them. The students also take vocational training here. Like previous years this year also a Sports competition was arranged for disabled students of Navodyam Sikshaniketan in which all the pupils have participated with great enthusiasm. At the end, prizes were distributed to every student participators.

5. SPECIAL MEDICAL BOARD & ASSESSMENT CAMP FOR DISABLED

For past several years SEVAKS organize Special Medical Boards for Disabled in Bolpur Sub-Division in support of District Health Department and Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital. Through these Special Medical Boards the experienced medical technicians and specialist doctors of the field detect the percentage or degree of disability of the disabled persons. And, according to the recommendation the Disability Certificates and Identity Cards are provided to the disabled persons. In the year 2008-

2009 SEVAKS has arranged two Special Medical Boards in a wide scale for the disabled people of Bolpur and Rampurhat Sub-Divisional area in support of Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum, Birbhum District Rice Mills' Association and the respective Sub-Divisional Hospital. These Special Medical Boards were arranged for two days in each Sub-Divisional town Bolpur and Rampurhat on 23rd to 24th April 2008 and 29th to 30th April 2008 respectively. It was for the first time at Birbhum district that the disabled persons of mentally retardation category were brought under these Special Medical Boards along with H.I., V.I. and O.H. And, all the necessary arrangements were solely made by SEVAKS especially the Clinical Psychologist from Kolkata for this purpose. Through these Medical Boards total 474 disabled from Bolpur and Rampurhat Sub-Divisions were selected and later on they were provided with Disability Certificate and Identity Cards through a programme on 30th June 2008 at Geetanjali Auditorium, Bolpur, Birbhum, where Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Honourable Speaker of Loksabha and our Society's Patron-in-Chief has handed over those Disability Certificates & Identity Cards to the recipients.

Beside that in every year several Assessment Camps for Disabled Children are organised by SEVAKS in the seven blocks of Birbhum district in support of Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum. Through these camps the present status including the degree of disability of the disabled children are detected and the support service, Aids & Appliances and IEDC benefits are recommended to them according to their needs. Up to March 2009 total 2668 disabled children are assessed through these camps, but on the other hand, it cannot be denied that a good number of disabled children are still out of the scene. However, our organisation is firmly determined to bring all the non-assessed disabled children of the seven blocks under this assessment programme within the following years.

For the next year we have planned to organise Medical Boards and Assessment Camps for the disabled of Bolpur, Illambazar, Nanoor, Nalhati-I, Nalhati-II, Rampurhat-II and Suri-I Block.

6. AIDS & APPLIANCES FOR DISABLED

Here is a piece of good news for the disabled persons including children that in the year 2008-2009 our society has distributed wheel chair, tricycle, elbow crutch, blind stick etc. to the disabled persons of all categories with the help of District Social Welfare Department, Birbhum. Those Aids & Appliances were provided at the same programme organised at Geetanjali Auditorium on 30th June 2008 by the noble hands of Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker of Loksabha, Government of India. In the same programme on behalf of SEVAKS a wheel chair was also handed over to the Station Manager, Bolpur for the use of Railway passengers who are sick or having any kind of disability. In addition, on 27th August 2008 at the Auditorium of District Social Welfare Department, Birbhum appreciation certificates and prizes were presented to the disabled children who participated in the special Olympic programme and showed great performance in their sports events and in the same programme four tricycles were also provided to the disabled persons in presence of Disabled Commissioner, Government of West Bengal and many other higher officials like District Social Welfare Officer, Birbhum, Additional District Magistrate (General) and DPO (ICDS).

In near future we have planned to undertake similar programmes at Birbhum district with Mentally Retarded and Cerebral Palsied Children where special furniture like Potty-chair, Chair with cut out tray, straight back floor seat with tray etc. will provided to them according to their needs.

7. DISTRICT DISABLED REHABILITATION CENTRE (DDRC), BIRBHUM

It is indeed great news and event for the disabled population of our district that SEVAKS by the approval of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has got the heavier responsibility to establish and run the District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre of Birbhum district, in short DDRC, Birbhum at Ratanpalli, Santiniketan, Birbhum. Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Honourable Speaker of Loksabha of that period has formally inaugurated the District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre through a programme held at Geetanjali Auditorium of Bolpur on 30th June 2008 in presence of Sri Manasa Hansda, Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad, Sri Goutam Ghosh, Chairman, District Primary School Council, Birbhum, Sri Tapan Saha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality, Sri Tapan Kumar Some (IAS), District Magistrate, Birbhum, Sri L.N. Mina (IPS), SP, Birbhum, Sri Sukumar Roy, District Project Officer, SSM, Birbhum and many other eminent personalities of our district. Through this centre with the help of experienced Medical technicians and Specialists like Audiologist, Physiotherapist, Mobility Instructor, Clinical Psychologist, Ear-mould technician, Speech therapist etc. necessary Medical supports, therapeutic treatment will be provided to the disabled persons of all categories under all ages and if necessary the arrangements for surgical correction for the disabled persons will be made. Beside that DDRC, Birbhum will help the disabled persons to get benefits or facilities like disability certificates and loan for self-employment, special concession etc. wherever applicable to the disabled person. Through organising Medical Camps and conducting survey throughout the district DDRC, Birbhum will identify the disabled persons and maintain the updated record of disabled population of our district. Moreover, several awareness programmes will be undertaken from this centre to prevent disability and to completely remove the misconceptions and superstitious believes prevailing in our society.

From the very beginning of its commencement in the month of March 2009 and at the initial stage of the programme the District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre, Birbhum in spite of the lack of necessary equipments and instrument for providing medical support or identifying the target group, it has performed several important tasks with its technical and other staffs for the benefit of disabled population of our district, such as, awareness campaign through distributing leaflets, preparation of survey list of disabled Children, intimating the needs of Disabled Children as well as their parents by holding a meeting with them etc. A brief description of such initiations is given in the following lines.

Awareness Campaign: At first, a written material was prepared in form of leaflet which contains the role of DDRC, Birbhum including the details of service to be provided from the centre, the classification of disabilities, cause of disability of pre-natal or post-natal period, benefits and facilities for the disabled persons under PWD Act etc. The leaflets were distributed among general people especially at the crowded areas like bus stands, railway stations, market places, busy roads etc. of our district.

Preparation of a Survey list of Children With Special Needs: All the Staffs of DDRC, Birbhum is engaged in surveying the disabled children population of our district at block level and preparing a list of the same with detail information on their disability status with degree & category, complete address, recommended aids & appliances etc. for the preparation of the list the DDRC, Birbhum took the help of Special Educators, Anganwari and others officials and workers of this field in the concerned blocks. At present, the survey of CWSN population at 11 blocks is almost completed and the survey at the rest of the blocks will be done very soon.

Meetings with parents of disabled children: An initiation to meet with the need of disabled children and their parents was also undertaken by the DDRC, Birbhum by holding a few numbers of meetings with the parents of selective disabled children during the three months. Through these meeting the staffs of DDRC, Birbhum intimated with the difficulties those faced by the parents in day to day life to brought up their disabled children. On the other hand, the parents were also provided with the knowledge of hygiene, proper health and childcare through IEC materials and group discussions.

8. AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ON NATIONAL TRUST GUIDELINES

As the member of National Trust Committee of Birbhum District, SEVAKS has taken the responsibility to create awareness on the basic objectives of National Trust Guidelines in the rural areas of our district in support of District Social Welfare Department, Birbhum. Under this awareness programme total five Mass Awareness Camps was organised at the different rural areas like Datina, Kendradangal, Magram, Purandarpur etc. of Nanoor, Bolpur, Nalhati-II, Illambazar, Rampurhat-II & Suri-II Block in the month September 2008. Under this programme an effort was made to aware the rural public on the early detection & prevention of disability as well as about the facilities given by Government for Self-employment, concessions, financial supports and other supports in vocational & education plane. More than five hundred villagers were participated in these Mass Awareness Camps and we can conclude without any hesitation that through this awareness activity almost all of them were enlightened deeply on the said issue.

9. STD / HIV / AIDS MASS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

A. HIV/AIDS Mass Awareness Programme

AIDS has come to be the most pressing public health problem of this century. Despite of this 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.

i. Street Drama, meetings & processions

Common people are very little aware of the burning problem of **HIV/AIDS**. SEVAKS is trying much to make the common people or the mobile vulgus aware of them through holding processions, street corners meeting, lectures and performing street plays. So far seven (7) street dramas have been performed in the various important places of Birbhum district. Most noted places are Illambazar, Bolpur, Suri, Rampurhat, Nalhati, Dubrajpur 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.

ii. 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 11 shows have been organized at Illambazar, Bolpur, Suri, Ahammadpur 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 these shows people are warned against the diseases.

iii. 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 six (6) programmes of folk songs (Baul) and cultural programmes on HIV/AIDS have been held at Bolpur, Suri, Rampurhat and Lohapur in Birbhum district. These types of programmes have special appeal to the common people to prevent HIV/AIDS.

B. HIV/AIDS Awareness stall at Poush Mela

Poush Utsava of Santiniketan is 113 years old. Rabindranath Tagore's father Devendranath Tagore who was known as the Maharshi started the festival to mark the foundation of the Santiniketan Ashrama. The Poush Festival is internationally famous and near about 7-8 lakhs people are coming from different parts of our country as well as outside the country to enjoy the grand occasion of Poush Festival.

This year Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) organized a unique stall on HIV/AIDS & BLOOD with the collaboration of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society (WBSAP & CS) at Poush Festival during 23rd to 26th December 2008 at Santiniketan. The stall was inaugurated on the very first day (23rd December 2008 at 10 a.m.) of Poush Festival by Smt. Annapurna Mukherjee, Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad and Sri Tapan Saha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality. A series of programme were undertaken at HIV/AIDS & BLOOD information stall to reach the general people with emphasis on the key information, HIV/AIDS and BLOOD. The stall was well decorated with this year's World AIDS Day theme "**LEAD EMPOWER & LEADERSHIP, STOP AIDS...KEEP YOUR PROMISE**". The interior decoration of the stall was made with various colourful poster, banner, written message, red ribbon and campaigning of our friend BULADI (1097) as well VCCTC, PPTCT & Thalassaemia. From this stall general people from urban and rural areas were educated and were made aware on the above issues. Leaflets, Booklets, Red Ribbon and condoms were also distributed from the HIV/AIDS stall. The following activities were undertaken from the stall during the four 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 86 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 demonstration and 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 4500 and the number of demonstration of the same was 665. With the distribution of the condoms people were educated about the proper use of this materials and it was also taught that condoms could 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 8900 pieces of leaflets and 1675 booklets and 875 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. Total 500 schedules and questionnaires were filled by the viewers from the Mela on random basis.

v. Video Show:

To create interest among the general public and awareness generation on the issue of HIV/AIDS & motivation on Blood donation, screening of various types of audio visual on HIV/AIDS & Blood like Akrant, Kalo Rakte Sada Manush, Rakter Ashukh, Fir Milenge, Jibaner Gaan was arranged. A large number of people including the bus, auto, truck, taxi, van drivers and daily labourers were educated from this video show.

vi. Cultural programmes on HIV/AIDS & Thalassaemia:

To appraise the general public, flying sex workers truck drivers on the objectives of our stall and about the knowledge about menace of HIV/AIDS and Blood-Thalassaemia through local folk (Boul) song, Ranpa dance and drama on the subject was arranged. More than 11000 people were educated from this cultural programme. Many people came to the stall and asked questions and encouraged us to conduct such type of activities in every fair.

vii. Quiz:

A spot quiz contest on STD/HIV/AIDS, Thalassaemia & Blood was conducted by the Organisation in the Mela for four (4) days among the viewers. At least 500 people on each day participated in the spot quiz competition. In this competition we made to understand the viewers about the question if any viewer asked to know about any question or clarification on the said subject. In this way a mass awareness was created in Mela. It will not be too much to say that as a prize 1500 pens were distributed among the successful participants.

viii. Prize Distribution:

No competition will be completed 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. The prize distribution ceremony was held continuously after the end of the every question-answer session so that persons get the correct information about the question. The prizes were handed over to the winners by our guests.

ix. Blood Donation Camp at Mela ground:

A Blood Donation Camp was organized on 24th December 2008 at Santiniketan Poush Mela Stall for Motivation on safe Voluntary Blood Donation. 28 Mela viewers voluntarily donated their Blood at our HIV/AIDS stall at Santiniketan Poush Mela. Sri Apurba Ghosh, The Chief Advisor of National Blood Transfusion Council has inaugurated the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp in presence of Dr. Subhabrata Ghosh, Superintendent of Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital and the representatives from West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum. Further, it was a great event of inspiration for the young generations as well as for the Voluntary Blood Donors that Sri Tapan Saha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality have donated his blood in this Blood Donation Camp.

x. "LEAD EMPOWER & LEADERSHIP, STOP AIDS...KEEP YOUR PROMISE" Programme:

Those people who visited our HIV/AIDS awareness stall at Santiniketan Poush Mela during four days (23.12.08 – 26.12.08) signed their name on 20 meters long cloth with the message "LEAD EMPOWER & LEADERSHIP, STOP AIDS...KEEP YOUR PROMISE" were 1150 Mela viewers, including Sri Bishweswar Maity, District Magistrate, Birbhum, Sri Sunil Ranjan Sikdar, Sub-Divisional Officer, Bolpur, Birbhum, Sri Bishwajyoti Roy, District Social Welfare Officer, Birbhum, Dr. Jayanta Sukul, Assistant Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur Sub-Division, Dr. Subhabrata Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, President, Vice President, Secretary and other members of SEVAKS.

C. World AIDS Day

The observation of World AIDS Day 2008 at Bolpur was a big event in terms of mass awareness campaign. Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) Observed 'World AIDS Day' from 30th November 2008 to 3rd December 2008 with the help of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society through a Mass Awareness Stall at Bolpur Railway Station including a rally and seminar at Bolpur town. The stall was inaugurated by Sri Sunil Ranjan Sikdar SDO, Bolpur Sub-Division, in presence of eminent personalities like Dr. Jayanta Sukul, ACMOH, Bolpur Sub-Division, Rotarian Sri Saptarshi Das, President, Rotary Club of Bolpur-Santiniketan, Rotarian Dr. Sushanta Ghosh, Chairman, Rotary District AIDS Committee, Birbhum, Sri Pankaj Dutta, Coordinator, NCC, Visva Bharati University, Professor M.N. Taparia, Khujutipara College, Sri Sushil Kumar Chowdhury, President, SEVAKS and the Station Manager of Bolpur Railway Station. Sri Sushil Kr. Chowdhury delivered a valuable lecture on how every individual can lead the society to prevent HIV/AIDS" and also suggested that every social being should take the initiative to aware other people around them. The Station manager also expressed that this type of initiative at Bolpur Railway Station is very much needed & effective to prevent HIV/AIDS at Birbhum District. The stall was opened on 30th November 2008 at 9.00 a.m and it was continued till 3rd December 2008. All Railway passengers, Taxi Drivers, Auto Drivers, Railway Kuli, Rickshaw Pullers & others general people were aware and educated on STD/HIV/AIDS during the four days of the programme. Condoms, leaflets,

booklets and Red Ribbon were freely distributed from the awareness Stall at Bolpur Railway Station during those days.

On 1st December 2008, a big rally was held in Bolpur town. Many club members, students and HIV positive persons including common people joined the rally, which started from Duckbanglow Maidan and moved through the whole town and it ended at its starting point. It must be mentioned that NCC & NSS were participated in the rally. It should also be noted that Sri Sunil Ranjan Sikdar Sub-Divisional Officer, Bolpur Sub-Division, Dr. Jayanta Sukul, Assistant Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur Sub-Division inaugurated the rally in presence of eminent personalities from all walks of life at Bolpur Sub-division. Mr. Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President of SEVAKS mentioned the role of the Rally to the volunteers who actively participated in the rally. Near about 300 people turned out to march leading by the SDO and ACMOH of Bolpur including all the Rotarians from Rotary Club of Bolpur-Santiniketan and Rotary District AIDS Committee, NCC Coordinator of Visva Bharati University and President and Vice President of SEVAKS in support of HIV positive persons and AIDS prevention efforts.

On the same day a seminar on STD/HIV/AIDS was held at Rotary Bhawan, Bolpur at 11.00 a.m. Chief Medical Officer of Health, Birbhum, Dr. Jayanta Sukul, ACMOH, Bolpur Sub-Division, Sri Saptarshi Das, President, Rotary Club of Bolpur-Santiniketan, Rotarian Dr. Sushanta Ghosh, Chairman, Rotary District AIDS Committee, Birbhum, Sri Pankaj Dutta, Dr. Tirthankar Chandra, Medical Officer of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital Blood Bank, Coordinator, NCC, Visva Bharati University, Professor M.N. Taparia, Khujutipara College, Mr. Sushil Chowdhury, President of SEVAKS, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President of SEVAKS and many renowned persons and social workers were present in the seminar. In this seminar the details of transfusion mode of HIV, cause of developing AIDS in an individual, symptoms of HIV/AIDS, the right way to prevent HIV/AIDS and above all the responsibility of the individuals to lead our society to prevent and stop HIV/AIDS is explained by the scholars. It is estimated that 150 people attend the seminar.

Next in the evening on 1st December 2008 an important and unique initiation was undertaken in order to aware the inmates of our town through WALK FOR AIDS PROGRAMME with Candle Light. All the volunteers of SEVAKS including general people were participated in this programme. But the most important event which draw a special attention of the general people was that the huge involvement of Rickshaw pullers, Kuli, Auto and Taxi drivers of Bolpur Railway Station in the Walk for AIDS Programme with a great enthusiasm. The Walk for AIDS Programme was commenced from the Mass Awareness Stall at Bolpur Railway Station, which was moved through the main roads of Bolpur with the banner of World AIDS Day 2008 in front and ended at the starting place. More than 100 people turned out to walk for AIDS with candle light. Moreover, a cultural programme on Folk and Boul was held in the Stall at 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. at Bolpur Railway Station during the next three days of the awareness programme. We tried to make people aware about HIV/AIDS deeply through this programme. A video show was also arranged at the stall after the cultural programme for two hours to the general masses of which 90% was the rickshaw pullers and taxi drivers. The video show programme was conducted at the stall during three days of the programme at 8.00 p.m. for two hours as a major part of the occasion. It was major because 90% of the viewers of the show were rickshaw pullers and the taxi drivers who like to enjoy such type of programme very much. It is to be noted that the occupational groups like taxi drivers, rickshaw pullers, labourers are high-risk group in the town. Some time the sex workers are used in the rail line side in night. Therefore, we think that the video show is very important programme to the viewers. More than 215 people enjoyed the show.

10. BIRBHUM DISTRICT VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONORS' FORUM: Another Wing of SEVAKS

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 in the field of Voluntary Blood Donation as a District unit of Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors Forum. This achievement is entirely goes to the credit of SEVAKS.

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 39 camps in the various places of Birbhum District in this year. Again, it goes to the credit of SEVAKS that it has been able to procure 1267 units of blood from the motivated blood donors. It is crystal clear to the medical men that in the Sub-divisions 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. Besides our initiation of organising Blood donation camps we also arrange training camps with specific social groups like club members, conscious villagers, students and teachers including mass awareness campaign in this regard. Such type of special campaign programme was undertaken with support of Health Department of the Govt. of West Bengal to motivate & recruit the general mass on safe voluntary blood donation in our district in form of a rally with decorative tableau that travelled through the Suri, Rampurhat and Bolpur from 5th December 2008 to 7th December 2008. No doubt this rally gained a special attraction among general mass at Birbhum district during those days. Along with this rally a seminar was also arranged at the Government Hospital Blood Banks of the respective District and Sub-Divisional areas with many Voluntary Organisations holding the objectives to promote voluntary blood donation in that region as a mass movement. In the month of March 2009 another programme was initiated with the help of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society to promote voluntary blood donation and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through a workshop on Internal Blood Safety & Voluntary Blood Donation at Suri, Rampurhat and Bolpur. Nearly 150 representatives from the local organisations and social activists were participated in these workshops.

Another unique programme launched by the West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society to boost up the fighting spirit against HIV/AIDS by involving the young generation in the awareness campaign against HIV/AIDS. Through this programme an action plan is taken to form Red Ribbon Clubs at the Educational Institutions of our country. As a district unit SEVAKS in support of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society has took the initiation to form Red Ribbon Clubs at different Educational and Technical Institutions of our district. Within the month of March 2009 so far four Red Ribbon Clubs has been formed at Bolpur Purnidevi Girls College, Illamabazar Kavi Joydev College, Khujutipara Kabi Chandidas College, Nalhati Hiralal Bhakat College, Bengal Institute of Technology & Manangement, Bolpur and Social Work Dept. of Visva Bharati University by our sole effort and in every colleges 50 students have taken the membership of those Red Ribbon Clubs. The student members of Red Ribbon Clubs are participating in every awareness campaign against HIV/AIDS in our district. It was also a great achievement for SEVAKS that in the month of November 2008 during an acute crisis of blood at Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital we had arranged a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on emergency basis on request from the hospital authority and thus fulfilled the shortage of blood at the said hospital blood bank.

11. 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. In spite of having its financial capacity limited, is trying its best to help the Thalassaemia patients by donating blood indirectly through motivating people to donate blood to the needy patients. SEVAKS is now to set its foot to the new precinct of work. World Thalassaemia Day is observed on 8th May in every year. This time SEVAKS have observed the World Thalassaemia day on 10th May 2008 at Bolpur for the awareness on Thalassaemia among the general mass through conducting a seminar on Prevention of Thalassaemia and Blood safety at Bolpur Rotary Bhawan, Bolpur, Birbhum followed by a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at the same venue. Many eminent personalities, social activists including professionals and specialists were participated in the seminar at Rotary Bhawan. The seminar was presided by Sri Sushil Kr. Chowdhury, President, SEVAKS. Sri Tapan Saha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality, Rotarian Saptarshi Das, President, Rotary Club of Bolpur-Santiniketan were present in the seminar and expressed their views from social aspects of the said issue. Dr. Subabrata Ghosh, Superintendent, Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Dr. Tirthankar Chandra, MOIC of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital Blood Bank and Sri Nirupam Sinha, Consultant, Voluntary Blood Donation, West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society has elaborately explained and discussed the cause of Thalassaemia and the need of practicing Thalassaemia testing before marriage as an active habit among individuals, Blood components and the details of transfusion mode of HIV, cause of developing AIDS in an individual, right way to prevent HIV/AIDS and above all the responsibility of every social beings to prevent such disease and deformity. It is estimated that nearly 100 people attend the seminar. After completion of the seminar the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was held in support of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital. Total 30 people donated their blood for Thalassaemia patients.

12. PILES TREATMENT CAMP

Here is a piece of good news for the Piles patients that our society had organized a Piles Treatment Camp for them who are suffering from piles disease in support of renowned Medical Specialist Dr. Haraklal Dhariwal, Sri Jaina Shwetambar Mancha and Birbhum District Rice Mills' Association on 27th May 2008 at Birbhum District Rice Mills' Association's Hall at Kachharipatty, Birbhum. Through this Piles Treatment camp more than hundred numbers of piles patients of our district were operated through modern laser treatment without any pain and totally in free of cost.

13. 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 been working in this programme through two pulse polio centres at (i) Bolpur Nichupatty and (ii) Bolpur Chowrasta by sending their volunteers to the centres and they have assisted the concerning staff of health department.

14. SELF HELP GROUPS

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 47 SHG(s) in the rural and tribal areas of Birbhum District. The group members are trained on the vocational planes like food processing, kitchen garden, needle works and bamboo works. SEVAKS in collaboration with 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. In this regard, in the month of September and October 2008 SEVAKS in support of NABARD has organised five (5) awareness programmes on Formation & Nurturing of SHG(s) and three (3) Leadership Training Programmes for the members of SHG(s) at the villages namely Goalpara, Fuldanga, Sansat, Khanjanpur, Moldanga which covered not only these villages but also a vast areas of rural population surrounding those villages of Bolpur Block. At the end of the each awareness programme five numbers of SHG(s) are formed, therefore, total 25 SHG(s) were formed from these five awareness programmes.

15. NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROGRAMME (NCLP)

It is beyond doubt that the child labours who belongs to socio-economically backward family are prevailing almost every part of rural, urban and semi-urban areas of our country as well as in Birbhum district. Due to poverty they are not in position to get formal education and other normal daily requirements. Therefore, in order to improve their worst condition especially in aspect of education, the Government of India launched the National Child Labour Programme in all over the country including Birbhum district since 2006. Through this programme child labours are provided with free primary level education under a non-formal school setup.

From the very beginning five Child Labour Schools are running by our society under this programme in Birbhum district at Basapara (Nanoor Block), Maheshpur, (Nalhati I Block), Hazarpur, Mostafadangapara and Nowapara (Nalhati II Block). Total 25 staffs comprising fifteen teaching and ten non-teaching staffs are engaged in this programme and total 250 Child Labour Students are learning in these Child Labour Schools. The school starts at their convenient time and classes continues for three and half hours. Besides imparting education several other activities are undertaken to improve their quality of life and to make the learning more attractive for them such as students are provided with vocational training; nutrition is also provided to them every day; free health check up facility is provided twice in a year annual Sports are held and cultural programme is organised in every week. Side by side stipends are given to the students in every month as they are experiencing great loss regarding their daily work. Under the supervision of SEVAKS the students of all child labour schools are developing a good sense of living and conduct in them, thus leading towards the main stream of our society. At the present moment, the first phase of three years of this programme is completed in the end of March 2009, where in the final evaluation of class IV all the 250 numbers of pupils of five Child Labour Schools have passed successfully. After that, all those students are admitted in class V of High Schools situated at nearby locality. Beside that, the Child Labour Students have received their stipends deposited in favour of their account on local Banks during three years. Now, under this programme plan in the next session of 2009-2010 a new batch of 50 Child Labours of the nearby locality will be admitted in class I of each Child Labour Schools. For this purpose, a survey has been done by SEVAKS to identify the Child Labours prepare a list of them accordingly with their name, address, details of work place etc. and after getting final instruction from the District Authority they will be admitted soon.

16. ALTERNATIVE INNOVATIVE EDUCATION CENTRE

West Bengal State Sarva Siksha Mission has initiated a new programme with an innovative idea to support the primary level education system by providing education to the drop out school students prevailing in every part of our state through setting up of Alternative Innovative Education Centres (AIE). In our district SEVAKS is involved in this programme in collaboration of Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum with firmly adopted objectives of bringing those drop out children under the main stream of our primary level education by establishing total 178 AIE Centres at the different places of Bolpur, Illambazar, Nanoor, Nalhati-I, Nalhati-II, Suri-I, Rampurhat-II, Mohammad Bazar and Dubrajpur Block covering 4122 numbers of Drop Out Students. In every AIE Centre there is one Siksha Sebi is engaged as a teacher for 20 students and for twenty AIE Centres there is one supervisor for looking after the entire projects. At present, under the supervision and care of SEVAKS total 178 Siksha Sebis and 9 Supervisors are working in this programme from the month of February 2009. Through these centres the Siksha Sebis have imparting lessons to the pupils for three and half hours. The necessary teaching aids and learning materials including the books has also been provided to the Siksha Sebis and students. Beside that a training programme is also arranged for the Siksha Sebis engaged in the AIE Centres of Illambazar and Dubrajpur Block on 22nd to 23rd May 2009 at Panditpur Ramkrishna Satyananda Ashram. The Training programme was inaugurated by Smt. Annapurna Mukherjee, Sabhadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad in presence of S.I. of Dubrajpur and many other eminent personalities. In this training programme the Siksha Sebis were trained by the Resource Teachers and others knowledgeable persons of the field with the special and scientific method of teaching which is most useful for such drop out children. Moreover, the aims & objectives of this programme is also discussed by the SI of Dubrajpur and District Coordinator, IED, SSM, Birbhum in this training programme. In near future, SEVAKS will arrange such training programme for the rest of Siksha Sebis working in other Blocks of our district.

17. 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 2008 a big rally comprising of 210 heads started to march from Bolpur Duckbunglow maidan and after marching 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. 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 these types of misbelieve and misconceptions. This year on 30.01.2009 SEVAKS organized a rally that marched through Bolpur town. The rally comprised of 161 persons coming from all classes of people – students, youths, club members, NCC & NSS.

C. World Tuberculosis 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 who is not familiar with the name of Sukanta Bhattacharjee, the famous Bengali Poet born only to die untimely? And it was T.B. that took his life. But at present T.B. is totally curable 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. with a special emphasize on the information of TB-HIV coordination.

In the last year, on 24.03.2009 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. 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 186 people took part. At last Dr. Jayanta Sukul Assistant Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bolpur Sub-Division made an effective speech on the consuming effect of T.B. and on the need of treatment shaking off all misbeliefs and prejudices.



