

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

1. DISTRICT DISABLED REHABILITATION CENTRE (DDRC), BIRBHUM

A. INTRODUCTION

District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) is an initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, to facilitate comprehensive services to Persons with Disabilities in the rural areas. These units have a group of rehabilitation professions for providing services like identification of Persons with Disabilities, Awareness Generation, Early Detection and Intervention, Provision / Fitment, Follow-up and repairing of Assistive Devices, Therapeutic Services like Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy etc., and facilitation of Disability Certificates, Buss Passes and other concessions/ facilities for Persons with Disabilities.

DDRC is a joint venture of Central and State Governments wherein the role of Central Government is to establish, initiate, implement the centre for three years involving funding for man power contingencies as well as required equipments and coordination. The State Government has to provide provision for rent free, well connected building, basic infrastructure, furniture, monitoring and coordination of activities through District Management Team (DMT) Chaired by the District Magistrate through an Implementing Agency.

We, as the Implementing Agency have setup the DDRC, Birbhum at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum on March 2009 and from this time it is functioning under our care and under the supervision of District Management Team headed by the District Magistrate, Birbhum with firmly adopted objectives to serve the entire disabled population of Birbhum district.

The main objectives of this centre is to provide all kind of rehabilitative supports to the Persons With Disabilities of any category under all ages which comprises various facilities like loan for self employment and special concession existing under government rules, different therapeutic treatments like physiotherapy, occupation therapy, speech therapy, psychotherapy, counselling service etc., assessment of needs and provision of Aids & Appliances to the Person With Disabilities according to their needs, arrangement of surgical correction if needed, providing disability certificate through camp approach and arrangement of Legal Guardianship for the Persons With Disabilities. In addition, the promotion of barrier free environment, and awareness generation to prevent disability and remove the misconceptions and superstitious believes prevailing in our society are the other main objectives of this centre.

In the year 2010-2011, in spite of lacking necessary equipments and instruments for rendering therapeutic service to the target group, the DDRC, Birbhum has performed several important tasks with its technical and other staff for the benefit of disabled population of our district, such as, awareness campaign through organising Mass Awareness Stall, extending support to the Health Dept. of our District for the assessment of Mentally Challenged Persons, conducting legal guardianship programme for the benefit of the Mentally Challenged Persons, finding out the needs of Disabled Children as well as their parents by holding meetings with them etc.

B. AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT SWASTHYA MELA

SEVAKS as the Implementing Agency of DDRC, Birbhum has initiated an Awareness programme on DDRC, Birbhum & Disabilities at the Swasthya Mela organised by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Birbhum at Illambazar for two days from 17.04.10 to 18.04.10. A Mass Awareness Stall on DDRC, Birbhum was setup at the Swasthya Mela which was inaugurated by Dr. Ramchandra Dom, Hon'ble MP, Bolpur. Sri Bhaktipada Ghosh, Deputy Speaker, Bidhan Sabha, Govt. of West Bengal, Dr. Ashish Kr. Mallik, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), Birbhum, Prof. Mahadev Dewasi, Principal, Kabi Joydev College, Illambazar were the dignitaries who visited the stall. Through this stall the physiotherapy treatment was provided to the Persons With Disability of OH category. In addition, the Clinical Psychologist have assessed the Mentally Retarded (MR) Persons and provided counselling service to them and their parents. An effort was also made continuously at this Swasthya Mela to aware the general people on the prevention of disabilities in peri-natal & pre-natal stage and on the facilities available at DDRC, Birbhum for the Persons With Disabilities.



Mass Awareness & Information Stall of DDRC, Birbhum at the Swasthya Mela of Illambazar, Birbhum from 17.04.2010 to 18.04.2010.



Dr. Ramchandra Dom, Hon'ble MP, writing comments in the visitors book on this Mass Awareness & Information Stall of DDRC, Birbhum at the Swasthya Mela, Illambazar, Birbhum on 17.04.11.



Dr. Asish Mallik, CMOH, Birbhum at the Mass Awareness & Information Stall of DDRC, Birbhum at the Swasthya Mela of Illambazar, Birbhum on 17.04.2011.



Sri Bhaktipada Ghosh, Hon'ble Dty. Speaker, Bidhansabha, Govt. of West Bengal visiting the Mass Awareness & Information Stall of DDRC at the Swasthya Mela of Illambazar, Birbhum on 18.04.2011.



The Physiotherapist and Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have attending the PWDs at the Stall of DDRC, Birbhum from 17.04.2010 to 18.04.2010.

C. MASS AWARENESS & INFORMATION STALL AT SANTINIKETAN POUSSH MELE; Prevention of Disabilities, Creation Inclusion & Facilities at DDRC, Birbhum

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 IEC Materials containing sketches, pictures, data, slogans etc. and also by cultural functions.



Inauguration of Mass Awareness & Information Stall on Disabilities, Creation Inclusion & facilities of DDRC, Birbhum by Sri Sushobhan Banerjee, Eminent Social Worker and Sri Chandranath Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, Bolpur Municipality on 23.12.2010 at Santiniketan Poush Mela.

In the Poush Mela of 2010 a Mass Awareness and Information Stall on the prevention of Disabilities, Creation Inclusion and on the facilities available at DDRC, Birbhum was organised in support of Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum from 23rd December 2010 to 26th December 2010. The Stall was inaugurated by Dr. Sushobhan Banerjee, Former MLA, eminent Social Worker and Medical Practitioner of Bolpur, Birbhum and Sri Chandranath Singha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality in presence of Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, Block Welfare Officer, Bolpur Block, Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President, SEVAKS, Sri Ratanlal Surana, Member, SEVAKS and many

other eminent personalities from various walks of life of Bolpur-Santiniketan. Beside them, many dignitaries spent their valuable time in the stall during the four days of Awareness Programme 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 as 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. Dr. Ramchandra Dom, Hon'ble MP, Bolpur, Smt. Krishna Mardi, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Birbhum, Income Tax Commisioner of Burdwan Range, Dr. Sudip Mondal, Superintendent of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Sri Pradip Kanti Kumar, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Birbhum and many others added to the grace and dignity of the awareness programme.



Interior decoration with posters including meaningful written messages for the general visitors of the Mass Awareness Stall of DDRC, Birbhum at Santiniketan Poush Mela 2010



Smt. Krishna Mardi, ADM (Dev.), Birbhum visiting the Mass Awareness Stall of DDRC, Birbhum on 24.12.10.



Sri Pradip Kanti Kumar, DSWO, Birbhum visiting the Mass Awareness Stall of DDRC, Birbhum on 25.12.10.

The interior decoration of the stall was made with various colourful posters, banners, written messages on the Prevention of Disabilities, Creation Inclusion of the Disabled Persons in society and on the facilities of DDRC, Birbhum. From this stall, general people from urban and rural areas were educated and made aware on the above issues. A large number of Booklets containing all information regarding disability, such as, the types of disabilities, the support training for the disabled children, early intervention including the prevention of disabilities, different schemes and programmes for disabled under National Trust, Legal Guardianship etc. were also distributed and explained to the visitors from this awareness stall.



Sri Prasanta Das Baul with Orthopaedic Disability performing Baul Songs at the Mass Awareness Stall of DDRC, Birbhum in Poush Mela 2010.

On this occasion, a Cultural programme of local folk song (Baul) on disability was organised at the awareness stall. Baul community is an ancient religious sect of Bengal based on a highly philosophical vision. This community is also very well known for creating songs on contemporary subject. This type of programme always have a special appeal to the common people especially at the rural areas. Therefore, it can be expected that through organising this folk song programme we have been able to remove the obstacle of ignorance on the said issue from the general mind in a large extent. A famous group among the Baul Community has performed Baul Songs at the said stall, among them Sri Prasanta Das Baul having orthopaedic disability was one excellent performer in this programme.

In addition, an important programme activity in form of Quiz Competition was undertaken at the Mass Awareness Stall. Through this quiz competition we have assessed the knowledge level of general people on the different information regarding disabilities, and on the other hand, through this activity, we have been able to provide the general people the useful information on the cause of Disabilities, types of disabilities, early intervention and detection of disability, child care & hygiene, Rights of Persons With Disabilities and Child Rights, promotion of Inclusive Education for disabled children, legal guardianship etc.



Spot Quiz contest for the visitors is going on in front of the Mass Awareness Stall of DDRC, Birbhum at Santiniketan Poush Mela 2010

D. Meetings with the Parents of Disabled Children

An initiation to find out the need of disabled children and their parents was also undertaken by the DDRC, Birbhum in selective areas of the district through holding meetings with the parents of disabled children during this year. Through these meetings the staff of DDRC, Birbhum intimated with the difficulties those faced by the parents in day-to-day life to bring up their disabled children. On the other hand, the parents were also provided with the appropriate knowledge of hygiene, health and childcare through IEC materials and group discussions. Such group meetings are the most effective means to prevent the disabilities in our society, as the parents or guardians of disabled children can play an important role to spread that basic knowledge on disability in our society.

E. Therapeutic Service to the Disabled

In absence of proper instrument & equipments the Physiotherapist of DDRC, Birbhum has only manually providing physiotherapy to the Persons With Disability of Orthopaedically Handicapped and Cerebral Palsy on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Similarly, the Mobility Instructor of DDRC, Birbhum have rendering necessary support to the Visually Impaired Persons accordingly. The Children with Special Needs are provided with the protective technique and guidance for identifying different objects existing around them, which is the most necessary and effective means to improve their daily living skill. The Clinical Psychologist has providing counselling service to the Mentally Retarded Persons of all ages in order to buildup their self confidence and mental capacity to overcome any adverse environment. Further, their parents are also provided with necessary tips on how to handle their children.



The Physiotherapist, DDRC, Birbhum has examining the Disabled Children of CP Category at DDRC, Birbhum

F. Medical Boards for Disabled

The DDRC, Birbhum has also extended its support to the District Health Department by providing its Clinical Psychologist to the Medical Board held from the month of May 2010 to August 2010 at two Sub-Divisional areas of Bolpur, and Rampurhat. During this year (2010-11) the Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessed total 346 Mentally Challenged Persons through these Medical Boards.

Details of the Mentally Challenged Beneficiaries assessed by DDRC, Birbhum through Medical Boards held in Birbhum for 2010-2011

Sl. No.	Date & Time	Venue	Total No. of Assessed Persons	No. of Persons Selected for Disability Certificate
1.	17.05.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Kaitha Samabai Samity Nalhati-I Block	43	38
2.	28.05.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Labpur Block	35	26
3.	04.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Nanor Block	40	32
4.	11.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Nanor Block	21	14
5.	18.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Labpur Block	41	34
6.	21.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Mayureswar-II Block	37	33
7.	25.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Illambazar Block	35	29
8.	28.06.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Rajgram, Murarai-II	16	11
9.	26.07.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Chakmandala, Rampurhat-I	23	16
10.	02.08.10 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Block Primary Health Centre Mollarpur, Mayureswar-I	55	46
Total			346	279



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Children at the Special Medical Board at Block Primary Health Centre, Rajgram, Labpur on 28.05.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Persons at the Special Medical Board at the Block Primary Health Centre, Nanor on 11.06.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Persons at the Special Medical Board at the Block Primary Health Centre, Mayureswar-II on 21.06.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Children at the Special Medical Board at Block Primary Health Centre of Rajgram, Murarai-II Block on 28.06.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Persons at the Special Medical Board at Block Primary Health Centre, Chakmandala, Rampurhat-I on 26.07.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing the Mentally Challenged Children in presence of IED Coordinator, SSM, Birbhum at the Special Medical Board at BPHC, Mollarpur, Mayureswar-I on 02.08.2010.

G. Identification Camps for the Persons With Disabilities

During the year 2010-2011 two Identification Camps were organised for the disabled persons of all category at Birbhum for providing them with necessary Aids & Appliances. These camps were organised in support of National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata and in association with the Govt. Hospitals and Voluntary Organisations of the respective areas. The main objective of such camp is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

On 12th April 2010 an Identification Camp was held at Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital. Further, another Identification Camp was organised on 12th June 2010 at the community hall of Marowari Seva Samity, Sainthia, Birbhum. Through these Identification Camps total 396 Disabled Persons under different disabled category were assessed by the technical experts of the concerned field through these Identification Camps and out of them total 299 Persons With Disabilities were identified for Aids & Appliances. The Identified Persons of these camps were recommended with various types of Aids & Appliances and assistive devices according to their needs. Later on the recommended items were provided

to the Identified Persons of these camps as well as of the previous through organising several distribution programmes separately at the various places of Birbhum according to their convenience.



Identification Camp for the Persons With Disabilities at Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital on 12.04.2010.



The Audiologist have assessing the Hearing Impaired Child at the Identification Camp at Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital on 12.04.2010.



The Prosthesis/Orthosis Technician taking measurements and making mould of the affected limb of an Orthopaedically Handicapped Person at Rampurhat Identification Camp on 12.04.2010.



Identification Camp for the Persons With Disabilities of all category at Marwari Seva Samity, Sainthia on 12.06.2010.



The Prosthesis/Orthosis Technician of DDRC, Birbhum have taking the measurements of the affected limb of an Orthopaedically Handicapped Child at Sainthia Identification Camp on 12.06.2010.



The Prosthesis/Orthosis Technician of DDRC, Birbhum have making a mould of the affected limb of an Orthopaedically Handicapped Person at Sainthia Identification Camp on 12.06.2010.



The Audiologist have assessing the Hearing Impaired Person at the Identification Camp at Sainthia Marwari Samity on 12.06.2010.



The Clinical Psychologist of DDRC, Birbhum have assessing an Mentally Retarded Child at the Sainthia Identification Camp on 12.06.2010.



The Mobility Instructor of DDRC, Birbhum attending a Visually Impaired (Blind) Person at the Identification Camp at Sainthia Marwari Samity on 12.06.2010.



The PWD and Polio affected Persons are waiting for screening in community hall of Sainthia Marwari Seva Samity on 12.06.2010.

**DETAILS OF THE ASSESSED PWD OF THE IDENTIFICATION CAMPS
ARRANGED BY DDRC, BIRBHUM IN THE YEAR 2010-2011**

Sl. No.	Date & Time	Venue	No. of Assessed PWD					Total
			OH	HI	VI	MR/CP	MD	
1.	14.04.2010 9.00 am–5.00 pm	Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital	077	82	33	09	0	201
2.	12.06.2010 9.00 am–5.00 pm	Sainthia Marwari Seva Samity	130	49	11	04	1	195
Total			207	131	44	13	1	396

**DETAILS OF THE IDENTIFIED PWD OF THE IDENTIFICATION CAMPS
ARRANGED BY DDRC, BIRBHUM IN THE YEAR 2010-2011**

Sl. No.	Date & Time	Venue	No. of Identified PWD				Total
			OH	HI	VI	MR/CP	
1.	14.04.2010 9.00 am–5.00 pm	Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital	065	54	09	08	136
2.	12.06.2010 9.00 am–5.00 pm	Sainthia Marwari Seva Samity	115	39	05	04	163
TOTAL			180	93	14	12	299

**DETAILS OF THE AIDS & APPLIANCES PROVIDED
TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE IDENTIFICATION CAMPS* IN THE YEAR 2010-2011**

Sl. No.	Aids & Appliances	Total No. of Aids & Appliances provided to the PWD
1.	Tricycle	061
2.	Wheel Chair	068
3.	Auxiliary Crutch	025
4.	Elbow Crutch	015
5.	Prosthesis & Orthosis Aids	013
6.	Walking Stick	020
7.	Hearing Aids	140
8.	Blind Stick	037
9.	Braille Slate	012
10.	Tailor Frame	003
11.	Abacus	006
12.	Low Vision Aids	001
13.	Cricket Ball	002
Total		403

* Including Suri Police Line Identification Camp (2009-10) and Rampurhat Identification Camp, but excluding Sainthia Identification Camp.



Inauguration of Aids & Appliance Distribution Programme at Geetanjali Auditorium, Bolpur on 23.05.10.



Smt. Renu Chatterjee, Trustee, Nirmal Chandra Bina Pani Trust, Santiniketan presenting a Wheel Chair to the beneficiary.



Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS addressing the audiences at the Inauguration Programme of Aids & Appliance Distribution at Suri Police Line on 25.06.2010



Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Former Speaker of Lok Sabha presenting a Wheel Chair to the Orthopaedic Handicapped Person at Suri Police Line on 25.06.2010



The Hon'ble Guests at the Aids & Appliance Distribution Programme at Raktakarabi Auditorium, Rampurhat on 05.08.2010.



Dr. Ashis Banerjee, Hon'ble MLA, Rampurhat have presenting the Wheel Chair to an Orothopaedic Handicapped Child at Raktakarabi, Rampurhat on 05.08.10.

#. Legal Guardianship Programme for the Mentally Challenged Persons

All the parents are legal guardians of their children till the child attains 18 years of age. Once the child turns 18 years of age, legally the child has become an adult and is supposed to take all the decisions by him or her self; the parents can no longer legally represent their child. However, the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities are not able to manage or take any legal decisions for their betterment and therefore they require someone to protect their interest in the legal areas all through their lives. The National Trust Act for the first time enables the person with disabilities to have a guardian representing him / her throughout their lives. The National Trust, working under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was established by an Act of Parliament in 1999 for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The National Trust Act gives the rights to the parents, relatives or registered organizations to ask for the appointment of guardians for the Persons With Disabilities even after they attain 18 years of age.

As an Implementing Agency of DDRC, Birbhum and as a member of Local Level Committee of National Trust, we have to take the responsibility to arrange the legal Guardianship for the Mentally Challenged Persons who has been already assessed and identified through the Medical Board held at Block level in Birbhum District. We are glad to include that we took only around two months (October 2010 to November 2010) to complete the entire procedure of preparing the application on behalf of the applicants (most of them are their biological parents) to provide the Legal Guardianship of the deserved persons. It should be mentioned that under this Legal Guardianship programme a huge number of beneficiaries was minor, thus their parents can now remain guardians of their child even after he/she attains 18 years of age.

In addition, we have also taken the initiation to enrol those Mentally Challenged Persons in the Insurance Scheme of Niramaya, which is specifically designed under National Trust for the Persons With Disabilities of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. No pre-medical check up is required for enrolling under this scheme and there is no upper or lower age limits for enrolment. The other unique feature about this scheme is that the premium of the insurance scheme is paid by the National Trust for the Below Poverty Line persons. The above poverty line persons can also avail this facility by paying the suitable premium. The Niramaya scheme covers overall medical expenses upto Rs. One lac within separate sub limits, besides many other expenses, which are not normally covered under regular health insurance plans like OPD treatment, regular medical check up, corrective surgery for existing disability etc. in addition to the regular expenses on hospitalisation. This scheme also covers expenses incurred for transportation of the patient as well as cost of alternative medicines. Thus, all the Mentally Challenged Persons who was covered by the Legal Guardianship Programme was also brought under the above Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme.

Details of the Mentally Challenged Beneficiaries under Legal Guardianship Programme & Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme

Type of Disability	Minor (Below 18 yrs)	Adult (18 yrs. & above)	Total No. of the Beneficiaries
MR	39	49	88
CP	06	02	08
Total	45	51	96

I. Acupressure-cum-Physiotherapy Training programme

An Acupressure-cum-Physiotherapy training programme from the field of alternative treatment was organised mainly for the staff of DDRC, Birbhum including others who are working in the field of disability at DDRC, Birbhum for two days on 29th September 2010 & 30th September 2010. The training programme was inaugurated by Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Former Speaker of Loksabha and the main initiator of this training programme in presence of Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice-President, SEVAKS, Sri Ratanlal Surana, GB Member, SEVAKS and Dr. Krishna Dalal, HOD, Dept. of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Acupressure is an ancient healing art using the fingers to gradually press key healing points, which stimulate the body's natural self-curative abilities. Using the power and sensitivity of the hand, Acupressure Therapy is effective in the relief of stress-related ailments, and is ideal for self-treatment and preventive health care for boosting the immune system. Acupressure releases tension, increases circulation, reduces pain, and develops health. The main reason of organising this training programme is to improve overall skills of the technical staff of DDRC, Birbhum for rendering therapeutic services to the Persons With Disabilities in more improved manner and with innovative approach. Dr. Krishna Dalal, have imparted the Acupressure training most carefully to eight experts of the disability field with theory and practical. It was indeed a great opportunity for the staff of DDRC, Birbhum & SEVAKS to improve their ability by adding additional skills from the field of alternative medicine.



Inauguration of the Physiotherapy (Acupressure) Training Programme by Sri Somnath Chatterjee, Former Hon'ble Speaker of Loksabha and Dr. Krishna Dalal, AIIMS at DDRC, Birbhum on 29.09.2010.



Dr. Krishna Dalal, HOD, Dept. of Bio-Physics, AIIMS, New Delhi have addressing the Guests and the Participants of the Physiotherapy-cum-Acupressure Training Programme at DDRC, Birbhum on 29.09.2010.





Dr. Krishna Dalal, HOD, Dept. of Bio-Physics, AIIMS, New Delhi have imparting Physiotherapy-cum-Acupressure Training to the experts of DDRC, Birbhum & SEVAKS at the premises of DDRC, Birbhum on 29.09.2010 and 30.09.2010.

2. 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, Santiniketan Ratanpalli Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) came forward 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 govt. 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 tried to address the illiteracy problem especially among the disabled children along with the normal students. Rural people believed that physical deformity is a curse and children with such deformity are always an object of ridicule and fun. As a District Level

Resource Organisation of Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM), Birbhum till December 2010, Santiniketan Ratanpally Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samity (SEVAKS) has been able to remove the above-mentioned prejudices of general people in a great extend.

However, 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. 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 the expert doctors. When it is found that the disabled children need more special help and guidance in the process of their reading and learning with the normal students, the special educators pay regular visits to the concerned schools and teach them 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 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 especially from the beginning of this decade had no connection with mass media like television through Cable TV Network, so the living mass media like special educators play a great role to the ignorant villagers. They got necessary information from them. They got education for their children from them and they themselves were enriched about what prospects are laying ahead for their disabled children.

In spite of many difficulties, for the year 2010-2011 up to December 2010, when the Integrated Education for Disabled Programme is ended, all the Special Educators working in this field under our supervision have provided special services to three hundred and eleven (311) numbers of disabled children in order to improve their day-to-day living, social behaviours etc. at their schools and homes including the necessary advice to their parents. After the end of this programme on December 2010, the details data of the Disabled Children of seven Blocks as collected within this time limit was provided to the Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum.

Under this programme the Children With Special Needs enjoyed a healthy educational environment, as a good number of (nearly 3500) disabled children were admitted in formal schools of respective blocks of Birbhum district since last eight years and therefore got education along with the other non-disabled children. Out of them a considerable number of disabled children have completed their primary level education. Beside that after the implementation of programme strategy misbeliefs and superstitious regarding disability is gradually vanishing from the general mind. In every year several Assessment Camps for Disabled Children was 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. From the very beginning of this programme up to the end of December 2010 total 3475 disabled children has so far been 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. Let us hope that the Sarva Siksha Mission of this district would bring all the non-assessed disabled children of our district under this assessment programme within the following years.

E. Picture at a Glance

Here is a Block wise picture of the children in school & out of school and who needs special help and also service provided to the few of them by the special educators of SEVAKS for the year 2010-2011 up to December 2010.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	H.I.	V.I.	M.R.	O.H.	Others	TOTAL	Number of School covered
1.	Bolpur	090	089	098	0195	078	0550	159
2.	Illambazar	058	055	083	0139	044	0379	107
3.	Nalhati – I	236	102	154	0305	088	0885	121
4.	Nalhati – II	120	072	096	0139	054	0481	086
5.	Nanoor	128	098	100	0191	045	0562	112
6.	Rampurhat – II	099	064	146	0188	085	0582	105
7.	Suri – I	065	059	093	0127	080	0424	120
GRAND TOTAL		796	539	770	1284	474	3863	810

➤ Total number of disabled children covered: **3863**

➤ Total number of schools (Primary, Junior Basic, Part Basic, Converted, Madrasah, High etc.): **810**

3. NAVODYAM SIKSHANIKETAN **(A 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 its 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 on Saturday, Sunday & Tuesday. 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.



The Children With Special Needs are getting education and special training from the Special Teachers in the homely environment of Navodyam Sikhsaniketan at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum

4. BADHTE KADAM -II PROGRAMME **(A Pan India Discoverability Awareness Raising Campaign on Disabilities; “Celebrate Diversity, Create Inclusion”)**

As we have mentioned earlier that the National Trust, working under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was established by an Act of Parliament in 1999 for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. In the last year, the National Trust organized a massive discoverability awareness raising campaign, Badhte Kadam, from November 14-30, 2009. The campaign covered 13 States and 1 UT through four teams of six volunteers each, including one Person with Disability, heading north, south, east and west from the starting point of Delhi. This year too the National Trust has organized the Badhte Kadam-II, through all over India from 16th November 2010 to 30th November 2010. In order to conduct the said awareness campaign through out the country, the National Trust has trained a team of Coordinators and Volunteers in 30 States and Union Territories to coordinate campaigns (Mela) through Nodal Agencies. The main objective of Badhte Kadam is to undertake a huge attempt to continue to raise awareness about Persons With Disabilities and their right to lives of fulfillment. The goals of Badhte Kadam are to: 1) Educate the public regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); 2) Create awareness about National Trust programmes and schemes; and 3) Celebrate Diversity.

As a member of the local level Committee of National Trust in Birbhum we were directed to conduct this awareness programme in our district by the Nodal Agency of our State, the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Kolkata. The massive discoverability awareness raising campaign programme of Badhte Kadam-2 on Disabilities was organised at Hazarpur village in Nalhati-II Block of Birbhum District on 25th November 2010. A campaign team of 14 members with decorative tableau was arrived and participated in the campaign programme as well as in the Mela. The main objectives of this programme were to educate the rural mass on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, to create awareness in rural mind about the different programmes and schemes initiated by the National Trust of India and to Create Inclusion. The campaign programme has covered a vast rural areas comprising the villages like Bandhkhala, Biralchowki, Sitalgram, Atkula, Bhadrapur, Bhagaldighi etc. as a huge number of villagers was benefited by this programme.

A. Mass Awareness Rally on Disabilities:

The programme was started at 11.00 am with a Mass Awareness Rally comprising multitude of school students & teachers from local formal & non-formal schools, Disabled Persons & the Children With Special Needs and their guardians with the meaningful messages written on placards about disability, which moved through the rural areas covering Hazarpur and Bandkhala village and created many enquiries among the rural people. Many social activists and the experts like special educators took part in this rally with greater heartiness and responsibility. This grand procession is ended at the primary school complex at Hazarpur.



Mass Awareness Rally on Disabilities covering Hazarpur and Bandkhala on 25.11.2010 as a part of Badhte Kadam-II Programme at Hazarpur, Nalhati, Birbhum.

B. Seminar on Disabilities:

Next, at the Hazarpur Primary School complex, a seminar on the rights of persons with disabilities and about the National Trust programmes and Schemes as available for the disabled persons was organised. Seminar was presided by Md. Golam Mustafa, Head Master of Hazarpur Primary School. The seminar was commenced with the welcome speech by the president followed by a speech from the Chief Guest of this programme Mr. Debadeep Sarkar, School Inspector, Nalhati East Circle, Nalhati-II Block and Mr. Khairul Hasan, Secretary, Nikhil Banga Prathamik Sikshak Samity. Beside them, Mrs. Sonali Nandi, Programme Coordinator, BK-II, West Bengal, Mr. Rabi Ghosh, representative from IICP, Kolkata, Mr. Ratanlal Surana, Executive Member, SEVAKS, Md. Nurul Islam, Secretary, Spastic Society, Rampurhat, Block Social Welfare Officer, Mr. Debdeep Sarkar, Circle Project Coordinator, Nalhati East Circle were the other dignitaries and knowledgeable persons who were present at this programme and conducted the entire seminar and discussed on the concerned issues elaborately. A large number of villagers from Hazarpur and

surrounding areas were participated in this seminar and were educated by the experts on the services as facilitates to the Persons With Disabilities through the different schemes and programmes of National Trust. In addition, an effort was also made in this seminar to provide rural people with the information on rights of Persons With Disabilities and Children With Special Needs.



Seminar on Disabilities at Hazarpur Primary School Complex on 25.11.2010



Songs and Dance are performing by Visually Impaired and Mentally Retarded Children at in the BK-II Programme at Hazarpur Primary School complex on 25.11.2010.



Disabled Children are participating in Sit & Draw Competition alongwith normal Children at Hazarpur Primary School on 25.11.2010.

C. Cultural Programmes and Sit & Draw Competition:

After the seminar, a cultural programme was held at the same place in which the disabled children has remarkably performed both solo and dual dances and songs at stage before the village crowd, which has specially the dual dance gained a special attraction of the viewers. After that, the disabled children have participated in a poetry recitation and sit & draw competition along with the normal children as a part of our objective to create inclusion. Beside that Bowl song was performed by a Bowl having orthopaedic disability. As a whole, the programme had become very much fruitful in the sense that it had created a wonderful memorable moments for those unprivileged children on the other hand and also the common men earned the conviction that the disabled children are no longer pest to the society as in spite of their debility they have enough capacity to take part in any activities like the other normal children.

D. Mass Awareness Stall on Disabilities:

As an important part of this campaign programme a Mass Awareness Stall was setup at the Hazarpur School Complex. The stall was decorated with various colourful posters and banners with the messages on the Rights of the Persons With Disabilities and the Children With Special Needs under the Badhte Kadam-II Programme. Beside that the stall was decorated with other posters with meaningful and attractive written messages, slogans on the information regarding disability, preventing disabilities, education and employment for the disabled etc. In addition, different types of items like folders, handbags, greeting cards etc. made by the Self Help Groups of Persons With Disabilities were properly displayed in the exhibition stall. A large number of Booklets containing all information regarding disability, such as, the types of disabilities, the support training for the disabled children, early intervention including the prevention of disabilities, the schemes of National Trust of India, Legal Guardianship etc. were also distributed from this awareness stall. Beside that a 5 meter long white cloth and sketch pen was kept at the one side of this awareness stall for the visitors to write messages and slogans on disability with signature. It was indeed a wonderful opportunities for the rural visitors to express their unique views and innovative ideas on disability and about this campaign programme. The dignitaries and experts from IICP, Kolkata, SEVAKS, Santiniketan, Spastic Society, Rampurhat, concerned Government Officials, teachers and special educators spent their time in the stall by establishing friendly rapport with those who expressed their eagerness to know something about the disabled persons and children, their prospect of education, their ways of livelihood, their job assurance and many other enquiries on them. This was so much effective because visitors got direct answers from the knowledgeable persons and through IEC materials.



Mass Awareness Stall on Disabilities at Hazarpur Primary School Complex on 25.11.2010.

5. MEGA SCREENING CAMP FOR ORTHOPAEDICALLY HANDICAPPED (*Free Distribution of Artificial Limb & Calliper*)

In every year SEVAKS organise free health camp for the general people at Bolpur and Santiniketan in support of different organisation or by its own effort. It was indeed a piece of good news for the Orthopaedically Handicapped and Polio affected people that this year our society have organized a Screening Camp for providing artificial limbs and callipers to the deserved persons in free of cost in support of renowned Sri Jaina Hospital and Research Centre, Howrah, Rotary Club of Blairgowrie (UK), Central Calcutta and Bolpur-Santiniketan at the conference hall of Birbhum District Rice Mills' Association, Kachharipatty, Bolpur from 15th November 2010 to 16th November 2010. At least one month prior to this programme, leaflets bearing all the information about this programme was prepared and distributed in nearby rural areas and a mobile announcement was also made for this purpose, so that the Orthopaedically Handicapped and Polio affected persons can attend this screening camp. The Screening Camp started through a formal inauguration programme at 10.00 am. The eminent personalities like Sri Naresh Bauri, Vice-Chairman, Bolpur Municipality, Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, Block Welfare Officer,

Bolpur, Bolpur Municipality, Sri Sushil Kumar Choudhury, President, SEVAKS, Sri Ratanlal Surana, Governing Body Member, SEVAKS, Rotarian Sri Yugal Somani of Rotary Club of Bolpur-Santiniketan and Doctor representative from the Sri Jaina Hospital and Research Centre were present in this inauguration programme and expressed their view before the audiences on such joint effort made by our organisation and the Sri Jaina Hospital. On this special occasion a cultural programme was held where an Orthopaedically Handicapped Person performed a Baul Song.



Inauguration Programme of the Mega Screening Camp for Orthopaedic Handicapped including Polio affected people at Birbhum District. Rice Mills' Association, Kachharipatty, Bolpur, Birbhum on 15.11.2010

This Screening Camp was properly conducted by the Orthopaedic Doctors and Prosthetist & Orthotist technicians from the Sri Jaina Hospital & Research Centre for two days at Bolpur. All the arrangements relating to the registration of the disabled, sitting of the doctors and technicians, looking after the beneficiaries was remarkably done by our volunteers at the said screening camp. Total 115 persons with Orthopaedic Disability including Polio affected persons came from the different parts of our district were assessed at this camp. They were thoroughly examined by the experienced and specialist Doctors from Sri Jaina Hospital, Howrah. Out of them total 76 Persons with Orthopaedic Disability were selected for Artificial Limbs and Calliper shoes. In addition, another screening for the Orthopaedic Handicapped was held at the same camp for providing Aids & Appliances like Tricycle, Wheel Chair, Auxiliary and Elbow Crutch through which total 22 Persons having Orthopaedic Disability were selected for the said Aids & Appliances. The selected disabled persons who need artificial limbs and calliper shoes were further brought to the technicians. The Prosthetist & Orthotist Technicians took the measurements of the affected limbs of the beneficiaries and after that a mould of plaster of Paris of the limb of every beneficiary had also been taken for the purpose of making the artificial limbs & callipers finally in the workshop of Sri Jaina Hospital at Howrah.



Screening and Registration of Orthopaedic Handicapped Persons at the Mega Screening Camp at Birbhum District. Rice Mills' Association, Kachharipatty, Bolpur, Birbhum on 15.11.2010 & 16.11.2010



The Prosthesis/Orthosis Technician taking measurements of the affected limb of the Orthopaedically Handicapped Children at the Mega Screening Camp at Kachharipatty, Bolpur, Birbhum on 15.11.2010 & 16.11.2010



The Prosthesis/Orthosis Technician making mould of the affected limb of the Orthopaedically Handicapped Persons at the Mega Screening Camp at Kachharipatty, Bolpur, Birbhum on 15.11.2010 & 16.11.2010

We can clearly signify this screening camp as one of the most successful joint effort made by the two different organisation for the benefit of Orthopaedic Handicapped People in Birbhum, as through this camp the beneficiaries were rightly assessed and were not awaited much long for their free benefit. On 11th December 2010 all the beneficiaries were taken to Sri Jaina Hospital at Howrah from Bolpur-Santiniketan in care of Sri Ratanlal Surana, Member of our Society and on the same day the artificial limbs, callipers and other Aids & Appliances were handed over to them at the conference hall of Sri Jaina Hospital & Research Centre, Howrah in presence of the Chief Guest, Sri C.M. Bachhawat (IAS), Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Guests of Honour Mr. Robert Sommerville, Rotarian, Rotary Club of Blairgowrie, UK and Mrs. Jennifer Sommerville, Dist. Chairperson, Inner Wheel, UK including the other officials from Sri Jaina Hospital, Howrah.



A beneficiary is introducing by Sri Ratanlal Surana, Member, SEVAKS to Mrs. Jennifer Sommerville, Dist. Chairperson, Inner Wheel, UK at Sri Jaina Hospital.



Beneficiaries with artificial leg and auxilliary crutch at Sri Jaina Hospital, Howrah on 11.12.2010.



A beneficiary with artificial hands at Sri Jaina Hospital, Howrah on 11.12.10



A beneficiary with smile on his face sitting on his Tricycle at Sri Jaina Hospital, Howrah on 11.12.2010

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 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 Santiniketan on 3.12.2010 by involving the Disabled Children and their parents. It was observed with much pomp and show. The inauguration of the World Disabled Day 2010 observation programme was started at the premises of our organisation at Ratanpalli, Santiniketan at 9.00 am. At first the inauguration song was performed by a Bawl having orthopaedic disability. Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS, Sri Tilak Bhora, Secretary, Marowari Seva Samity, Sainthia, Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, Block Welfare Officer, Bolpur Block, Head Master of Lalbandh Primary School, Santiniketan, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice-President, SEVAKS were the dignitaries present at the observation programme and delivered their advice on prevention of disability through speeches to the parents of the Disabled Children.



Inauguration song by an Orthopaedically Handicapped at the World Disabled Day Observation Programme on 03.12.10 at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum



Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS have addressing the audiences at the World Disabled Day 2010 Observation Programme at Ratanpally, Santiniketan.



Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, Block Welfare Officer, Bolpur giving advice on preventing disabilities to the parents of disabled children at the Observation Programme on 03.12.10



Disabled Children, Guardians and other participants of the World Disabled Day 2010 Observation Programme on 03.12.2010 at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum.

A procession with a multitude of disabled persons, children, and guardians leading by our Vice-President Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Governing Body Member, Sri Ratanlal Surana and the Head Master of Lalbandh Primary School moved along the areas with decorative tableau and placards with written messages on disability creating many enquiries among the common people. Many social activists, parents of disabled children and above all disabled persons took part in the procession with greater heartiness and responsibility because the programme was meant for the encouragement and upliftment of disabled persons.



Mass Awareness Rally on Disabilities at Santiniketan on the occasion of World Disabled Day on 03.12.2010.

After the rally was completed, a poetry recitation and Sit & Draw competition held with the disabled children along with the other normal children. The poetry recitation of the disabled children was much appreciated by the audience and they paid their rapt attention to it. In fact, with this programme the common men earned the conviction that the disabled children are no longer pest to the society and they have enough capacity to take part in a cultural function in spite of their debility. 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.



Sit & Draw competition for disabled and normal children organised on the occasion of World Disabled Day at organisation's premises at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum on 03.12.2010



Disabled Children are participating in Poetry Recitation Competition along with the normal children on the occasion of World Disabled Day 2010 on 03.12.2010 at Ratanpally, Santiniketan, Birbhum

The function came to an end with the prize giving ceremony in the afternoon. Prof. Subhendu Bagchi (Retd.), Dept. of AIHC&A, Visva Bharati, Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, BWO, Bolpur, Head Master of Lalbandh Primary School and Sri Ratanlal Surana, Member, SEVAKS 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.



Prize giving ceremony for the participators in Sit & Draw and Poetry Recitation Competition held on the occasion of World Disabled Day 2010 on 03.12.2010 at the Organisation's premises at Ratanpally, Santiniketan.

7. SELF HELP GROUPS

SHGs are currently seen as an essential and integral part not only of financial services delivery, but also as a channel for the delivery of non-financial services within larger objectives of livelihoods promotion, community development and women's empowerment. It has been realized in many parts of the world as well as in our country that an effective way to tackle poverty and to enable communities to improve the quality of life is through social mobilization of disadvantaged people, especially into Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The poverty at this point of time is most complex since it is prevailing after all possible trials and methods of poverty alleviation although by this time the world has reached its peak in terms of resources and technology. Now poverty is considered as a burden or a threat to peace. Dr. Amartya Sen commented *'there is a problem of poverty to the extent that it creates problems for those who are not poor and the real*

tragedy is, the non-poor people try not to allow the poor people to become so poor (Sen, 2001)'. Nevertheless Dr. Mohammad Yunus commented -“we can put poverty in museums”.

The concept of Self Help Groups is based on the idea of community participation, as sustainable community development requires the active participation of the entire community. 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. On the other hand, women are an integral part of every economy. All round development and harmonious growth of a nation would be possible only when women are considered as equal partners in progress with men. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labour in the main stream of economic development. Empowerment of women is a holistic concept. It is multi-dimensional in its approach and covers social, political, economic and social aspects. Of all these facets of women's development, economic empowerment is of utmost significance in order to achieve a lasting and sustainable development of society.

By the initiation of SEVAKS, 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. So far it has formed 52 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. In addition, SEVAKS is trying to reach the remotest corner of rural villages to make them self supported in collaboration with NABARD since 2008. In this regard, in the previous two years we had organised seven Awareness Programmes and five Leaders' Training Programmes in different villages of Bolpur, Illambazar and Nanoor Block for the members of Self Help Groups and Rural inmates in support of NABARD, Birbhum. Under these Awareness and Training Programmes, the entire rules & regulations regarding the formulation & nurturing of SHGs, manage & maintenance of accounts, role of Self Help Group in the development programme under Panchayat System, information on concerned government programmes & institutions by the knowledgeable persons, government officials from local PSU banks, and the elected members from Panchayat. Through these Awareness and Training Programmes total 40 Self Help Groups were formed which is now functioning in full vigour. After the following days of the formation of each Group they were tied up with the concerned Bankers and the necessary follow-up has been carried out accordingly. Further, we intend to organise similar programmes for the general people of other villages of Birbhum in the next and following years.



Awareness & Training Programme for the Rural women and SHG Members organised in support of NABARD at Nanasole, Illambazar Block.



Rural-tribal women members of SHG are making mats with palm-leaves and clay models at Bonerpukurdanga, Santiniketan.



The Team Leader and Members are busy in official work of the Self Help Group at Bonerpukurdanga, Santiniketan.

8. NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROGRAMME (NCLP)

It is beyond doubt that the child labours that belong to socio-economically backward family are prevailed in 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 certain number (50) of child labours are provided with free primary level education up to class IV within the time span of three years under a non-formal school setup. After the completion of their study the child labours are admitted in local formal schools in class-V to proceed with further study to the upper level of school education.

Our Society is involved in this programme since 2006 by running five Child Labour Schools in Birbhum district at Basapara (Nanoor Block), Maheshpur, (Nalhati I Block), Hazarpur, Mostafadanga and Nowapara (Nalhati II Block) in support of the Birbhum District Child Labour Rehabilitation-Cum-Welfare Society under the Chairmanship of the Assistant Labour Commissioner of Birbhum. In the session 2008-2009, the first batch of 250 Child Labours of those schools were successfully completed their study of primary level up to class IV and admitted by our instructors to the local formal schools. Thus, SEVAKS has achieved a remarkable success in bringing those unprivileged children under the main stream of our education system. Further, at the beginning of this session of 2009-2010 a new batch of 50 child labours were admitted in class one in each Child Labour School. For this purpose, at first, a survey was conducted in the surrounding areas of respective schools to identify the existence of child labours. Due to non-availability of the required number of Child Labours at Basapara and Nowapara, we have transferred these two schools at the new place of Sukbazar in Bolpur Block and Atkula in Nalhati-II Block, where we have been able to trace the required number of Child Labours through the survey. Next, from those survey lists, 50 Child Labours were selected for this programme in the respective places of Hazarpur, Mostafadanga, Maheshpur, Atkula and Sukbazar for the next three sessions till 2012. Thus, from this session, five Child Labour Schools running under our care at Maheshpur (Nalhati-I Block), Hazarpur (Nalhati-II Block), Mostafadanga (Nalhati-II Block) and at the two new places at Atkula (Nalhati-II Block) and Sukbazar (Bolpur Block).



Child Labours are getting education through the National Child Labour Programme under informal schools.

Like previous years, 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 also 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. It is a piece of good news for the Child Labourers of those Schools that the Mid Day Meal Programme is going to include in Child Labour Programme from the next session of 2011-2012. 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.

9. ALTERNATIVE INNOVATIVE EDUCATION CENTRE

West Bengal State Sarva Siksha Mission had 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 the previous year. The duration of this programme 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 177 AIE Centres at the different places of Bolpur, Nanoor, Nalhati-I, Nalhati-II, Suri-I, Rampurhat-II, Mahammad Bazar and Dubrajpur Block in the third phase of this programme. The programme was conducted under three phases, 1st phase was from February 2009 to July 2009 and the second phase was from November 2009 to February 2010. The third as well as the last phase was from September 2010 to February 2011. Thus, the Alternative Innovative Education Programme of Birbhum has completed its time limit for this session in the month of February 2011. In every AIE Centre one Siksha Sebi was engaged as a teacher for 20 students, and for each twenty AIE Centres there was one supervisor to look after the said centres. Under the supervision and care of SEVAKS total 178 Siksha Sebis and 9 Supervisors worked in this programme from the month of February 2009. Through these centres the Siksha Sebis have imparted lessons to the pupils for three and half hours. The necessary teaching aids and learning materials including the books had also been provided to the Siksha Sebis and students. Beside that several training programmes was also arranged for the Siksha Sebis of AIE Centres in different locations of respective Blocks in the previous years, so that the Siksha Sebis can properly teach such students. The first and second phase of this programme covered nearly four thousand (3669) Drop Out Students consisting 2238 boys and 1431 girls. In the third phase, total 2543 Out of School & Drop Out Children has been covered through 177 AIE Centres in Birbhum. On the basis of our evaluation of the entire programme at the eight blocks of our

District, we can conclude without any hesitation that this programme has achieved a big success, as there was a huge number of drop out children received proper education and similarly, many out of schools children were also received their primary education for the first time through these AIE Centres. In addition, under the mainstreaming policy of this programme, in the third phase, we have been able to admit total 538 Drop out and out of school children in the formal schools of nearby locality in different classes according to their standards.



Drop Out & Out of School Children are getting education at non-formal education Centres under the Alternative Education Innovative Programme, Birbhum.

CIRCLE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAINSTREAMED DROP OUT/OUT OF SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH BOYS-GIRLS BREAKUP AT EIGHT BLOCKS OF BIRBHUM FOR 2011

BLOCK	CIRCLE	Boys	Girls	Total
Bolpur	Bolpur West Circle	030	027	057
	Bolpur Intensive Circle	035	037	072
Nanoor	Nanoor Circle	002	006	008
Suri-I	Suri Sadar Central Circle	008	003	011
	Suri Sadar West Circle	022	009	031
Nalhati-II	Nalhati East Circle	052	022	074
Nalhati-I	Nalhati West Circle	005	002	007
	Nalhati South Circle	015	004	019
Md. Bazar	Md. Bazar Old Circle	012	002	014
	Md. Bazar New Circle	047	039	086
Rampurhat-II	Rampurhat East Circle	018	013	031
Dubrajpur	Dubrajpur Circle	062	066	128
GRAND TOTAL		308	230	538

CLASS-WISE MAINSTREAMING OF DROP OUT/OUT OF SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH BOYS-GIRLS BREAKUP AT EIGHT BLOCKS OF BIRBHUM FOR 2011

	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV	Class-V	Class-VI	Class-VII	Class-VIII	Total
Boys	38	38	47	63	115	3	3	1	308
Girls	40	25	35	38	88	2	2	0	230
Total	78	63	82	101	203	5	5	1	538

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.

A. Voluntary Blood Donation

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 45 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 1673 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 even in the remotest corner of our district. Beside 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 through rally in this regard. Further, in this year's campaign programme it was also emphasized on the Safe Blood Donation as an initiation to increase the purity of blood in the sense that it is free from any type of Blood related disease which has been collected through Voluntary Blood Donation Camps throughout the district. The exposition of rightful knowledge on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation to the Donors' is the only effective means to ensure the desired quality of blood collection.



Students of Birbhum Mahavidyalay, Suri are donating Blood at Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 29.11.10.



Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Turku Hansda-Lapsa Hembram (THLH) Mahavidyalaya, Mollarpur on 21.01.11.

B. HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign Programme for Migrant

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. Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum an important wing of SEVAKS is playing a great role in this regard through organising Awareness & Information Stall, Rally, Meetings, cultural programmes etc. on the above issue.

Now, in present days the migrant population in India having a transient and isolated lifestyle, little HIV/AIDS knowledge, and a tendency toward risky sexual behavior are the perfect conduit for HIV/AIDS across the country. Over 200 million people in India are estimated to migrate regularly from rural to urban areas for employment purposes and most migrants leave their partners (usually wives) and families behind. While in transit, and at their destination, migrants who work long hours and find themselves free from the traditional norms that constrict behaviour at home often do not adopt safe sexual practices. In order to increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS, increase the adoption of safer sexual practices and increase HIV testing behaviour among Migrants a nation-wide HIV Prevention Campaign Programme for Migrants was initiated by the State AIDS Prevention & Control Society and State Blood Transfusion Council which targets source, transit and destination points. The Campaign programme was launched nationally in October 2010.

The Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum participated in this campaign programme through establishing an Awareness Stall on HIV/AIDS at the transit location of Rampurhat Railway Station on 15th October 2010 in support of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society, Kolkata and State Blood Transfusion Council, West Bengal which was inaugurated by Sri Ananda Kr. Mukherjee, Station Manager of Rampurhat Railway Station. Under this Campaign Programme two volunteers were present at the awareness stall and made all possible effort to aware the Migrant Passengers on HIV Prevention constantly for five months till 15th March 2010. The main activities of this programme were interpersonal communication with the migrants by holding 3 to 8 Group Discussions per day, distributing condoms, booklets, leaflets and interactive toolkits containing the HIV risk perception, use of condom etc. It is estimated that under these activities we reached out more than 10,000 Migrants which yielding very encouraging responses from the communities.



Inauguration of Awareness Stall on HIV/AIDS for Migrant passengers at Rampurhat Railway Station by Station Manager on 10.11.2010.



Awareness Campaign for the Migrant Passengers from the Stall at Rampurhat Railway Station Platform conducted from November 2010 to 15th March 2011.



Volunteers has distributing leaflets & booklets containing the information on HIV/AIDS and explaining it to the Migrant passengers at Rampurhat Railway Station.



Holding of Group discussion on HIV/AIDS at closing ceremony of the campaign programme at Rampurhat Railway Station on 15.03.11

C. Red Ribbon Clubs in Birbhum; Formation & Activities

Two years back a unique programme was 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. Under this programme an action plan was made to form Red Ribbon Clubs at the Educational Institutions of our country. As a District Unit of West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum, we are given the responsibility to form Red Ribbon Clubs at different Educational and Technical Institutions of our district in support of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society.

During the previous two years we had formed Red Ribbon Clubs at the several colleges of Birbhum like Purnidevi Choudhury Girls College, Bolpur, Kabi Joydev Mahavidyalaya, Illamabazar, Kabi Chandidas Mahavidyalaya, Khujutipara, Hiralal Bhakat College, Nalhati, Bengal Institute of Technology & Manangement, Bolpur, Dept. of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Rampurhat College, Rampurhat, Birbhum Mahavidyalaya, Suri, Sree Ramkrishna Silpa Vidyapith (Govt. Polytechnic College), Suri and Kabi Nazrul College, Murarai. In this year we have added one more college, the Turku Hansda Lapsa Hembram Mahavidyalaya, Madian, Mollarpur in the group of Red Ribbon Clubs at Birbhum. In every college 50 students have taken the membership of their Red Ribbon Clubs. The student members of Red Ribbon Clubs are now participating in every awareness campaign against HIV/AIDS in our district.

During this year, a series of programme activities conducted at the different units of Red Ribbon Club at every Colleges consisting Seminar-cum-Workshop on HIV/AIDS & Voluntary Blood Donation from the month of August 2010 to March 2010.

Through these seminar-cum-workshops, we have provided the RRC Member participators along with the general students of each college with the true knowledge of preventing the dreadful disease of HIV/AIDS including the way of making changes the behavioural attitude in an individual towards leading good quality of life. Beside that an initiation is taken to motivate the youth members of RRC for donating their blood voluntarily by removing their baseless fear and ignorance on blood donation with proper information on blood components and blood transfusion. All those efforts were properly made with the help of IEC materials, books and slide show presentation by the representatives from our organisation. It is indeed a great success that each of the student members of RRC of the respective colleges was actively involved in this programme with great enthusiasm especially during the question - answer session of those programmes.



Seminar-cum-Workshop on HIV/AIDS & Blood Donation at Purnidevi Choudhury Girls' College, Bolpur on 25.08.2010



Seminar-cum-Workshop on HIV/AIDS at THLH College, Mollarpur for the RRC members, NSS-II Unit on 11.10.10



Seminar-cum-Workshop on HIV/AIDS with RRC members at Social Work Dept., Visva Bharati, Bolpur on 18.12.2010



RRC member participating in the question-answer session in the Seminar on HIV/AIDS at Kabi Nazrul College, Murarai on 04.02.2011

D. Red Ribbon EXPRESS

The Red Ribbon Express was launched in India on World AIDS Day, 1st December 2007. The nationwide Red Ribbon Express (RRE) campaign, an innovative campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention and control is now in its second phase launched on World AIDS Day 2010. This second phase aimed to reach out to a larger portion of the rural poor and the government hoped that more people would get tested and treated. Targeting 24 states and Union Territories, this 10-coach train is covering 160 halt stations in 365 days. It is a multi sectoral project being implemented by National AIDS Control Organization in collaboration with Rajib Gandhi Foundation, the Railway Ministry, the State AIDS Prevention and Control Societies, other Government Departments and civil societies.

The Red Ribbon Express seeks to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS, promote safe sex and reduce discrimination against AIDS victims in India, especially those in rural regions. It also devotes information to general health, hygiene and communicable diseases such as swine influenza, tuberculosis and reproductive and child health services. On-platform and off-site communication activities such as exhibits, street plays and demonstrations are used. Treatment and counselling services are also available on the coach. The projects target audience was broad, including youth groups, women's groups, student communities, urban slum dwellers and farmers.



Red Ribbon Express stationed at the Rampurhat Railway Station on 06.06.2010



The interior of Red Ribbon Express with the visitors from Rampurhat and other parts of Birbhum district on 06.06.10.



Voluntary Blood Donation Camp held as a part of Awareness Campaign on HIV/AIDS in support of Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital at the waiting room of Rampurhat Railway Station on 07.06.2010.



The interior of Red Ribbon Express with the Volunteers of Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum in Red Ribbon Express who participated in the HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme on 06.06.10 & 07.06.10

The Red Ribbon Express entered our state on 25th May, 2010 and travelled through six districts including Birbhum on its way till 16th June, 2010 when it moved out of the State. The RRE stayed at Rampurhat Railway Station from 6th June 2010 to 7th June 2010. We get involved with this noble initiation with fifteen volunteers and welcomed the Red Ribbon Express at Rampurhat Railway Station on 6th June 2010. Our volunteers from the Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum and Students from Red Ribbon Clubs have participated in all the activities of Red Ribbon Express till next day on 7th June 2010. On this occasion we have organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp in support of Rampurhat Sub-Divisional Hospital at the 1st Class Waiting Hall of Rampurhat Railway Station on 7th June 2010 at 11.00 am. The response of the general mass to the Red Ribbon Express at Rampurhat Station was quite encouraging, as we witnessed a huge number visitors are receiving guidance from the volunteers and counselors on board.

E. MASS AWARENESS STALL ON SAFE VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION AT POUSSH MELEA; A Special Campaign Programme for the promotion of Safe Voluntary Blood Donation in Birbhum District

Poush Utsava of Santiniketan is 115 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 Birbhum District Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum has organized a unique stall on for the promotion of Safe and Voluntary Blood Donation in Birbhum District in collaboration with State Blood Transfusion Council, West Bengal and West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum at Poush Festival during 23rd to 26th December 2010 at Santiniketan. This campaign programme was initiated in this district from the previous year as because the rate of Voluntary Blood Donation in this area is much disappointing in compare to the other districts of West Bengal. It is needless to point out that such situation only arises when there is much ignorance as well as fear for blood donation prevailing in general mind. So, in order to overcome this obstacle in way of our ultimate goal for ensuring hundred percent Voluntary Blood Donations in our district, we launched this campaign programme through Mass Awareness Stall. Further, in this campaign programme, the blood related diseases or disorder like HIV/AIDS and Thallassaemia as well as the information on Blood and its components were naturally included. AIDS has come to be the most pressing public health problem of this century and the only effective means to prevent the spread of HIV infection is to bring a positive behaviour changes in terms of safer sex and awareness through public education. On the other hand, thalassaemia is Hemoglobin disorders, which is the commonest of human inherited diseases and that can be prevented by taking proper measures at the community level.

The stall was inaugurated on the very first day (23rd December 2010 at 10 a.m.) of Poush Festival jointly by Dr. Sushobhan Banerjee, Former MLA, eminent Social Worker and Medical Practitioner of Bolpur, Birbhum and Sri Chandranath Singha, Chairman, Bolpur Municipality in presence of Sri Jyotirmay Mukherjee, Block Welfare Officer, Bolpur Block, Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS, Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President, SEVAKS, Sri Ratanlal Surana, Member, SEVAKS and many other eminent personalities from all walks of life of Bolpur-Santiniketan. A group dance performance from the Sukbajar Adibasi Hiska Sakam Sadem Gaota Club at Jarkadanga was organised in front of the Mass Awareness Stall.



Inauguration of Mass Awareness Stall on Voluntary Blood Donation at Poush Mela by Dr. Sushobhan Banerjee, Hon'ble Former MLA, Bolpur & Social Worker on 23.12.10



Group Dance (Santhali) performing by the villagers from Jarkadanga, Sukbazar on this occasion at Mass Awareness Stall on VBD at Poush Mela on 23.12.10.

The interior decoration of the stall was made with various colourful posters, banners, written messages on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation, including Blood, Thalassaemia, HIV/AIDS and red ribbon. A series of programme were undertaken at the Voluntary Blood Donation and HIV/AIDS information stall to reach the general people with emphasis on the key information on Blood & HIV/AIDS. From this stall general people from urban and rural areas were educated and were made aware on the above issues. Leaflets, Booklets and Red Ribbons were also distributed from this Awareness & Information stall. It was indeed a great moment for us while Dr. Ramchandra Dom, the Hon'ble MP, Bolpur have visited this awareness stall and encouraged the volunteers for such campaign initiation. The others important visitors of this stall were Smt. Krishna Mardi, Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Birbhum, Income Tax Commisioner of Burdwan Range, Dr. Sudip Mondal, Superintendent of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Sri Pradip Kanti Kumar, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Birbhum.



Sri Sushil Kr. Choudhury, President, SEVAKS showing the interior of the Mass Awareness Stall on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation to Dr. Sushobhan Banerjee, eminent Social Worker and Sri Chandranath Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, Bolpur Municipality at Poush Mela on 23.12.10.

i. IEC Distribution:

Earlier it is told that leaflets were distributed in the stall. During the four days of the Poush Festival our volunteers and experts constantly tried to aware general mass on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation with the help of those IEC materials. Beside that a good number of leaflets bearing the important information on the Voluntary Blood Donation including the Blood Components, Blood Transfusion and HIV/AIDS, Thalassaemia etc. were distributed to educate people on the blood contamination. Total 5000 pieces of leaflets and 1500 booklets and 500 Red Ribbons were distributed for this purpose. Through the IEC materials People were educated on the various aspects of Blood Transfusion, Blood Components including Blood related diseases like HIV/AIDS, Thallasaemia, Haemophilia etc. and how to become a responsible Voluntary Blood Donor.

ii. Spot Quiz Competition:

A spot quiz contest on Voluntary Blood Donation, HIV/AIDS and THALASSAEMIA was organized on the stall for four days among the viewers. Near about 600 viewers 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 asked for any clarification on the said topic we provided the answer and information to make them educate about Voluntary Blood Donation, HIV/AIDS and Thalassaemia. Prize distribution ceremony was held after the end of every question-answer session on the spot.

iii. Cultural programme on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation:

To appraise the general public on the objectives of our stall and about the knowledge of Safe Voluntary Blood Donation through local folk (Baul) song on the subject was arranged for two days in front of the exhibition stall. Baul community is an ancient religious sect of Bengal based on a highly philosophical vision. This community is also very well known for creating songs on contemporary subject. These types of programme always have a special appeal to the common people especially at the rural areas. Therefore, it can be expected that through organising this folk song programme we have been able to remove the obstacle of ignorance on the said issue from the general mind in a large extent. A famous group of Baul community has performed several songs at the said stall gaining special attraction of the visitors. More than 10000 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.



Baul song for the motivation on Safe Voluntary Blood Donation performing by Sri Rathin Das Baul at Mela Stall.



Spot Quiz contest on Voluntary Blood Donation & HIV/AIDS for the Mela viewers at Mass Awareness Stall.

iv. Blood Donation Camp at Mela ground:

A Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organized on 24th December 2010 at Santiniketan Poush Mela Stall for Motivation on safe Voluntary Blood Donation in support of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital. Total 30 Mela viewers voluntarily donated their Blood at our stall at Santiniketan Poush Mela. Sri Debabrata Chakrabarty, Vice President of SEVAKS has inaugurated the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp. Dr. Sudip Mondal, Superintendent of Bolpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, Medical Officer and other technicians has conducted the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp. At the completion of each Voluntary Blood Donation, every donor was provided with proper nutrition, medical care and Donors' Badges including appreciation certificate.



Voluntary Blood Donation Camp is going on at the Mass Awareness Stall in care of Dr. Sudip Mondal, Superintendent of Bolpur SD Hospital and other officials from the concerned Blood Bank on 24.12.2010.

11. Month Long Observation of World AIDS Day 2010

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.

The observation of World AIDS Day 2010 at Bolpur was a big event in terms of mass awareness campaign. In this year, the World AIDS Day was observed in a large scale throughout the Bolpur Sub-Divisional area for ten days from 8th December 2010 to 18th December 2010 in support of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Birbhum. This observation programme includes Mass Awareness Stall, Mass Awareness Rally and Seminar on HIV/AIDS including Quiz and Poster Drawing Competition on the same issue.

On this occasion, a big Mass Awareness Rally on HIV/AIDS was organised in Bolpur town with decorative tableau. Many club members, students with colourful posters and placards in hand depicted with meaningful messages on it including common people joined the rally. This awareness rally was started from Duckbanglow Maidan created many enquiries among the general people. After moving through the whole town the rally was ended at its starting point. Many social activists and the experts of this field took part in this rally with greater heartiness and responsibility.



Mass Awareness Rally on HIV/AIDS in Bolpur town on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2010

A Seminar on HIV/AIDS was organised at the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan on 18.12.2010. Total 65 students of this department have participated in this programme. Beside that the faculty members of the department were also participated in this seminar. Through this seminar & discussion we have provided the students with the knowledge on the cause of infecting HIV, the present scenario of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our state. In addition, an effort was made through this seminar to provide necessary training to the students to aware the general people in individual & mass level in terms of preventing HIV/AIDS. Further, a Poster Drawing competition on HIV/AIDS was conducted at the seminar hall. It was indeed a wonderful opportunity for the student participators to express their unique views and innovative ideas on HIV/AIDS and about the awareness campaign for preventing HIV/AIDS. At the end, the question-answer session was held on the said issues in which the students were actively participated. Prizes were distributed to the three unique posters.



Seminar at Social Work Dept., Visva Bharati on 18.12.10 as a part of Month long campaign against HIV/AIDS.



Mobile & Spot Quiz contest on Voluntary Blood Donation & HIV/AIDS at Illambazar, Bolpur Sub-Division, Birbhum

In addition, an important programme activity in form of Mobile & Spot Quiz Competition was undertaken at the different places of Bolpur Sub-Division. Through this quiz competition we have assessed the knowledge level of general people on HIV/AIDS and on the other hand, we had provided them with the true knowledge on the said issue. The questions of quiz competition was covered a vast areas of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, HIV-TB Coordinations, ICTC and Voluntary Blood Donation etc. Beside that a mobile campaign on the prevention of HIV/AIDS was also initiated throughout the Sub-Division.

12. OBSERVANCE OF IMPORTANT DAYS

There are some days that are deemed to be important to all nations and these days are observed globally as well as nationally with much grandeur and dignity. SEVAKS also is very careful in observing these days through Rally and Seminars.

A. CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY 2011; Stop Child Labour & Ensure education for every Child

The Indian constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, celebrated thereafter as Republic Day. After the Constitution was written and adopted on November 1949, 26 January 1950 the following year was chosen as the day when India would finally arrive as a nation, complete with the lengthiest and the most detailed constitution in the world. Since then Republic day is celebrated all over the country. It was on 26th January 1950 that India became a nation in the true sense, with a constitution and elected representatives of the people. The Republic Day of India is celebrated to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India and the transition of India from a British Dominion to a republic on January 26, 1950, when regional identity takes a backseat and what matters most is the universal appeal of unity and brotherhood projected by all Indians. On this day India also realize the dream of all those freedom fighters who, fought for and sacrificed their lives for freedom.

The Republic Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm especially in the Capital City of India New Delhi including every states and district Sub-Divisions in all over the country. The 62nd Great Republic Day of India was celebrated with most pomp and grandeur at Bolpur Sub-Division of Birbhum on 26th January 2011. SEVAKS was formally requested by Mr. Ashok Das, Sub-Divisional Officer of Bolpur Sub-Division to participate with Tableau in the March Past of 62nd Republic Day of India at Bolpur Duk Bunglow Maidan. All the Govt. Departments of Bolpur Sub-Division including several Voluntary Organisations of this region were participated in the March Past with different theme and message. Mr. Ashok Das, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bolpur Sub-Division took the salute of the entire March Past.

In the Republic Day 2011 March Past we have selected the theme of our tableau as Child Labour; the elimination of child labour and ensuring education for every child; one of the most burning problems of a developing country like India.

World's second largest most populated country, India has the highest number of child labour of the world. Despite the strict laws, the child labour is increasing day-by-day in India. According to 2001 census total 12666377 child labours are prevailing in India and in West Bengal the number is 857087. A number of reasons are behind the huge number of child labour in India. Basically, poverty and illiteracy are the main reasons behind the increasing number of child labours in our country. Generally poor parents encourage their children to earn money by working instead of sending them to school. Traditionally, girls suffer more from boys, as parents prefer the boys to send school and send girls to work for household works. At the same time, rich people and owners of factories never think about the health and freedom of the children. The problem of Child labour continues to pose a challenge before the nation from very beginning. Our Government has been taking various pro-active measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all sections of the society to make a dent in the problem.



Organisation's Tableau on the prevention of Child Labouring and ensuring Education for every Child is participating in the Republic Day March Past 2010 on 26th January 2010 at Bolpur Duk Bunglow Maidan.

Therefore, on this important day, we bring forward this issue through our tableau and make our countrymen to at least think about the possible ways to stop the child labour and save the children who are the future of our nation. By keeping this in mind we decorated our tableau with meaningful attractive

message on the elimination of Child Labour and ensure education for every Child. Further, a small drama was also performed at the tableau by the Instructors and students of Child Labour School, through which we try to aware the general people including the parents of Child Labour their children need a good quality of education and also need proper vocational training according to their trend and also for acquiring the skills necessary to succeed in future life. We also made an appeal to the viewers through background speech at the tableau that those who hire children for work should think whether they will allow their children to do the same work. If such thinking will develop in the society then the evil of child labour can be removed from the world. As a whole, our tableau demonstration on the problems of the issues with Child Labour has become most successful, as it draws a special attraction of all the viewers and participators of 62nd Republic Day March Past at Bolpur Sub-Division.

B. National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

We know that National Voluntary Blood Donation Day 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 through organising Voluntary Blood Donation Camp and Seminar on the same issue.

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 this year, on 24.03.2010 SEVAKS organized a rally with 166 people that marched through Bolpur town by creating awareness on the affect of TB, TB-HIV coordination and about the misbeliefs and prejudices.

D. 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 misbeliefs and misconceptions. This year on 30.01.2011 SEVAKS organized a rally that marched through Bolpur town. The rally comprised of 161 persons coming from all classes of people – students, youths and club members.

