

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



**VHAT**



## **Voluntary Health Association of Tripura**

Circuit House Area, PO: Kunjaban, Agartala - 799006, Tripura, India

Phone : 0381 - 232 2849 E-mail : [vha\\_tripura@rediffmail.com](mailto:vha_tripura@rediffmail.com)

Website : [www.vhatripura.org](http://www.vhatripura.org)

# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABOUT VHAT</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organogram</li> <li>● Executive Committee</li> <li>● Members of VHAT</li> </ul>	
<b>NETWORKING &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HEALTH -PROMOTION</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>EDUCATION - PROMOTION</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CARE &amp; PROTECTION OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>WELFARE OF PWDS(Divyangjan)</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>LIVELIHOOD &amp; SKILL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>SPECIAL INITIATIVES</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF FY 2023-24</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>INTERNAL MONITORING, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF FY 2023-24</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>55</b>



## Community Mobilization for COVID-19 Vaccination & Routine Immunization



Community Advocacy Meeting, Lowerelia, Unakoti District



Community Mobilization Activity, Partnership with Faith Based Organization Kumarghat, Unakoti District



# ABOUT VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TRIPURA (VHAT) – THE ORGANIZATION

*VHAT is governed by an Executive Committee that includes 10 members. These members are elected by the General Body in every alternate year during the Annual General Meeting.*

*The Executive Director(ED) is the chief functionary, employed by the Executive Committee. The ED heads the management system & monitored the projects regularly through staff meetings and on ground visits.*

*The execution & performance of various projects is monitored and evaluated periodically by the Evaluation, Monitoring & Development Committee (EMDC). The members of EMDC are elected in the alternate year in Annual General Meeting.*

**VISION of VHAT :** Creating excellence in Health and Socio Economic Development with priority to the less privileged section of the Society.

## **MISSION:**

**Our Mission is to :**

**Build capacity** of Civil Society Organizations through trainings and IEC.

**Promote** social justice, equity and rights in the context of accessibility of health services with emphasis on under privileged sections.

**Promote** sustainable development, gender equity, inclusion and rehabilitation of PWDs, Elementary Education and right to education, implementation of child rights, elimination of all form of violence against children and women.

## **STRATEGIES:**

- ☐ Empowerment of the human resource through trainings on health and other sectors.
- ☐ Working with other organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.
- ☐ Collection, documentation and dissemination of information.
- ☐ Peer education.
- ☐ Collection of opinion from people and grass-root organizations for advocacy.
- ☐ Working for promotion of community participation in development process.
- ☐ Conducting Vocational Training for employment and socio-economic empowerment through capacity building.
- ☐ Working directly and indirectly as service provider.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

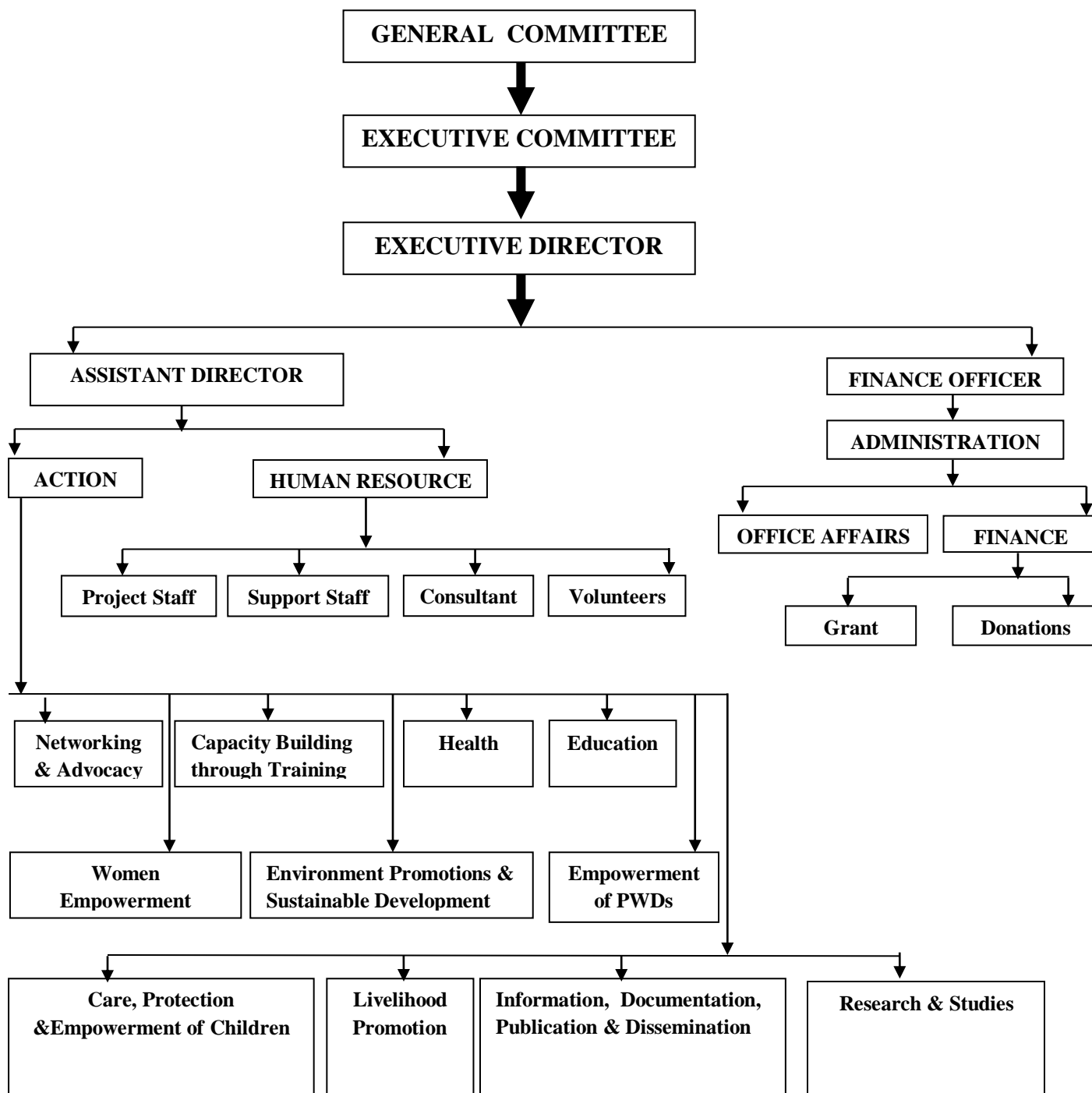
- ◇ Promotion of preventive & curative health service with priority to the less privileged section of the Society.
- ◇ Promotion of health, environment, gender issue, rights of children, women & PWDs, through IEC and technical support.
- ◇ Socio-economic empowerment of the women of the weaker sections and the youths through vocational trainings.
- ◇ Promotion of Elementary Education of underprivileged children
- ◇ Prevention of Child trafficking and violence against Children & Women.
- ◇ Networking with Government Bodies, Policy Makers, Corporate Bodies & NGOs for Improvement of health, environment & socio-economic status.
- ◇ Rehabilitation of persons with disability through inclusive approaches.
- ◇ To undertake any other activities related to health promotion and care & protection of children.

## **Legal Status of VHAT:**

- a) Registered under Society Registration Act 1860
- b) Registered under 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961 and 80G of Income Tax Act
- c) Registered under Section 11(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
- d) Registered under NITI Aayog
- e) Registered under Sub-section-2 of Section 51 under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- f) Registered under section 12 (4) of the National Trust Act.

# ORGANOGRAM

## VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TRIPURA (VHAT)





# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF VHAT

Sl.No	Name	Address	Gender	Occupation & Qualification	Aadhaar No	PAN No	Position in Executive Committee
1	Ms. Sikha SahaDas, DoB: 30/05/1952	W/O: Dr.Tapan Kumar Das, Thakur Pally Road, Opposite to TVS Showroom, Krishna Nagar, Agartala-799001, Tripura, M- 9774015003	F	Ex-Register, Tripura Nursing Council, Govt of Tripura & Principal, ILS Nursing Institute, B.Sc(Bio), B.Sc (Hons Nursing)	74984 47179 23	AIBPS45 48N	President
2	Md. Mokbul Ali, DoB: 02/01/1962 Email: pushparajclub1565@gmail.com	S/O-Late Hazi Mahamud Ali Babur Bazar, Kailashahar, Unakoty District, Tripura Cell No: 8798423485,	M	B.A., D Pharma, Ex-Gov. Pharmacist (Ayurveda)	42720 27899 20	ABSPA53 13P	Vice President
3	Ms. Banarani Choudhury DoB: 16/11/1963	W/O: Mr. Rana Kumar Das, Usha Bazar Shanitala, Vill: Chhinaihani, PO: Airport-799009, Agartala, Tripura, Cell-9485146168	F	Govt. MPS, Diploma in ANM	56295 48462 60	AVBPC0 294J	Secretary
4	Mr. Benudhar Acharya DoB: 05-02-1962	S/O Late Bhupesh Chandra Acharya, Vill, PO-Khowai, Khowai Tripura Pin- 799201 Cell no -9436540591	M	Ex-Bank Officer, M.Com.	87376 29326 59	ABZPA62 53H	Assistant Secretary
5	Mr. Hari Bhushan Das DoB: 04/03/1958	S/O- Late Ramesh Ch. Das PO-R.K.Pur, Chanban, Udaipur, Gumati District, Tripura, M: 9862188952	M	BA, BEd, Retired Deputy IS, Govt of Tripura	53630 74775 06	ABVPD1 983D	Treasurer
6	Mr. Partha Sakha Debnath, DoB: 15/11/1968	P.O-Dhaleswar, Road No.1 Agartala, Cell- 8794446069/9436581983	M	Ex-Pharmacist, Govt. of Tripura	35233 24320 69	BFDPD36 96A	Member
7	Mr. Biswajit Bhowmik, DoB: 07/06/1967	President, Vivekananda Library, Vill : Hapania, Near Hapania Bazar, P.O - O.N.G.C., Pin: 799014, Tripura District, Ph. 9366376362	M	B.A., service in Public Health Department, Gov of Tripura	23826 83894 12	ANNPB8 974G	
8	Mr. Uttam Kumar Das, DoB: 01/11/1965	Secretary: Prachesta Social Welfare Society, Vill & PO: Howaibari -799205, Teliamura, Khowai Dist M: 9774931911, Email: uttambee1@gmail.com	M	B.A. Teacher- Anandamarg Primary School	46301 81905 59	BALPD86 41J	Member
9	Mr. Meghnad Debnath DoB: 14-11-1964	S/O- Late, Hiralal Debnath, Nalgaria, Ranirbazar, Majlishpur, West Tripura, Pin- 799035, Cell: 9436487268	M	School Teacher, B.Sc.(Bio)	38874 47971 15	ASTPD88 29R	Member
10	Mr. Asit Chakraborty DoB: 21-11-1978	S/O-Narayan Chakraborty, Shibpur, Krishnanagar, Belonia, South Tripura, Cell : 9774048096, Email: netajiwelfare@gmail.com	M	Social Worker, Madhyamik	35886 50098 88	ATRPC09 26F	Member

# MEMBERS OF VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TRIPURA

## General Members (Organizational)

1. Secretary / President Bodhan Social Welfare Organisation Cinema Hall Road,P.O.- Khowai, Pin-799 202, Khowai District, Ph.9436540591, Email: benu.acharya@sbi.co.in	2. Secretary / President Vivekananda Library,Vill : Hapania, Near Hapania Bazar, P.O - O.N.G.C., Pin: 799014,West Tripura, Ph.9863052602 Email: vivekananda.library@rediffmail.com
3. Secretary / President Bidyasagar Samaj Kalyan Samsad Vill: Paschim Noagaon, P.O-PurbaNoagaon -799035, West Tripura District,Ph. 9436487268 Email: medgnad.dn@gmail.com	4. Secretary / President Blind and Handicapped Association Jail Road, Mantala, P.O.Dharmanagar-799250, North Tripura District, Ph.9436476503 Email:bhadmr1@rediffmail.com
5. Secretary / President Organisation for Rural Survival P.O.- Belonia, Pin:799155,Ek No Tilla South Tripura,Ph. 9436540851 Email : orsbelonia@gmail.com	6.Secretary / President St. Vincent's Welfare Society Old Khathalcherra, P.O - Nepal Tilla-799289 Dhalai Tripura, Ph.9612064316/ 9436903229 Email : stvws@rediffmail.com
7. Secretary / President Ramnagar Mahila Samity Vill- Ramnagar, P.O - Janata College-799250, Dharmanagar, North Tripura , Ph.9863270446, Email: ndebnathramnagar@gmail.com	8. Secretary / President Pratyaya Samajik Sanstha,Vill-Uttar Jogendra Nagar, P.O. Jogendra Nagar- 799004 Agartala,Tripura (W), Ph. 9436452068/9436988905 Email: pratyaya1998@gmail.com
9. Secretary / President Pushparaj Club,P.O. Baburbazar9, Pin : 799277 Kailashahar, Unakoti District, Ph.8798423485 Email:alimokbul1962@gmail.com	10. Secretary / President ,Adarsha Sangha, P.O : Dewanpasha-799250, Dharmanagar,North Tripura, Ph.9436132607,8119036496 Email: anjanbardhan73@gmail.com
11. Secretary / President Pratibandhi Kalyan Samity,P.O: Udaipur, Chhanbon -799120,Gomati District, Tripura, Ph. 9862188952,9774519869 Email: <a href="mailto:dasharibhushan50@gmail.com">dasharibhushan50@gmail.com</a>	12. Secretary / President Netaji Welfare Centre Vill & P.O- Krishnanagar, Belonia, South Tripura, Pin : 799156 Ph : 9612091381 Email: netajiwelfare@gmail.com
13. Secretary / President Prabhaha Dhalai, P.O – Kulai-799204, Ambassa,Dhalai Dist, Tripura, Ph – 9430536874 Email: prabahadhalai@gmail.com	14. Secretary / President Subrai Sahitya- O-Sanskritic Bodal Vill- Santirbazar, P.O - Avanga, Pin : 799289,Kamalpur, Dhalai District, Tripura
15. Secretary / President Rwng Songsama Welfare Society PO : Mandai,Vill: Gachia Para,PS: Jirania, West Tripura,Ph -9436931007 Email: rwngwelfare@gmail.com	16. Secretary / President Prachesta Social Welfare Society, Vill & PO : Howaibari-799205, Teliamura,Khowai Dist. Ph.- 9615931788, Email:psws.tlm@gmail.com/ Uttambee1@gmail.com
17. Secretary / President Joyashree Vivekananda Society Vill + Po : Joyashree - 799270, Kanchanpur, North Tripura,Mob - 9436366415/9436198715	18. Secretary / President Samaj Kalyan Sangha, Radhapur,PO: Dharmanagar- 799253, North Tripura District
19. Secretary / President Society for Alternative Thinking and Action Vill- Ranir Goan, P.O – Majlishpur- 799035, West Tripura.Ph-9862445005,9862445005 ,Email:sata.tri@rediffmail.com	20. Secretary / President Chetana - A Social Organization Vill + Po - Kulai, Pin: 799204, Ambassa, Dhalai District, Mob No - 9436188185 Email: ngochetana_1993@rediffmail.com

21. Secretary / President Samaj Unnayan Sanstha , Govindapur, Dharmanagar, Pin : 799251, North Tripura District Ph.9862610052	22. Secretary / President Progresive Research Association & Youth Academic Society (PRAYAS),P.O : Baikhora, Pin : 799744 South Tripura District
23. Secretary / President Suchetana Society, PO: Jolaibari - 799141, South Tripura,Ph. 9862164344/8257957276 Email: suchetanajlb03@gmail.com	24. Secretary / President Ecological Society of Tripura Vill & P.O. - Khilpara (Amtala), Pin : 799120, Udaipur,Gomati District , Tripura State
25. Secretary / President Dinkaal Welfare Society, Kalibari Road, PO: Kalyanpur- 799203,Khowai District PH.9615807158 / 9436497520 Email: debsajal09@gmail.com	26. Secretary / President Nari Kalyan Samiti ,Khilpara, P.O – Radhakishorpur-799120,Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura
27. Secretary / President Aranyak, Vill - Karaiyamura (Bagma) P.O- East Bagabasa -799114,Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura, Ph. 8730920441 Email: gsudhangshu75@gmail.com	28. Secretary / President Santikali Mission ,Debtapara, P.O. Birendra Nagar, Jirania-799045, West Tripura District Ph.7005687502, Email:santikalimission@gmail.com
29. Secretary / President Socio-Economic Welfare Society P.O. & Vill- Jalabasa, Pin : 799250 Dharmanagar, North Tripura District	30. Secretary / President Ishwar Pathshala, PO:Agartala College -799004 Agartala, Tripura State Ph.9774431697
31. Secretary / President Science Club, P.O. Kadamtala, Pin : 799261 Churaibari, North Tripura, Ph.9402110599	32. Secretary / President Jatiya Juva Sangstha, Vill - Prakashnagar, P.O- Rajnagar- 799155, Belonia, South Tripura Ph.9436479702,Email:apurjn@gmail.com
33. Secretary / President Renaissance Club , PO: RKPur -799120 Udaipur, Gomati District	34. Secretary / President Ambedkar Smriti SanghaVill - Gopalpur, P.O. Shibnagar- 799270, Kanchanpur, North Tripura
35. Secretary / President Samaj Kalyan Sangha,Radhapur,PO: Dharmanagar- 799253, North Tripura District, Ph:9862618093	36. Secretary / President Mouchak Sangha ,Dharmanagar, Pin:799250,North Tripura District. Ph.7005093367
37. Secretary / President Samaj Unnayan Samity,PO: Samrurpar - 799277 Kailasahar, Unokoti District, Tripura State	38. . Secretary / President Women Welfare Society,Algapur, PO: Darmanagar- 799250, North Tripura District
9. Secretary / President Voluntary Social Development organization P.O. Harina Bazar-799145,Vill-Harina, Sabroom South Tripura District	40. Secretary / President Matribhumi Social Welfare Society (MSWS) P.O : Manubazar – 799143, Sabroom, South Tripura Ph – 9612275895
41. Secretary / President Durga Social Society, Vill & PO: Jolaibari-799141, Santirbazar, South Tripura,Ph.9774126040	42. Secretary/President , NOBLE FRIENDS ,Nabincherra, Pecharthal, Unokoti District , Tripura. Ph.9366693174 / 8527502467 , Email: noblefriends2000@gmail.com
43. Secretary / President Swamiji Social Centre,Vill: Dhajanagar, PO: Gokulpur- 799114, Udaipur,Gomati District, Tripura .Ph.9383265199	44. Secretary / President Dhuchikhola Ambedkar Welfare Society Kakraban - 799105, Udaipur,Gomati District, Tripura State,Ph.9856648252 /7085346862
45. Secretary / President Belonia AIM Society Vill: South Belonia,PO:Belonia - 799155, South Tripura District,Ph.9862394865	46. Secretary / President Vivekananda Club, Ramnagar, Panisagar Pin: 799260 , North Tripura District,Ph.7005153272 Email: vivekanandaclub1944@gmail.com



47. Secretary / President ,SURJOYDAY SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY, Hapania, Madhyapara,  
PO:ONGC -799014 ,West Tripura District,Ph.9436464164

### General Individual Members

48. Mr. Binoy Paul  
P.O – Belonia -799155, South Tripura  
Ph. 9436540851, Email : orsbelonia@gmail.com

49. Mrs. Banarani Choudhury  
P.O & Vill-Bimangarh, Agartala,  
Airport,Tripura-799015, Ph.9366507161

50. Er. Soumya Deep Das,C/o- Mr. Rana Kumar Das  
,Ushabazar, Shanitala,Vill : Chhinaihani,  
P.O. Airport-799009, Agartala, Tripura

51. Mr. Subrata Acharjee  
Vill – Town Gonki, PO: Gonki - 799201,  
Khowai District, Tripura, Ph. 9436513888

52. Mr. Partha Sakha Debnath  
PO : Dhaleswar, Road No. 1, Pin : 799007 Agartala,  
West Tripura, Ph. 8794446069

53. Dr. Sreelekha Ray,Ashram Chowmuhani, P.O.Agartala  
College, Tripura-799004,Ph. 7005886139  
/9436129317,Email: raysreelekha@gmail.com

54. Mrs. Shikha Saha ,C/O: Dr. T.K.Das,  
5 Thakurpally Road,Krishnanagar, PO: Agartala-  
799001,Ph : 9774015003,Email:  
saha\_sikha2007@rediffmail.com

55. Md. Mokbul Ali  
PO : Baburbazar, PO : 799277  
Kailasahar, Unakoti District, Tripura  
Ph . 8798423485,Email:alimokbul1962@gmail.com

56. Mr. Tapan Nandi  
Vill: Arya Colony(Beltilla),  
P.O- Belonia – 799155, South Tripura District  
Ph. 9436575390 / 9612052861  
Email: tapannandi289@gmail.com

59. Mr. Sunil Debnath (A/T)  
S/O- Lt. Kshetramohan Debnath,  
Word No-8, Sabroom Nagar Panchayat  
P.O - Sabroom, Tripura (S),  
Pin-799145, Ph. 7085406376

60. Mr. Manash Roy, Banamalipur  
PO: Agartala – 799001,B.K.Road,  
Near Ramkrishna Enterprize,Agartala, West Tripura  
Email:roy.manash@gmail.com

61. Mr. Anirban Dasgupta  
North Banamalipur, B. K. Road,  
Agartala – 799001, Ph – 9862188702  
Email – dasgupta.gupta@gmail.com.

62. Ms.Anwesha Ray  
C/O:Prof Dr. Dilip Kumar Ray  
Ashram Choumuhani, PO: Agartala College  
Agartala- 799004, Tripura, India, Ph: 6009058958

63. Mr.Prasenjit Saha  
Vill & PO: Jogendranagar,PIN: 799004  
Bankumari, West Tripura District, Tripura State  
Ph. 9436132652,Email:mrprasenjitji@gmail.com

64.Dr.Poulami Acharjee, C/O : Shri Parimal Acharjee,  
Vill: Indranagar, PO: Abhoynagar, Agartala- 799005,  
Ph.9366101826,Email:poulamia26@gmail.com

65.Mrs.Agnes Darlong,  
Nepaltilla, Kathaltali,  
Dhalai District, Tripura. Ph.8837487214

### Associate Members

66. Secretary/President, Ushajyotui Welfare Society,  
Surjyamani Nagar , PO: Amtali,PS: Amtali. West  
Tripura District ,Ph.70051735835,  
Email: paul.emeti@gmail.com

67. Secretary/President, Sree Maa Welfare Society,  
Sarat Pally, PO: Dharmanagar,North Tripura -  
799250,Ph.9402138384,  
Email: sreemaawelfaresociety@gmail.com

## শ্রবণ ও দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধকতা নিয়ে আলোচনাচক্র

আগরতলা, ২২ ডিসেম্বর।।  
ভলান্টারি হেলথ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন  
অব ত্রিপুরার সহযোগিতায় এবং  
ওয়াশাটসস্থিত শিশুসারথীর উদ্যোগে  
শুক্রবার 'ভাট'এর ট্রেনিং হলে  
অনুষ্ঠিত হয় শ্রবণ ও দৃষ্টি হীনতার  
উপর বিশেষ আলোচনা চক্র।  
এদিনের আলোচনা পর্বে উপস্থিত  
ছিলেন মহিলা কমিশনের প্রাক্তন  
চেয়ারপার্সন বর্ণালী গোস্বামী, শিশু  
সারথীর পক্ষে প্রজেক্ট কোর্ডিনেটর  
নবজ্যোতি মেদী এবং ভলান্টারি  
হেলথ অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের  
এক্সিকিউটিভ ডিরেক্টর ডাক্তার  
শ্রীলেখা রায় প্রমুখ। অনুষ্ঠানের  
শুরুতেই স্বাগত ভাষণের মাধ্যমে ডা.  
রায় উপস্থিত অতিথি সহ



অংশগ্রহণকারীদের বরণ করে নেন।  
বর্ণালী গোস্বামী উনার আলোচনায়  
ভাটের সহযোগিতায় এই  
অনুষ্ঠানের সমাপ্যোগীতার  
গুরুত্ব ব্যাখ্যা করে সফলতা কামনা  
করেন। টেকনিক্যাল সেশনে শ্রবণ  
ও দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধকতা নিয়ে

বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেন শিশু  
সারথীর পক্ষে নবজ্যোতি মেদী এবং  
অন্যান্য প্রশিক্ষকরা। ত্রিপুরা রাজ্যের  
বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে দিব্যাজনদের নিয়ে  
কাজ করে চলেছে এমন কুড়িটি  
সংগঠনের প্রতিনিধিরা আলোচনা  
চক্রে উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

Sandyan Patrika 23rd Dec 2023

# NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

From its inception, networking has been one of the most priority activities of VHAT to facilitate linkages with other organizations in other sectors including the government agencies. Networking is also an important means to disseminate knowledge and information.

The networking feature of VHAT:-

## A. Within the state of Tripura-

- Federation with CSOs through membership: The membership of VHAT creates opportunity for sharing, co-operating, exchanging information, experiences and activities in the areas of functioning.
- Support Services for member organizations:
  - Creating awareness about the government policies.
  - Guidance for project formulation, monitoring & evaluation of developmental projects in the grass-root.
  - Information dissemination for availability of fund from various sources.
  - Advise to overcome problems of registration, accounting and report preparation.

- Capacity Building through trainings to CSOs, members of SHGs & CBOs.

- Anti- Human Trafficking Activities:

To combat human trafficking and violence against children & women VHAT closely works with the member organizations to sensitize law enforcement agency and allied systems. Hence, law enforcement agencies, administration, Child Welfare Committees, non-government organizations, local institutes and PRIs are involved in sharing information, rescue, and restoration and cross border repatriation.

- Networking with Local Government Departments: VHAT gives priority in networking with government departments and advocacy for implementation of the government policies for giving maximum benefit to the under privileged as well as underserved population.

## B. Networking outside Tripura

- VHAT is federated in national level with Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi.
- VHAT is networking partner of Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC) & Community Action Collab(CAC) which provided us the opportunity to serve the communities in need .
- Give India Network connecting VHAT with different individuals nationally and internationally to know about VHAT activities and supporting the programs to serve the under privileged section of the society.
- VHAT is a part of ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) India network.
- VHAT is a member of Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India(CPSFI)

## C. Advocacy:

- Policy level advocacy through the network is a priority activity of VHAT. Since its inception in 1988 as state level network of NGOs and CBOs, it had conducted many advocacy campaigns like protection of biodiversity and promotion of sustainable development, implementation of PCPNDT Act for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception, and for regulation of pre- natal diagnostic techniques, advocacy for Inclusive Education to include children with disabilities in the main education system with empowerment of the teachers through training and during COVID pandemic for COVID vaccination.

### Workshop on Writing Proposal for Fund Raising for NGOs of Tripura on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024-

This was an interactive event with the member NGOs of VHAT and few other NGOs of Tripura.

Mr. Morry Rao Hermón, University of California, Berkeley, was the Felicitor. Totally 27 NGO representatives participated in this workshop



During the Workshop on 17th January, 2024



Felicitor Mr. Morry Rao Hermón

# HEALTH-PROMOTION

- ♠ MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (M-RITE)
- ♠ Tobacco Control Project
- ♠ Risk Management and Prevention of Antibiotics Resistance-Prevent It
- ♠ Basic Orientation on Child Mental Health – ECHO India
- ♠ Community Health : --Health Camp in Bishalgarh
- ♠ Adolescents' Mental Health: Understanding , Identification , Resolution
- ♠ Health Infrastructure Study & Capacity Enhancement on Immunization



**Community Mobilization, Lowertila, Unakoti District**



**Community Mobilization, Partnership with Faith Based Organizations , West Tripura District**



# **MOMENTUM ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION TRANSFORMATION AND EQUITY (M-RITE)**

With support from JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation & Equity (M-RITE) Project was assigned to Voluntary Health Association of Tripura in December, 2021 for creating awareness and accelerating the Covid-19 vaccination coverage in a time bound manner. In FY 2023-2024, total eight districts of Tripura were covered under this project.

## **Objectives:**

### **Objective A: Enhance Vaccine Accessibility**

1. Support in development of micro plan in poor performing areas for improving vaccination service delivery and coverage.
2. Ensure vaccination services in underserved areas and put efforts to strengthen the community outreach programs and enhance community mobilization
3. Support state government in administration of new procured COVID-19 vaccine (as per the state's request and vaccine availability)

### **Objective B: Improve Vaccine Awareness**

1. Put efforts towards educating the population about the importance of vaccination, addressing misconceptions and promoting trust in vaccines.
2. Engage community leaders, healthcare providers, CBOS and influencers to act as vaccine advocates and address language barriers, cultural sensitivities, and other factors influencing vaccine hesitancy or low uptake.

### **Objective C: Support in capacity building efforts of government**

1. Need based training of health workforce and frontline workers on the overall vaccination services
2. Support in enhancing the digital systems and tools for efficient vaccine registration and appointment scheduling

### **Objective D: Leverage COVID-19 vaccination learning**

1. Collaborate with multiple stakeholders viz. health authorities, key government departments, youth groups, faith-based leaders & empowering them to advocate for increased COVID-19 vaccination and Routine Immunization, foster sense of ownership and participation of communities.
2. Improve engagement at state level government meetings and share knowledge and best practices for effective distribution of resources among the states.

## **Activities:**

Based on Covid 19 learning and experience the activities were designed and conducted in Routine Immunization (RI).

- Community Consultation on Routine Immunization to make the community understand the importance of getting vaccination on time. 26 community consultations were arranged in this regard from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 2023.
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD) cum Vaccination Camp for Routine Immunization coverage: Till October 2023, 16 Focus Group Discussions cum Vaccination Camps were conducted. 629 doses were administered.
- Eight Advocacy Meeting with Stake Holders were conducted for better understanding of the problems in field level with the stakeholders. The meeting between the project and stake holders enhanced the chances of improvement to reach the last mile of vaccination in the communities.
- Twelve Coordination Meeting with Frontline Health Workers strengthened the bond among the health department and project.
- Special days were observed with the discussion of vaccination and arrangement of vaccination camps to support the health department. 10 special days (e.g. World Tobacco Day in 3 places, World Breast

Feeding Week, International Day of World's Indigenous People's were celebrated from April 2023 to October 2023.

- District Level Review Meetings(3) were organized for the review of the project in the districts. It involves with health department and stake holder. The meeting is to know the problems from grass root level to district level and how to resolve those problems to get the result of better vaccination.
- 47 Community Mobilization Activities for enhancement of vaccination coverage were organized for the mass awareness of the community and vaccinate people to resolve the problems regarding the fear of vaccination in the unvaccinated areas through miking, vaccination camps, mobility support for immunization team, mothers' meetings, community advocacy meeting, street drama, partnership with FBOs to mobilize the people from remote areas for vaccination.
- Felicitation of 62 Vaccinators to encourage them for strengthening the partnership between the project and the Health Department.
- Transportation for vulnerable community from the hard-to-reach areas as per vaccination schedule in four areas.
- Special vaccination camps in priority blocks - hard to reach areas where the people are facing the problems regarding transportation, sufficient health care system and poor lifestyle choices. 3 camps were conducted till October 2023 and 133 doses of vaccines were administered.
- Felicitation-Incentive for PRIs, GPs, SHGs : This was to the establishment of trust, support and coordination among grassroot level, health department and the project. This was also to encourage the community leaders to help and support the communities with the coordination, transparency with the health department and the project. 13 PRI members were felicitated.
- Door to door mobilization to aware the people about the vaccination regarding Routine Immunization and COVID 19 vaccine.



**Special Vaccination Camp in priority blocks, Sabar Para, West Tripura**



**Community Mobilization: Partnership with Faith Based Organization in West Tripura Dist.**



**Advocacy meeting with the community in Debram Thakur Para, West Tripura**



**Community Mobilization ,Street drama in Hrishi para, West Tripura**

# TOBACCO CONTROL PROJECT

Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) has been implementing Bloomberg Initiative -The Union Tobacco Control Project since February 2020 in Tripura. Initially the project area was limited only in four districts but then extended across the state of Tripura. The prime objective of the project was to strengthen the mechanism within existing tobacco control system under National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and support for COTPA Compliances as well as creation of Tobacco Free Premises in Tripura.

## Strategies:

- Institutionalization of implementation system and its strengthening for NTCP
- Sensitization of policy makers, senior officials
- Capacity building of law enforcers and others stakeholders
- Support for implementation of various activities of NTCP and enforcement of COTPA
- Support to STCC to develop, adopt and implement new or revised guiding documents to counter existing and emerging threats for Tobacco Control.
- Monitoring & evaluation of the project.

We have organized different state level workshops in FY 2023-24 at Agartala in collaboration with the National Tobacco Control Project of Tripura under National Health Mission to carry forward the ongoing initiatives of tobacco control in Tripura.

■ **Sensitization Workshop of State Level Stakeholders on the WHO FCTC Article 5.3:** On 17th August, 2023, this workshop was held in Agartala in collaboration with National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) under NHM Tripura.

■ **Focus Group Discussion (FGD on Tobacco Control Sustainability :** On 17th August, 2023, we organized Focus Group Discussion on the sustainability of Tobacco Control activities with the various state level Officials of Health , Law, Police, Education, Urban Development department and State Rural Livelihood Mission.

■ **The state level workshop of District Level Nodal Officers of NTCP, Line Departments & General Administration:** This workshop was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> November ,2023 in Conference Hall of NHM Building, Agartala.

■ **State Level Media Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control:** This was organized in collaboration with NTCP, Tripura and Tripura Journalist Union at Agartala Press Club on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Totally 35(thirty five) Media Personnel participated in this event.

■ **District Level Workshops/Trainings:** Five District Level Orientation Workshops were organized in (i) Kanchanpur, (ii) Dharmanagar in North Tripura district, (iii) Khowai in DM Conference Hall, Khowai District, (iv) Udaipur for Gomati District, (v) Ambassa for Dhalai District with help of concerned district administration . In all these workshops participants from line departments were present. Main aim was to oriented them about the enforcement techniques and procedures to be followed.

Special Enforcement drive was conducted in West Tripura in four regions with the active support of NTCP & Police.

■ **Observation of World No Tobacco Day 2023:** The WNTD on 31st May 2023 was observed in four districts of Tripura with various activities .

**In North Tripura District:** Rally with electrical vehicle around the district head quarter and surroundings and one seminar in coordination with the Dharmanagar Municipal Council.

**In Gomati District:** Drawing Competition among the children of different groups with messages through their drawings and one workshop to discuss various issues related to overcome this ill habit of tobacco consumption.

**In Khowai District :** The Day was observed with some action oriented activities- awareness rally by the active participation of the women SHG members and followed by one workshop.

**In Unakoti District:** the activities included drawing competition with the school students, rally with the nursing students and local NGOs in the district head quarter and also one seminar was organized with them

■ **Advocacy Meetings with different stakeholders:** Advocacy meetings were conducted by Project Manager and



District Coordinators with various stakeholders like District Magistrate & Collector, Chief Medical Officer, ADM & Collector, SDM, NTCP Officials, Block Development Officer, District Education Officer, Panchayat Officer, District Labour officer, ICDS officials and public representatives like Zilla Sabhadhipati, Municipal Councilors, Block Chairman, Panchayat Pradhan.

*During the financial year 2023-24, we have achieved few important milestones regarding the tobacco control in Tripura State like as below:-*

■ **Notification issued:** Various notifications were issued by Government Officials regarding the “Tobacco & Smoke Free office premises” in the state with our continue advocacy. Few of them were- BDO of Dasda ( North Tripura) , Netaji Subhash College, Udaipur, (Gomati District), Superintend of Tax, Gomati, Govt. Degree College, Santir Bazar (South Tripura), Belonia Govt. Degree College (South Tripura), BDO Rupaichari Block, (South Tripura), BDO Matabari R.D Block (Gomati dist) and Inspector of School, Kanchanpur(North Tripura District).

■ **End line survey on COTPA compliances:** The survey was assigned to National Law University, Tripura, to cover all the districts. The team was engaged and trained for collection of data through structured questionnaires. The collected data was analyzed and submitted to VHAT. After that it was published on 12<sup>th</sup> March in the presence of senior officials of State Administration.

■ **Introduction of Tobacco Monitoring AAP:** For making a significant impact on tobacco control initiatives in the state, we have collaborated with the Mary Anne Charity Trust (MACT), Chennai for developing one Tobacco Monitor Application or APP. The APP was developed and introduced for the first time in Tripura.



**Media Sensitization Workshop ,26-12-2023**



**State Level Stakeholders Workshop ,17-08-2023**



The 2023 global campaign aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops.

**“We need food, not tobacco, grow food, not tobacco”**

# RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF ANTIBIOTICS RESISTANCE-PREVENT IT

**State Level Workshop on ‘ Risk Management and Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance’:** As a partners of “ERASMUS+ and Chitkara University, Chandigarh , VHAT organized it on 24<sup>th</sup> July,2023 in collaboration with: National Health Mission, Tripura State, in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel, Agartala, with 80 participants from Health Dept, Animal Husbandry and Civil Society Organizations throughout Tripura.

It was inaugurated at 10.00 a m by Shri Tinku Roy, Hon’ble Minister of Social Welfare & Social Education, Labour, Youth Affairs & Sports, Gov. of Tripura. Other dignitaries in inaugural session were Mr. Haridulal Acharjee, Sabhadhipati- West Tripura Dist, Dr. Anuradha Majumder on behalf of Director of Family Welfare & Preventive Medicine, Dr.H.P.Sharma-Director of Medical Education, Gov of Tripura, Mrs Sikha Saha Das- President of VHAT and Dr.Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director of VHAT.



**Lightening the lamp by Shri Tinku Roy, Hon'ble Minister of SWSE, Youth Affairs & Sports , Gov of Tripura**

In welcome address Dr. Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director of VHAT mentioned that antibiotic resistance (ABR) is a diverse problem which affects not only humans and other living beings, but also the environment. Looking at the severity of the problem of ABR an urgent action plan is needed to control it. The crisis needs to be targeted as ‘One Health ‘perspective because health of human, animals & environment is connected. One Health means joint effort of several sectors in recognizing the interconnection between human. animals, plants and our environment in the development of antibiotic resistance.

The Hon’ble Minister stated that such awareness generation meeting should also be organized among the grass root people of the rural areas of Tripura.

Technical Session was started at 11.00 a m . Moderator was **Dr.Nupur Debbarma, Member Secretary of National Health Mission of Tripura.**

**First Speaker: Dr Shanta Sutradhar, Assistant Professor, Agartala Gov Medical Cillege.** Her topic was ‘Rationality of Antibiotic use for Human Health care. Dr Sutradhar highlighted the followings:-

Antibiotic a medicine or chemical that can destroy harmful bacteria in the body or limit their growth.

- Intake of antibiotic with correct dose and course to produce the most possible benefits and less possible side effects.
- Should do appropriate use of antibiotic wherever it is needed.
- Underuse & over use of antibiotics is irrational.
- Antibiotics are the most prescribed drugs all over the world and approximately 50% of antibiotics are prescribed or used without need of the patients .





**Dr.D.P.Awasthi,Assistant Professor –Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Tripura speaking on “Use of antibiotics and pesticides in Agri & Horti sectors, issues and challenges”.**



**Speaker: Dr Shanta Sutradhar,Assistant Professor,Agartala Gov Medical College with VHAT President Mrs Sikha Saha Das**



**Dr.Subhro De, Assistant Professor,College of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Tripura, delivering his speech**

## **There are serious consequences of irrational use of antibiotics.**

### **Antibiotic Resistance**

- According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance occurs when antibiotics used to treat an infection fail to do so.
- This can affect anyone, of any age, in any country.
- This is global health emergency and kills at least 700,000 people a year. If no action is taken, it is predicted to increase to 10 million deaths per year by 2050 making it deadlier than cancer.

Dr. Sutradhar then discussed about irrational use of antibiotics & way to prevent the ABR. She concluded by saying- *‘Discovery of antibiotics was the weapon in our hand against the Death. But wrong use of these medicines made them our foe. Antibiotic resistance is created by human mistakes.’*

**Second speaker :Dr.Subhro De, Assistant Professor,College of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Tripura.** His topic was “Use of antibiotics in Animal Husbandry sector and its consequences” ,which he discussed in details.In end he commented- *“Combat antimicrobial resistance: No action today, no cure tomorrow”.*

**Third speaker :Dr.D.P.Awasthi,Assistant Professor –Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Tripura,** spoke on use of antibiotics and pesticides in Agri & Horti sectors, issues and challenges.

Dr Awasthi mainly highlighted the followings:-

Antibiotics are active on plants for less than a week, and significant residues have not been found on harvested fruits. Antibiotics have been indispensable for crop protection in the United States for more than 50 years without reports of adverse effects on human health or persistent impacts on the environment.

Dr. Awasthi gave emphasis on biological control of pests , e.g use of neem spray to the trees is better than using pesticides . Trichoderma and cow dung mixture with 21 days of preservation and after that spread it to the soil will strengthen the soil quality.

### **In the question-answer session-**

There were many queries from the audiences ,such as-

- ♠ Creation of awareness about ABR among the the common mass.
- ♠ Control of irrational practices of use of antibiotics
- ♠ Control / prevention of harms from pesticides
- ♠ Awareness raising for maintenance of withdrawal period for animal foods

All the queries were explained by the Speakers & the Moderator.

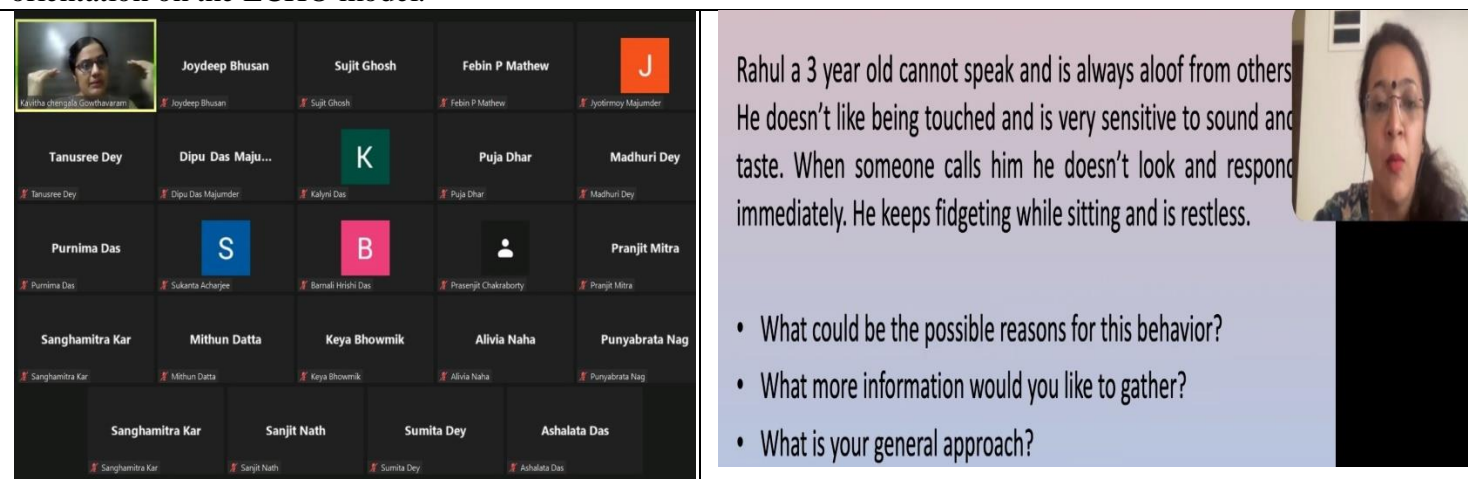
*In the conclusion , again it was emphasized that ‘One Health approach to combating ABR / AMR in human, animal and environment sectors requires sustained governmental & private/non- governmental sector partnership with a commitment to surveillance, research, education and innovations. Public awareness and education are critical for preserving the effectiveness of existing antibiotics/antimicrobials.*



# BASIC ORIENTATION ON CHILD MENTAL HEALTH IN COLLABORATION WITH ECHO INDIA

VHAT is a partner of ECHO India since December 2022. ECHO India is a not-for-profit organization working with Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) towards building capacity in the areas of healthcare, education, and others and bringing equity through capacity building of healthcare practitioners and educators. ECHO's 'Hub and Spoke' Model of learning; the hub being a group of experts who regularly mentor the learners (spokes); uses a cutting-edge digital infrastructure, called iECHO to enable capacity building at speed and scale in a sustainable and cost-effective way. ECHO model breaks the walls between specialty and primary care. Together, the primary clinicians and specialists participate in virtual sessions supported by TELE-conferencing technology.

ECHO India Virtual Immersion on 21 and 22 February 2023: Four person from VHAT were selected & got the orientation on the ECHO model.



The screenshot shows a virtual meeting grid with participants' names and initials. A text overlay on the right side of the grid reads:

Rahul a 3 year old cannot speak and is always aloof from others. He doesn't like being touched and is very sensitive to sound and taste. When someone calls him he doesn't look and respond immediately. He keeps fidgeting while sitting and is restless.

- What could be the possible reasons for this behavior?
- What more information would you like to gather?
- What is your general approach?

After that a series of virtual orientation meetings were organized by VHAT on 'Child Counselling'.

The sessions-

1. **Child counselling:-**A child counselling session(virtual) was held in 04-08-2023 conducted by Ms.Sanghamitra Kar (Psychologist, Anwesha Children Home) and facilitated by Mr. Febin P Mathew (Senior Executive of ECHO India). Discussion of this session was- "what is counselling, what are the basic needs of a child, what is the process of counselling, and what are the things to know that child needs counselling". A case story was represented by Ms. Tanushree Dey (Social Worker of Anwesha children home for girls). All volunteers of the Anwesha Home, Manorama Shishu Niketan, Unmesh Children home for Boys, and Niljyoti Sevashram Boys Home attended this session.
2. **Psychotherapy for children and adolescents:-**On 25-08-2023 ,this session was conducted by Dr. Anup Kumar Debnath (Psychiatrist, Modern Psychiatric Hospital) which was facilitate Mr. Joydeep Bhushan (Project Coordinator of ECHO India). Discussion was about adolescence period, the hazards of this period, different types of psychotherapy for children and adolescents , type of therapy we used for different psychological problem of this period. A case story was presented by Ms. Sumita Dey (Social Worker of Anwesha Open shelter for girls). 21 participants attended this meeting.
3. **Child Development Basics:-**On 08-09-2023 this session was conducted by Dr.Joysree Das (Clinical Psychologist) on the topic of Child Development. Ms.Pinakshi Banik (Hub team member of ECHO India) was the facilitator. Topics were - five basics of child development, basic stages of child development, parenting skills. Expert also discussed about the ADHD among children . Mr. Prasenjit Chakraborty (Social Worker of Anwesha open shelter for boys) was one of the speakers on the topic.. 21 participants attended this meeting.
4. **Child Safeguarding:-**This session was conducted and facilitated by Dr. Gowthavaram Chengala Kavitha (positive Psychologist, psychotherapist) &Mr. Febin P Mathew (Senior Executive) on 22-09-2023. Discussion of this session was on the child safeguarding, difference between child safeguarding and child protection, importance of child

safeguarding , 5 R'S of safeguarding i.e. Recognize, Respond, Report, Record, Review. Alivia Naha (Superintendent of Manorama Shishu Niketan) , all social workers, counsellors, and volunteers attended this session. 24 participants attended this meeting.

5. **Preventing child abuse and neglect:-** On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, this was conducted by Dr. Anjana Bhattacharjee (Associate professor, Tripura University) and facilitated by Ms. Sanghamitra Kar. Many things were discussed about the child abuse and neglect by the expert . Mithun Dutta (Social worker of Unmesh Children home for Boys) presented a case story in this session by online mode.

6. **Role of Volunteers in child development in CCI:-**Dr. Mythili Hazarika (Associate Professor of GMCH) was the expert of this session on 18-10-2023 . It was facilitated by Ms. Pinakshi Banik. The expert discussed about the role of volunteers in development of a child, different types of intelligence test like(Binet-Simon Test, Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale, positive parenting skill development among the caregivers, the duties and responsibilities of volunteers. Keya Bhowmik (Social worker of Manorama Shishu Niketan) shared a case story in this session.

**Resource Persons for these sessions :-** Dr. Anup Kumar Debnath (Psychiatrist, Modern Psychiatric Hospital); Dr. Joysree Das (Clinical Psychologist); Ms. Sanghamitra Kar (Psychologist, Anwesha Children Home); Dr. Gowthavaram Chengala Kavitha (positive Psychologist, psychotherapist); Dr. Anjana Bhattacharjee (Associate professor, Tripura University); Dr. Mythili Hazarika (Associate Professor of GMCH).

**Timing-3:00pm-4:00pm in all the sessions**

**KEY LERANING:-** Participants learnt many things from these sessions,e.g. different stages of child development, the role of volunteers in child development, child counseling methods , dealing with children in different situation , resolving conflict, understand children's thoughts and feelings, thinking of new solutions to their daily problems, about child abuse , how to prevent child abuse and neglect, and different psychotherapy for children and adolescents.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION THROUGH HEALTH CAMP

On 14<sup>th</sup> October , 2023 one community health camp was organized for screening & treatment of diabetes and heart diseases in Bishalgarh Town Hall. Another objective was to create awareness about bad effects of tobacco uses, its consequences on different organs of the body. Two specialist doctors –Dr Kunal Sarkar , Heart Surgeon, Dr. Uttiya Gupta, Diabetologist from Medica Super Speciality Hospital,Kolkata were present in the camp. Both the Specialist Doctors discussed on the prevention of heart diseases and diabetes . After the screening they also treated 70 patients. As Guests Dr. Jyotirmoy Das, SDMO and Mr. Anjan Purokayastha , Chairperson of Bishalgarh Municipal Council were present in the camp



Dr Kunal Sarkar in discussion with a patient in Health Camp



Dr.Uttiya Gupta in the health camp



BP check up in the camp



# ADOLESCENTS' MENTAL HEALTH: UNDERSTANDING-IDENTIFICATION-RESOLUTION

**First Training** was organized for the children of above 10 years of age , 50 from Anwesha Children Home for Girls and 20 children from Anwesha Open Shelter for Boys separately on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 in the training hall of the Home.

1<sup>st</sup> Day: Ms.Rupa Deb, Clinical Psychologist, discussed on

- The importance of young people in society and protecting their mental health so that they can play a social role by helping adults mentally and physically.
- What are the changes occur in adolescent period (physical and psychological changes) social, emotional, moral and cognitive development.
- Different stages of our mind (conscious, unconscious and subconscious mind) and function of these stage. Children were attentively listening the discussion and then they interacted with the expert.
- Different types of mental disorder in adolescence period, like depression, anxiety disorder, personality disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder. The role of counseling, some techniques and tips which we follow in regular life for our better life style.

2<sup>nd</sup> day session:- Psychiatrist Dr.Dipayan Sarkar discussed about -

- Different past event that were repressed in our mind and were not good for our mind. These were the cause of different mental disorders. So we need to share these things with others .
- How we can develop our concentration level - by rehearsal, and develop our writing skill that help us to upgrade our concentration level. Different functions of brain and how we keep our brain healthy:- we need proper nutrition, to do all things step by step , problem solving technique etc. At last he discussed about how we control our anger, there are 3 A that means (avoid, alter adopt and accept) and demonstrated an exercise i.e. press both hand tightly for 4 to 5 min)
- Defense mechanism- is a psychological operation that function to protect a person form anxiety , producing thoughts and feelings related to internal conflicts and other stressors, Sometimes we blame others or situations to defend ourselves.

After the session, Dr.. Dipayan Sarkar recommended us that if we face any problem with any child about mental health, and any other psychological issues or if we feel that counseling is not working with them we should communicate with him. He also told about the facilities of Tele MANAS.



**Dr.Dipayan Sarkar conducting the session on  
Adolescents 'Mental Health**



**During the training with CCI Staff in Conference Hall  
of Directorate of SW&SE, Gov of Tripura**

**Second training**, where the Superintendents, Caseworkers and Care Givers of all CCIs of West Tripura, one CCI of Sepahijala & one CCI of South Tripura district were the participants (44 in no). Venue was Conference Hall in the Directorate of Social Welfare & social Education (Malancha).

Facilitators were - Dr.Santanu Ghosh,Associate Professor, Psychiatry, Tripura Medical College , Dr. Kaushik Nandi, Psychiatrist, Modern Psychiatric Hospital,Dr Sreelekha Ray, VHAT.

The training was inaugurated by Smt. Smitha Mol M. S., IAS, Director of Social Welfare and Social Education, Gov of Tripura, at 11.15 A.M.

First topic was on ‘Common Mental Health difficulties and psychiatric disorders among Adolescents’. Dr Sreelekha Ray discussed this topic in detail, with the PPT from 11.30 a m to 12.30 p. m.

Then Dr.Santanu Ghosh discussed on “Identification of Mental Health problems of Adolescents and therapy to keep up the mental well-being”.Dr.Ghosh focused on the issue of drug addiction among the adolescent population of the state. Symptoms of drug addiction includes the followings-

- He/she usually likes to stay alone and in depressed mood.
- Cannot concentrate in study in home/school.
- Does not like to communicate with parents.
- Always likes to be with peers.

Precautions:

- Parents should behave like friends with their adolescent children
- Parents are to give enough time for them.
- Many a time children need counseling support
- If felt necessary, consult with Psychiatrist.

At 2.00pm, Dr. Kaushik Nandi started the discussion on “Importance of early identification & intervention and steps to use for improvement of Mental Health among the Adolescents”.

This was followed by the open session and lunch.

## **OBSERVATION OF WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

This day was observed in Anwesha Home with 65 children and 30 staff on 10th October ,2023

**Resource Persons :-** Dr. Chaitali Malakar (Psychiatrist of Modern Psychiatric Hospital), Ms. Nabanita Deb ( Social worker of Modern Psychiatric Hospital)



Dr. Chaitali Malakar discussed about the mental health and how we keep our mind healthy, different mental disturbances and what are the signs and symptoms of depression, how to prevent depression and suicidal ideation, After that children did various activities that helped them to feel peace of mind. Ms. Nabanita Deb helped them in this exercise.



# HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY & CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT ON IMMUNIZATION

This was CAC(Community Action Collab) initiative in coordination with VHA Tripura, mainly aimed to do a survey of the availability and requirement of equipments in various UPHCs, PHCs & CHCs under West Tripura District covering 3 hospitals & 27 UPHCs/PHCs/CHCs.

**Hospitals:-** GBP Hospital, IGM Hospital & Tripura Medical College & Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Teaching Hospital

**UPHCs/PHCs/CHCs:-** Ashrampara UPHC, Agartala Puranigam UPHC, Madhya Pratapgarh UPHC, Nandanagar UPHC, Pashchim Bhubanban UPHC, East Jogendranagar UPHC, Bhati Abhoynagar UPHC, Anandanagar PHC, Kanchanmala PHC, Ranirbazar PHC, Jirania CHC, Champaknagar PHC, Kherengbar CHC, Mandwi PHC, Borakha PHC, Hezamara PHC, Mohanpur CHC, Katlamara PHC, Chachubazar PHC, Gandhi gram PHC, Narsingarh PHC, Bamutia PHC, BDM PHC (Lefunga).



**Inauguration of TOT**



**Community Leaders Training**



**Village Level Meeting at Viveknagar, Dukli Block**

## Activities:

- > Project staff visited the community institutions like Panchayat, CSO, Clubs etc. for organizing meeting & workshop
- >State Level Meetings with Officials of Health Directorate, Hospitals, UPHC, PHC & CHC. We organized two state level orientation meetings on - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 with the Nodal Officers on “Barriers of Hesitancy among Community towards Vaccination” .
- >Collection of data about availability and requirement of equipments from 27 health centers including Hospitals, UPHC, PHCs & CHCs
- >Village level Orientation & Trainings were conducted with Community Leaders and Champions on “Importance of Vaccination & Hesitancy on Vaccination” to accelerate the Routine Immunization (RI) program.
- >We have organized total 30 Village Level Awareness Meetings on “Importance of RI + Adult Vaccination”
- >Other activity:
  - Engaging two Data Entry Operators in CMO Office & IGM Hospital. Around 55000 data entry of vaccination done by these Data Entry Operators.
  - Supported Health Department to cover the Routine Immunization target through preliminary meetings with various stakeholders, like-panchayats, clubs, NGOs & religious leaders
  - Priority was .given to the minority community, tribal, unorganized factory workers, brick kiln workers, tea garden workers, migrant workers for providing Routine Immunization.

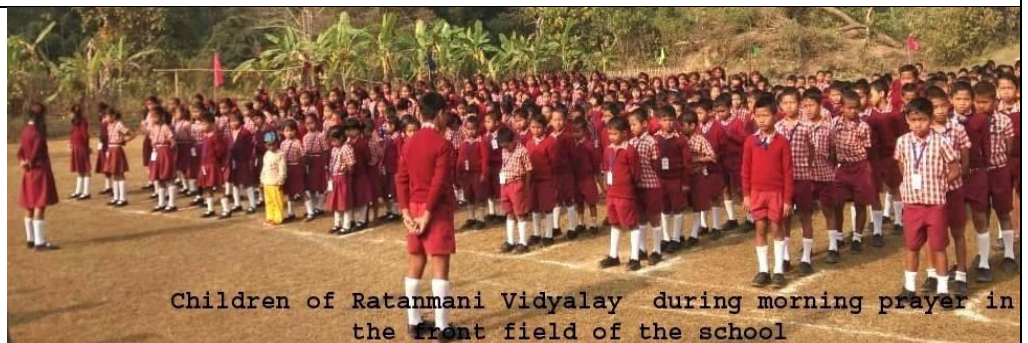
# EDUCATION-PROMOTION

♠ Ratanmani  
Vidyalay: A  
Residential  
Primary School  
for Tribal  
Children

♠ VHAT  
Vocational  
Education  
Centre  
under NIOS



Celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Ratanmani Vidyalay



Children of Ratanmani Vidyalay during morning prayer in the front field of the school



Health Check up of children in Ratanmani Vidyalay to find out the Malaria cases

# RATANMANI VIDYALAY : A RESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN

In 1993 , Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) planned to initiate one project for promotion of community health , women empowerment and elementary education of the underprivileged children. We selected ten village panchayats under Rupaichari block of South Tripura district as the project area. This was remote , less accessible, tribal people dominated area. There are three clans of tribes live in the area, viz. Tripura, Mog & Chakma . When we did primary survey as part of the situation analysis, it was found that there was not a single person who completed the study up to Class-V. The community priority was also “education” for their children. Giving the importance of community priority , VHAT started a non-formal education centre in April 1994 with village children & developed a condensed course to complete the study of Class 1 to Class V within three years. In the year 2000, this centre got the recognition from the state education department as junior basic school by the name “ **Ratanmani Vidyalay**” with the aim to promote quality primary education of the tribal children living in this remote hilly areas of Rupaichari block under South Tripura district. As on March 2024 Ratanmani Vidyalay completed thirty (30) years of its existence and achieved the status of quality primary education centre for the poor tribal children in the area.

## STUDENTS – CATEGORY:

In 2023-2024, two hundred forty six (246) children from various panchayats of Rupaichari Block under the Tribal Area Autonomous District Council admitted in Ratanmani Vidyalay and 238 children were accommodated in the school hostel. The following data will show the present status of the children of 2023-24:

Class	Sc		ST		OBC		OTH		No of children Hostel children		Total Students		Grand Total
	Boys (B)	Girls (G)	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	
<b>I</b>	0	0	22	17	0	0	0	0	19	17	22	17	39
<b>II</b>	0	0	31	22	0	0	0	0	28	22	31	22	53
<b>III</b>	0	0	26	15	1	0	0	0	26	15	27	15	42
<b>IV</b>	0	0	32	19	0	1	0	0	32	19	32	20	52
<b>V</b>	0	0	33	27	0	0	0	0	33	27	33	27	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>246</b>

- ❖ The human resource of the project was competent for catalyzing the formal education as well the extracurricular activities for development of the children.
  - ❖ At present there are 15 staff in the school. Male staff no -6 & female staff no – 9.
  - ❖ It played effective role in promoting primary education, sports and extracurricular activities, environmental orientation, awareness on health & hygiene .
  - ❖ All the teachers are residential and giving extra effort out of the school hours , to improve the quality of the education
- ### EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL :
- ❖ There are 15 full time staff , of which 3 are female and 6 are male teachers. Others are –Peon-1, Cook-2 , Cleaner-2 and Watchwoman- 1.
  - ❖ The formal education is based on the curriculum of the Tripura Board of Secondary Education and the books are supplied from the State Government Education Department under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
  - ❖ The students ggt life skill training and exposure to vocational activities, viz.health education, environment education and plant nursery.
  - ❖ All the children participate in the extracurricular activities organized by the school like dancing, singing & sports . The students are being trained by teachers who were well trained in those activities.
  - ❖ The students from class I-V receive health education classes once in a week on prevention of malaria and diarrhoea, fever management and first aids as the area is malaria and diarrhea prone.
  - ❖ During vacation days, the students receive free coaching from the school teachers for quality development.
  - ❖ **On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 Ratanmani Vidyalay celebrated 30 years of its glorious existence (1994-2024)** with students, local people & parents of 300 students. It was a big ceremony for the school.

**Beside the regular study ,Ratanmani Vidyalay observed all the national days throughout the year.**



# VHAT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTRE

## UNDER NIOS

Since 2007, VHAT has been running a Vocational Training Centre accredited by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Vocational Training Centre of VHAT intends to create employment opportunity for the youths. The following courses were offered by VHAT Vocational Education Centre: (AVI-700001).

In the year 2023-24, below list of students got admitted –

Sl. No.	Name of Course	No of students
1	Certificate in Ayurvedic Therapy	03
2	Yoga Teachers Training Programme	06
3	Certificate in Homeopathy Dispensing	04
4	Early Childhood Care & Education	10
5	Certificate in Yoga (Six Month)	04
6	Certificate in Community Health	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>



Class Room-Community Health



Practical Class on Yoga Training Course



Theory Class on Yoga



Class on ECCE



Class on Homeopathy Dispensing



# CARE & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

♠ **CHILDLINE**  
Agartala

♠ **CHILDLINE**  
Sepahijala

♠ **Anwesha Child**  
**Protection**  
**Centre-Open**  
**Shelter for**  
**Girls & Boys**

♠ **Anwesha**  
**Children's**  
**Home for Girls**

♠ **Unmesh Children**  
**Home for Boys**

♠ **Manorama Shishu**  
**Niketan-Children's**  
**Home for Girls**

♠ **Family Based**  
**Alternative Care of**  
**Children in need**

♠ **Campaign for**  
**Child Marriage**  
**Free India**



**Children in Unmesh Children's Home for Boys**



**Observation of Veer Bal Diwas**

# CHILDLINE AGARTALA

As collaborative organization VHAT initiated CHILDLINE Agartala project with support from Ministry of Women and Child Development through CHILDLINE India Foundation in the year 2003 .

Activities during the FY 2023-2024 (April 2023 to August 2023):-

A) **Case Intervention** :-82 cases as below-

Medical help : 01 , Shelter: 18 , Protection from abuse (Rescue) 38, Missing Child 11 , Emotional Support & Guidance 2 , Others 12 .

B) **Number of Weekly Meetings** organized by Team Members: 15

Matter discussed:-CHILDLINE (1098) activities in detail, prevention of child marriages, prevention of child labor, prevention of child sexual abuses, rescue of child from crisis situation etc.

Method used: face to face conversation, brain storming, role play. Materials used: leaflets, banners, placing CHILDLINE hoarding in the places.

- Using social media to aware people about CHILDLINE.
- Reach out more number of people in slum areas.
- Detail discussion on use of Psychological Support System manual.

C) **Number of Awareness Meetings** conducted: 10. In these meetings discussion was on CHILDLINE 1098 activities in details, awareness on prevention of Child marriage, Child Labor, Child Sexual abuse . These meetings included community meeting , panchayat meeting, ASHA & Anganwadi meeting, CDPO meeting, NSS meeting in different parts of West Tripura District all through the year.

D) **Number of Open House** organized: 03

Issues and problems mentioned by the children during open house were: Child Marriage, problem of drop outs, and economic inability of parents, Child Labour, child sexual abuse, bad touch & good touch.

E) **Innovative Activities** : Observation of World Environment Day on 5/6/23, Special programme on World Tobacco Day on 31/5/23



One day old abandoned baby rescued by CHILDLINE Agartala



Community meeting organized by CHILDLINE Agartala

# CHILDLINE SEPAHIJALA

Activities in 2023-2024 (April 2023 to August 2023):-

**Case Intervention-** Total number of intervention cases were 48, which were as below:-

► Shelter : 05 , ► Restoration: 11 , ► Protection from abuse(Rescue) 16 , ► Sponsorship: 09, ► Other intervention:07,

A) **Eight Weekly meetings were organized by Team Members** .Method used- face to face meetings & small group discussion. Materials used-leaflets & banners. Use of social media to aware the people about CHILDLINE's activities.

B) CHILDLINE Sepahijala (collab) conducted 21 events as awareness activities to discuss about CHILDLINE in details, prevention of child marriage, child labour, child sexual abuse. These meetings included community meetings, Meetings with panchayat member, ASHA & Anganwadi workers , CDPOs NSS Volunteers in different parts of Sepahijala district.

C) Three Number of Open House conducted in different school and communities to discuss the issue of child marriage, problems of school drop outs, economic inability of parents child labour, child sexual abuse , bad touch & good touch.



# ANWESHA CHILD PROTECTION CENTRE-OPEN SHELTER FOR CHILDREN

In the year 2005 Anwasha Child Protection Centre, an Open Shelter for children in need of emergency shelter, was started by Voluntary Health Association of Tripura since 2005. When the number of children was increased, this open shelter was divided in two sections-Open Shelter for Girls (for 25 girls) and Open Shelter for Boys(for 25 boys). Later on these shelters have been registered under Social Welfare Department as per Juvenile Justice Act, under Ministry of Women & Child Development. In 2023-2024 on an average, there were 27 girl children in Open Shelter Girls and 26 boys in Open Shelter for Boys.

The Open Shelters provided an enriched platform for learning that empowers the children not only to get education but also to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. It provided services such as education, nutrition, knowledge of computer. Life Skill Education and vocational training.

## **Target Groups :**

Children of 5-18 year age group of the following categories were the beneficiaries of this project.

- ☐ Orphaned Children.
- ☐ Street children (rag pickers, baggers, etc), victims of any drug addictions.
- ☐ Abandoned Children.
- ☐ Victims of violence/abuse.
- ☐ AIDS victim
- ☐ Any child eligible for getting emergency services.

The children were guided by House Parents, In-charge, GNM nurse and two Social Workers. They were supported with extra coaching teachers. Apart from educational support, the children were provided with computer lab to enhance their computer knowledge in extracurricular activities . Life Skill Education training also organized for the children based on their appropriate age . Children observed all the national days with cultural activities.

## **Medical Care and services provided for children :**

- ☐ Monthly height-weight measurement and record maintenance.
- ☐ Quarterly detail health check-up and treatment.
- ☐ Quarterly hemoglobin test.
- ☐ Regular Dental check-up and treatment.      ☐ Hearing test.
- ☐ Vision test.      ☐ Emergency medical care.

Apart from providing emergency care and protection, the Open Shelters were linked with a specialized adoption agency, through which the home can give the children for adoption who were registered under CARA.



On the Republic Day 26-01-2024



On Veer Bal Diwas, 26-12-2023 a child was awarded as winner in Drawing Competition



# ANWESHA CHILDREN HOME FOR GIRLS

Anweshha Children Home for Girls a registered CCI under the J.J. Act , Ministry of Women & Child Development for 50 girl children. It provides long term shelter for orphaned and underprivileged girls till completion of 18 years of age. The mission of this CCI was to rescue and protect children from the trauma of physical and sexual abuse, extreme neglect, being abandoned and being a victim or witness of domestic violence.

Children were provided shelter, nutrition, education, basic computer knowledge, recreation, medical support and life skill education. To provide a variety of experiences to children, Anweshha Home had undertaken activities like free and structured conversation, rhymes, songs, story-telling, story making, music and movement, dramatization, indoor play activities with blocks, beads, puzzles, clay modeling, outdoor games and outdoor activities including free play running, jumping, hopping, balancing, sand play and gardening. First issue of wall magazine “Anweshon” was show-cased by the children on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 . All the stories, poems and drawings were written by the children by their own efforts for this wall magazine.

## **Children were involved in following activities:**

- Education –children are attending regular classes in nearby school
- Household chores which help children learn about what they need to do to care for themselves, a home and a family.
- Counseling – Peer counseling in individual situations.
- Training & Capacity building –it encourages the leadership of non-profit to evaluate their abilities to perform in a complex environment.
- Life Skill training – decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness building skills, empathy and coping with stress and emotions.
- Co-curricular activities-dance, yoga, meditation, painting competitions as well as other recreational activities
- Pre-Vocational Training – in stitching and handicrafts, Agriculture and animal rearing
- Computer Education .
- Engaging children in meaningful activities was the pivotal part of the program e.g preparing wall magazine, psychosocial activities that improved personal and social skills, alternative learning, physical activities, games and fun!

**Medical Care and Services provided:** Individual medical file was maintained for all the children. Following were the medical services provided to the children.

- ❖ Monthly height-weight and BMI record keeping.
- ❖ Immunization, Quarterly Hemoglobin test.
- ❖ Monthly Health Check-up and treatment.
- ❖ Annual Dental and ENT check-up. Vision Test. Emergency Medical care.
- ❖ Counseling & psychosocial interventions for adolescent - girls

In the year 2023-2024, the children of Anweshha Children’s Home & Anweshha Open Shelters jointly celebrated and enjoyed the following occasions :-

■ **Observation of World Health Day**- 7<sup>th</sup> April,2023 with help of MO & Health Workers of West Bhubanban, UPHC.

■ **Celebration of Bengali New Year** - 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. One local donor distributed fruits and sweets packets among all children and staff in this occasion .



**During the Sports Festival in Anweshha Open Shelter for Boys**



**Girl children in the Sports Festival**

■ **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** was celebrated through Sports Festival during the period from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Sports items included - Indoors games- Carom, Ludo, Chinese checkers, and Yoga.

Outdoor games: Volley ball, Kabbadi, Frog Race, 50 meters race, Biscuit race, Ball throw and Musical Chair.

■ **Rabindra Jayanti**- Celebration of birth day Rabindranath Tagore:- On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, discussion was about Tagore's life. Different cultural activities were performed by children. Children participated in essay & quiz competitions. Prizes were given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> position holders.

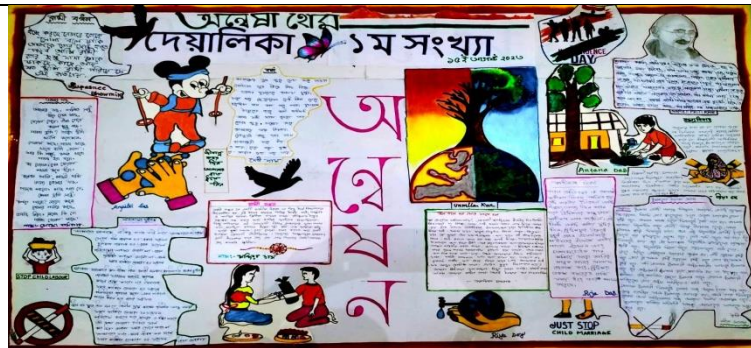
■ **International Mother's Day 2023**: On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, Anwesha Home celebrated it to show gratitude and respect to mothers/care givers of CCIs for their love, care, and guidance. All children made greetings for their respective house mothers and discussed about the importance of mother in our life. The children performed dance and song to celebrate bonding and attachment with their mothers.

■ **World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June** – discussion with the children was about the importance of pollution free environment and the harmful effects of plastic, use eco-friendly things to keep our environment plastic free. Children along with all staff planted trees in the CCI complex.

■ **International Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**: The theme was “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” i.e., Yoga for the welfare of all in the form of ‘One world –One Family’. Yoga teacher Rinky arranged the demonstration of various asanas, pranayama and practices by the children.



Children were exhibiting their Yoga practice



Wall magazine "Anweshon"-1st issue

■ **Independence Day** : On August 15, 2023.

■ **Teacher's Day on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

■ **World Mental Health Day**: In collaboration with Tripura State Psychiatrist Hospital this day was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

■ **SWACHHATA HI SEVA-16<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023**

■ **Veer Bal Diwas -26<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

■ **Children's Day**: On 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, it was celebrated with great joy by organizing a drawing competition among the children.

■ **Christmas Day**: On 25th December, 2023 our children decorated the entire campus by making their own stars, Christmas tree and making cakes to celebrate Christmas themselves. ONGC staff conducted a fire extinguisher training with children and staff. ONGC staff also distributed cakes and sweets to all children.

■ **National Youth Day-12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024** on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth day Mrs Shikha Saha, VHAT President discussed about the life story of Swami Vivekananda & role of youth in development of our nation followed by dance event by the children.

■ **Makar Sankranti on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**-Children Drew rangoli, had homemade pitha -payesh, chicken & fish curry

■ **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Birthday** : On January 23rd, 2024, we hoisted the National Flag at 7.00 am. In the afternoon a yoga competition among all the children was conducted followed by prize distribution ceremony.

■ **Saraswati Puja** celebration was on 14th February, 2024.

■ **International Women's Day** : On 8th March, 2024



Making Rangoli in Makar Sankranti



# UNMESH CHILDREN HOME FOR BOYS

Unmesh Children Home for Boys is situated in East Gokulnagar, Sepahijala District. The home was started from September 2018. It was registered under Juvenile Justices Act-2015, under Ministry of Women and Child Development on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. During the 2023-2024, 50 children were staying on an average in the home who came with the order from CWC of different districts of Tripura. Out of them 47 Children admitted in Purba Gokulnagar HS School. All the Children were engaged in different co-curricular activities like yoga, sports, gardening, music, drama and drawing.

**Class wise number of the children:** Anganwadi Centre- 1, Class-I: 3, Class-II: 8, Class-III: 5, Class-IV: 2, Class-V: 10, Class-VI: 5, Class-VII: 5, Class-VIII: 3, Class-IX: 2, Class-X: 3

**Regular monthly health check-up and treatment** to all the children were provided by Medical team of Bishalgarh Hospital. One residential GNM (Nurse) was taking care of the health of the children.

**Home visit & reintegration :** This year, **11 children** were reintegrated to the families or extended families after the social investigation of the family situation and counseling of both children and family members and **two children** were sent to foster parents in two childless families. The SIRs (social investigation reports) and counseling were done by the Case Worker and the Counselor of the CCI. Shifting and reintegration was done with the orders from the Child Welfare Committees.

## Celebration of important days in 2023-24:

26th- 28th April 2023- Sports Festival, 21st June 2023- Yoga Day, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023- World Hepatitis Day, 15th August 2023- Independence Day, 5th September 2023- Teachers Day, 2nd October 2023- Gandhi Jayanti, 16th October 2023- Campaign against Child Marriage, 28th October 2023- Laxmi Puja, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023- National Unity Day (birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel), 12th November 2023- Diwali Celebration, 14th November 2023- Children's Day celebration, 26th December 2023- Veer Bal Diwas, 12th January 2024- Observation of Swami Vivekananda's Birthday, 23rd January 2024- Netaji's Birthday, 24th January 2024- National Girl Child Day, 26th January 2024- Republic Day, 14th February 2024- Saraswati Puja.



Members of CWC, Sepahijala District visited Unmesh Home during Sports Festival



Health Checkup in Unmesh Home by Doctors of CMO office of Sepahijala District



Children with their drawings on Veer Bal Diwas- 2023



International Yoga Day 2023



# MANORAMA SHISHU NIKETAN-CHILDREN'S HOME

## FOR GIRLS

Manorama Shishu Niketan - Children's Home for Girls situated at Vill & P.O - Lowgang, P.S. - Santirbazar, Sub-Division - Santirbazar, South Tripura District . It is registered with capacity of 50 children. During the year 2023-2024, on an average 39 children were staying in Manorama Shishu Niketan from various districts of Tripura according to the order from different Child Welfare Committees. All the children were enrolled in government schools viz. West Lowgang SB School and West Bakafa H.S School. Along with formal school education the children learnt practicing Yoga , exposed to training in dancing & singing from trained teachers. Our capable staffs always try to boost their confidence by individual or group counseling. Unlike other CCIs , the targeted children for Manorama Home are the Children of 5-18 year age group of the following categories-

- ☐ Orphaned Children. ☐ Victims of violence/abuse.
- ☐ Street children (rag pickers, baggers, etc), victims of any drug addictions.
- ☐ Abandoned Children. ☐ POCSO victims , ☐ HIV / AIDS victim

Children of Manorama Shishu Niketan celebrated the following days throughout the year:-

On 26th- 28th April 2023- Sports Festival, 9th May 2023- Ravindra Jayanti, 21st June 2023- Yoga Day, 15th August 2023- Independence Day, 5th September 2023- Teachers Day, 2nd October 2023- Gandhi Jayanti, 16th October 2023- Campaign against Child Marriage, 28th October 2023- Laxmi Puja, 12th November 2023- Diwali Celebration , 14th November 2023- Children's Day celebration, 17th December 2023- Educational Tour to Trishna Wild Life Sanctuary, 26th December 2023- Veer Bal Diwas , 12th January 2024- Observation of Swami Vivekananda's Birthday, 23rd January 2024- Netaji's Birthday , 24th January 2024- National Girl Child Day, 26th January 2024- Republic Day, 14th February 2024- Saraswati Puja, 28th February 2024- Manorama Shishu Niketan's 2nd Year Anniversary celebration.

**Nutritional support:** The children were provided three meals a day and breakfast & evening snacks (biscuits, puffed rice banana, sprouted peas etc.) twice a day.

**Medical Care and Services :** ASHA workers & Community Health Officer visited the children on regular basis. The full time residential nurse engaged in the Home continuously looking after the children's health issues. In case of emergency , children are taken to the South Tripura District Hospital which is in 10 minutes distance from Manorama Home. Our Paramedical staff always kept track record of children's height & weight.

**Maintenance of individual case file** to address the necessities of each children like counseling, behavioral problems and socially deviant behaviors.

**Entertainment facility:** Facility for indoor games like ludo, carom, chinese checker, & volley ball .

**Home visit:** We have been doing detail investigation of inmate's family situation, checking the possibilities if we can reintegrate them into the family and prepared the SIR (social investigation report).

**Reintegration:** After the home visit and proper assessment in 2023-2024, one child was given to the foster parents & 7 (seven) children were reintegrated with their families/ distant families.



**Rally by Children of Manorama Sheshu Niketan on the occasion of 'Girl Child Day'-24-01-2024**



**Educational Tour of Children of Manorama Sheshu Niketan on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

# FAMILY BASED ALTERNATIVE CARE OF CHILDREN IN NEED

This was an organized effort of VHAT for reintegration of children in their family or in extended family . Social investigation was done of the families of children who were staying in the CCIs/Homes, by visiting their families and preparing the social investigation reports. If the possibility of reintegration was there, we placed the report to CWC. After further verification we did the integration with permission from the CWC. We were doing the follow up and helping the reintegrated children for their study and income generation of their guardians and overall development of the children keeping them within the family. This project was supported by **The Miracle Foundation India**. We worked as per the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children, where it stated that: “Family is the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth, well-being and protection of children, and efforts should be primarily directed to enabling the child to remain in or return to the care of his/her parents, or when appropriate, other close family members.”

## Approach/strategy:

i) **Home visits and family crisis intervention:** regular visits to the homes of children placed in our care(CCIs) to assess family dynamics and address any crises or challenges they may be facing. Through working closely with families to resolve issues and our aim was to create a conducive environment for child’s return.

ii) **Social investigation Reports:** through investigations to understand the root causes of family separation and identify the necessary interventions to facilitate reintegration, the report was prepared.

iii) **Five well-being domains:** We focused on five key domains of family well-being: Economic stability, access to education and health care, social support networks, safe and stable housing and emotional well-being.

iv) **Continuous Follow- Up and Family Support:** Our commitment to reintegration extends beyond the initialization process.

v) **Mental Health focus:** this included counseling, therapy and psychosocial support to promote healing, resilience and positive mental health outcomes.

vi) **Community Awareness Program:** We are committed to raising awareness within communities about the importance of family-based care for children, through workshops, seminars and outreach initiatives. Another aim was to educate people in the community about the benefits of various government schemes for providing benefits to the children. In 2023-24 , we organized 23 Community Awareness Meetings with totally 364 people in West Tripura , Khowai & Sepahijala District.



Community Meeting on FBAC



Meeting with ASHA Workers on FBAC

vii) **Prevention of Institutionalization:** It was aimed to keep children within their families or place them in alternative family-based care arrangements.

viii) **Gate keeping:** By identifying vulnerable families early on, we try to provide them with necessary support and resources to prevent the unnecessary placement of children in institutions.

ix) **Awareness program with Adolescents:** We conduct targeted awareness programs with adolescents to address issues such as Child Marriage and other forms of exploitation as per the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.





Meeting in Anganwadi Centre to discuss the importance of FBAC



Awareness Campaign for 'Child Marriage Free India' with Community people & ASHA Workers

**x) Reporting Mechanisms:** We facilitated reporting mechanisms for community members to report cases of child abuse, neglect or exploitation through help lines, online platforms, and community-based reporting systems.

**xi) Child Participation:** Children were involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Attempts were to empower children to express their views, preferences and concerns, ensuring that their voices were heard and respected.

**Conclusion:** In Anwesha Home, Unmesh & Manorama Shishu Niketan, run by VHAT, our comprehensive approach to child reintegration encompassed proactive family engagement, targeted interventions and ongoing support to ensure that children were reintegrated into safe, loving and stable family environment. By prioritizing family well-being and mental health, we strived to facilitate successful and sustainable reunifications that enable to children to thrive within their families. VHAT, through this FBAC project could provide livelihood support to three families for cloth selling and fast food business. Four parents got psychological counseling and parenting skill training. In 2023-24 we could reintegrate 43 children from five CCIs run by VHAT.

## CAMPAIGN FOR CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

Child marriage remains a grave concern in our society, a practice that not only deprives children of their rightful childhood but also poses long-lasting repercussions on their lives. According to the fifth National Family Health Survey conducted between 2019 and 2021, a staggering 23.3% of girls between the ages of 20 and 24 are married before reaching the legal age of 18 years. This statistic serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for collective action to address this issue.

Being encouraged by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation VHAT agreed to join a campaign "Child Marriage Free India" on Monday, the 16th of October 2023, aims to eliminate child marriage in India by 2030, thereby saving 1.5 million girls getting married each year. The campaign was being run with the focus on implementing the existing government policies and laws in the country that ensure child protection, health and education.

VHAT and its network organization organized this campaign in Tripura in all eight districts on the same day.



Awareness Campaign for 'Child Marriage Free India' with School Adolescents in Durjoynagar, West Tripura District



# WELFARE OF PWD(DIVYANGJAN)

- ♠ SNAC Tripura under the National Trust
- ♠ Indus Towers Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
- ♠ Shantineer- Half Way Home
- ♠ State Consultation On Accessibility Built Environment
- ♠ Regional level Sensitization Programme on Understanding Deafblindness
- ♠ Early Identification of Disabilities among Children

## VHAT stall draws public attention at DK Mela

**Observer Reporter**

**Agartala: Feb 11.** In the six day special Divya Kala Mela, organized at the Children's Park here, the well decorated stall of VHAT (Voluntary Health Association of Tripura) received a lot of attention from the public.

The leading social organization of the state, the Voluntary Health Association of Tripura,

played an important role in raising awareness among the people during the fair. The national trusts under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been working across the country for the welfare of autism, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities, and intellectual disability.

The Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, a registered organization of the

National Trust in the state, has been working for a long time. VHAT participated in the Divya Kala Mela this year.

In the event, the public was aware of various schemes of the national trust and this will end today. Along with that, honey, bamboo products, and garments produced by the differently abled people exhibited their products and sold them from

*See on P-3*



**Dr.Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director, VHAT, Smitha Mol M.S., Director, Social Welfare & Social Education, Tripura and Achintam Kilikdar, Deputy Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Tripura, during State Consultation on Accessibility Built Environment**



# VHAT -STATE NODAL AGENCY CENTRE TRIPURA

## UNDER THE NATIONAL TRUST

VHAT is a registered organization under the National Trust a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India (Under section 12 (4) of the Act). The Registration No. TVOL17519675538. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, Voluntary Health Association of Tripura has been working as the State Nodal Agency (SNAC) of Tripura, under National Trust and was implementing various activities of the National Trust for welfare of the person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities in this state. VHAT is the member of Local Level Committee (LLC) in three districts of Tripura viz. South Tripura District, North Tripura District and Unokoti District.

### As per National Trust norms, VHAT implemented following activities in 2023-24:

- ♣ World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2023 by lightening the office premises of the organization in **Blue-Yellow** colour as per guideline of the National Trust, for creation of awareness among the community.
- ♣ In 2023-2024, VHAT enrolled 123 (One hundred twenty-three) new beneficiaries for Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme and did renewal of the Health Cards for 3(three) beneficiaries in this scheme.
- ♣ As a SNAC under the National Trust VHAT organized a Drawing Competition cum Awareness discussion under the scheme Badhte kadam on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 for creating awareness about various schemes of National Trust and involving Divyangjans in the activity for their inclusion in the society.
- ♣ Voluntary Health Association of Tripura observed International Day of Sign Languages on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023 in the Conference Hall of VHAT in presence of social activists from the various organizations throughout the state.
- ♣ Voluntary Health Association of Tripura organized “Swacchata Hi Sewa” for Garbage free India on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.
- ♣ VHAT took a part in the Celebration of District Level International Day for Persons with Disabilities-2023 at A.D. Nagar H.S. School playground on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023 and highlighted the schemes of National Trust for the welfare of the Divyangjans in the said event.
- ♣ From 7<sup>th</sup> December to 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, we organized “BADTHEKADAM” – a community awareness activity regarding the schemes of National Trust for the welfare of PWDs (autism, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and multiple disability) through distribution of 2500 number printed **leaflets and posters**.
- ♣ VHAT took a part in Khelo Tripura Para Games 2023 as a part of the stall of Social Welfare and Social Education Dept. Govt. of Tripura which was held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at Swami Vivekananda Maidan of Agartala.
- ♣ VHAT as a Local level committee member for issuing Legal Guardianship under the chairmanship of District Magistrate and Collector of North, South and Unakoti District of Tripura. VHAT issued 09 (nine) Legal Guardianship Certificates for the benefit of the PwDs.
- ♣ From 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 24 Voluntary Health Association of Tripura Participated in **Divya Kala Mela** on behalf of the National Trust at Children’s Park of Agartala. The stall of VHAT drew public attention in the mela with the products manufactured by the DPOs members. These DPOs were formed by VHAT





# **INDUS TOWERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Since 2016, VHAT has been collaborating in various activities with Shishu Sarothi , an organization based in Guwahati, dedicated to early intervention and rehabilitation, education, advocacy, awareness, and the protection of rights for children and individuals with disabilities in North-East India. In relation to this we have been actively involved in implementing a Scholarship Program, aiming to empower students with disabilities to pursue higher education. Our goal is to counteract the declining trend and significant drop in the number of students with disabilities in higher education while fostering employment opportunities and the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the mainstream.

The Indus Towers Scholarship Program ([www.ssscholarship.org](http://www.ssscholarship.org)), a CSR initiative of Indus Towers Ltd, implemented by Shishu Sarothi was launched in 2016 ,where VHAT was the local partner for Tripura State, to encourage and support students with disability. From Tripura, 51 students have already benefited from the scholarship support in pursuing their higher education, many of them securing jobs and leading a life of dignity and financial independence. This year **11** students/scholars were selected from different parts of Tripura for scholarship. The selected students would receive support for their educational expenses until the completion of their courses, and some needy students would also receive additional assistance for study materials, assistive devices, hostel fees and conveyance.

Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony of the "Indus Towers Scholarship Program" was held on 21st November 2023 in DDRC Hall Shyamali Bazar Agartala, where Scholarship certificates were given to 11 selected students. Among the dignitaries Ms.Seema J.,Project Coordinator , Shishu Sarothi, Ms.Rina Moirangthem, O & M Head of Indus Tower Ltd , North East , Mr. Achintam Kilikder, Deputy Commissioner (PWD), Gov of Tripura and Mr.Pratip Brata Bhattacharjee, Branch Officer, Higher Education, Gov of Tripura were present in this ceremonial event.



**Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony of the "Indus Towers Scholarship Program" on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 in DDRC Hall Shyamali Bazar Agartala.**



**Training of the female inmates of Half Way Home for making paper bags**



**Door Mat making training of the female inmates of Half Way Home**



# SHANTINEER- HALF WAY HOME(HWH)

This was new initiative of VHAT with support from the Social Welfare & Social Education Department under Government of Tripura. This shelter home is for the welfare & rehabilitation of persons living with mental illness who have been cured, who do not need further hospitalization, who are homeless & who are not accepted by their families or guardians and are in need of shelter, care and protection. To meet this objective, the Govt. of Tripura has established 'SHANTINEER'—a Half Way Home at Narsingarh, West Tripura wherein 25 female and 25 male cured mental patients can be accommodated.

VHAT could initiate this project in October 2023 with 25 female inmates sent by the Modern Psychiatric Hospital, Narsingarh. In March 2024, again 15 male inmates were sent to Half Way Home by the Modern Psychiatric Hospital (MPH).



Female inmates of Shantineer



Male inmates with the Doctor of MPH & the Project Coordinator

## Services provided to the inmates:

- 14 fulltime staff were engaged for the HWH
- Food: we were providing Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner and two times tea & snacks as per the diet chart approved by MPH.
- All necessary warm clothes & regular dresses were given
- **Regular Health Check-up** were done for all the inmates by the Doctors of MPH. Two fulltime residential Nurses taking care of their hygiene, giving them medicines & looking after whether they were taking food Properly. The MPH provided the list of medicines being administered to the inmates during handing over of the inmates from MPH to the SHANTINEER – Half Way Home
- In case of relapse of symptoms, immediately they were shifted to MPH until their symptoms subsided.
- Engaging the inmates in some activities: So far we arranged 'Training of the female inmates of Half Way Home for making paper bags' & 'Door Mat making training of the female inmates of Half Way Home'
- Repatriation/ Integration into family: On regular basis, our staff did home visits, discussed with the family members for taking back them in their original families. We also communicated with local leaders, panchayat Members and religious leaders. **So far we could reintegrate five female inmates with their families.** We would continue the reintegration process as these cured mentally ill persons have the right to live with the families.
- The MPH was the inspecting authority for the SHANTINEER - Half Way Home

# STATE CONSULTATION ON ACCESSIBILITY BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The State Consultation on Accessible Built Environment was organized by Shishu Sarothi and VHAT in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Social Education, Government of Tripura on December 2, 2023 at Agartala ,in the conference hall of Directorate of Social Welfare & Social Education, Tripura. It was organized to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2023 which is celebrated this year with the theme “United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities,” and, ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities is the first step towards inclusion. In the beginning Madam Smitha Mol, M.S.(IAS) Director, Social Welfare & Social Education, Tripura addressed the participants. Thereafter, Mr.Achintam Kilikdar, Deputy Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Tripura, began his address by sharing that the Rights of Person with Disabilities Act, 2016 which replaces the earlier Person with Disabilities Act, 1995 is a comprehensive legal framework that reflects a commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible society.

**Participants:** Total 37 people, including state- and district-level officials from government departments, like Public Works (Roads), Public Works (Building), Municipal Council, Urban Development, Rural Development, Transport, Housing & Construction Board, Social Welfare & Education and one representative from All Tripura Blind Association.

## Working Session on Accessible Built – Environment:

Ms. Amvalika Senapati, Deputy Director, Shishu Sarothi, conducted the working session on Built-Environment Accessibility. She initiated the session with concept of disability and rights-based approach. She shared the various barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the society such as, physical, social, institutional and communication barriers and said that addressing these barriers are essential for creating inclusive and accessible environment. She showed pictorial presentation depicting various barriers in the built-environment.

Thereafter she highlighted upon the concept of accessibility and its importance and emphasized that accessibility plays an important role in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and disability as it enables a person with disability to access good education, which ensures good job opportunity or livelihood options, thereby leading to economic empowerment and reducing their dependence on other for their survival. She also shared that accessibility also ensures that persons with disabilities are able to live a life with dignity, respect and independence and get equal opportunities to participate. Accessibility includes both physical and virtual environment of a person, as well as rules, policies, practices and attitudes of people affecting the lives of persons with disabilities. As per the Right of Person with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 the provisions vis-à-vis the built - environment, stipulates that :

- No establishment shall be granted permission to build any structure if the building plan does not adhere to the rules notified in this regard.
- No establishment shall be issued a certificate of completion or allowed to take occupation of a building unless it has adhered to the rules.

This was followed the interaction / Queries from Participants.



Working session in progress



Interaction / Queries from Participants



# REGIONAL LEVEL SENSITIZATION ON UNDERSTANDING DEAFBLINDNESS

This was organized in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi Deafblind Regional Centre, Guwahati, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 in VHAT Hall at Kunjaban, Agartala, where 42 persons from 10 NGOs participated. In initial discussion Dr.Sreelekha Ray,ED of VHAT expressed her thoughts about Deafblindness, seeking everyone's attention on the topic & invited all to come together to raise awareness and be sensitized about the nature and needs of persons with Deafblindness.

The event was moderated by **Mr.Nabajyoti Medhi, DbRC Coordinator.**He talked about the **SPARSH project and the services** provided by team to the deafblind students and their caregivers. In his presentation he shared data on the numbers of students reached so far and spoke about the services provided to Adults with Deafblindness (ADb) including vocational training and income generation support. He also mentioned the support services provided to students living in remote rural areas of Assam.

Then **Mr.Dipam Das Special Educator DbRC** discussed about **different types and causes of Deafblindness** (e.g. Rubella/Usher/Charge/ Waarden burg Syndrome). He also discussed the **teaching methodology** used by Special Educators for teaching Db and MSI children. He introduced the different **modes of communication** to the participants :- Tactile Sign language/Finger Spelling (American/Indian)/Print on Palm/ Tadoma/ Braille /Lipreading/ Communication Books etc. The participants interacted actively and asked a lot of questions as well. The session ended with every one learning the basics of finger spellings.

**Mr. Kamel Mostafa, Field Worker of the DbRC** team gave abrief presentation on the field work done to identify children with Db and MSI.He shared his experiences from the field and shared few simple methods of screening and assessment by which a normal person without a medical background can do basic screening before a formal clinical assessment.He urged everyone's support in making the SPARSH network bigger so that more children across Northeast can be reached by DbRC



Sensitization Program on Understanding Deafblindness in VHAT Hall on 22-12-2023



Training on early identification of Disability with AWW in

## EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DISABILITIES AMONG CHILDREN

Two workshops on 'Early Identification of Disabilities among Children' were organized with -1)ASHA workers 29/01/2024 in collaboration with West Bhubanban UPHC & 2) Anganwadi workers of Bishalgarh block of Sepahijala district on 30/02/2024 in Community Hall of Gokulnagar panchayat.

Facilitator was Mr.Dhanajit Kalita, Senior Physiotherapist, Shishu Sarothi, Guwahati, Assam. We organized these sensitization workshops as partner of Shishu Sarothi.



Training on early identification of Disability with ASHA Workers



# LIVELIHOOD & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

♠ Jan Shikshan  
Sansthan Dhalai

♠ Integrated Tribal  
Development  
Project

♠ Micro Enterprise  
Development  
Project (MEDP)

♠ Livelihood  
Enterprise  
Development  
Project (LEDP)

♠ Capacity Building  
for Adoption of  
Technology (CAT)  
on Fishery &  
Floriculture

♠ Rural HAAT in  
Madhupur



**Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh –JSS Dhalai**



**General Health Camp under Integrated Tribal Development Project**



# JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN DHALAI

**Background:** Jan Shikshan Sansthan is one of the important scheme under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Government of India. Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) has been implementing JSS in Dhalai district of Tripura as JSS Dhalai since October 2021. JSS Dhalai covered entire Dhalai District and providing vocational skill training in non-formal mode reaching to the unreached areas in the age group of 15-45 years. The priority groups are women, SC, ST, Minorities and other backward sections of the society. We work at the door step of the beneficiaries with a minimum infrastructure and resources through forming and mobilising Self Help Groups (SHGs), loan mobilization and establishing linkages with mainstream markets for sustainable livelihood generation.

## **Physical Progress for the year 2023-24:**

The courses offered in the JSS were a blend of technical and employability skills. This enabled the beneficiaries in learning the right set of skills to be utilised for gainful self/wage employment.

The physical progress for the year 2023-24 was as follows:

Sl. No.	Key activity mandate / Vocational Training	Targeted number of beneficiaries	Achievement
1	Assistant Dress Maker	320	320
2	Layerman	40	40
3	MES - Jaggery Producer	40	40
4	Helper- Two/Three Wheeler Mechanic	80	80
5	Beauty Care Assistant	320	320
6	Rural Mason- Helper	40	40
7	Helper Electrical Technician	120	120
8	Assistant-Fruits and Vegetable Processing and Preservation	120	120
9	Assistant Artisan- Bamboo Craft	120	120
10	Assistant Hand Embroider	200	200
11	Stringing/Beading Artisan (Fashion Jewellery)	40	40
12	Assistant Computer Operator	160	160
13	Painting Helper	40	40
14	Handloom Weaving - Multi Treadles	120	120
15	General Assistant-Furniture and Fittings Installation	40	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>

## **Others Activities:**

During the FY 2023-24, JSS Dhalai had organized various activities and celebration of important days in different training centres. The events were-World Health Day , Labour Day,G20 Jan bhagidari, International Yoga Day, World Population Day, Drawing Competition on Azad Bharat, Independence Day, Swachaata Hi Seva, Gandhi Jayanti, Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, Rastriya Ekta Diwas, Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas, Constitution Day, Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav, Kokborok Day, Republic Day, International Mother Language Day,International Women's Day.

## **Capacity building Workshop:**

As per the suggestions of the Ministry, JSS Dhalai had participated in a capacity-building workshop for Jan Shikshan Sansthan at Sinhgard Institute of Technology, Lonavala, Maharashtra and also organized a capacity-building program for resource persons (Trainer) at PRTI, Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura

## **PM Vishwakarma Scheme (Additional Target):**

JSS Dhalai has implemented PM Vishwakarma skill training on two trades –i) Tailoring (Darzi) and ii) Assistant Hair Dresser. The total target was given for each trade is 120 and till March 2024 ,we have completed the first batch for basic skilling (Tailor) of 30 candidates.



# INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## UNDER TDF OF NABARD

Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) has been implementing the Integrated Tribal Development project in Laljuri Block of North Tripura District. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved the project and providing financial support for implementation in 2018.

Three ADC villages Chandipur, Kanchancherra, Joymani Para of Laljuri block were covered under this project targeting 300 Acre of WADI development.

The prime objective of the project is to improve the socio economic conditions of the participating tribal families besides addressing the ecological concerns of the selected areas by the end of the project period.

### Major Components under the projects were:

- Horticultural Orchard Development (WADI)
- Health Camps (General/ Special on Eye & RCH)
- Training (WADI Development/ Mushroom/ Backyard Poultry)
- Water source development( Small Ponds/ Water Tank with Lifting Facility)
- Awareness Programme ( Anti Drug and Tobacco Control/ Digital Financial Literacy/ Legal Awareness)

### Cumulative progress up to March 2024 :

- Legal Awareness Campaign, Gender Sensitization, Health and Nutrition – 11 number of campaigns
- Awareness campaign on Digital Financial Literacy, Anti-Drug and Anti-Tobacco- 9 campaigns
- 300 Horticulture Orchard Development ( WADI)
- General Health Camps and Special camps on Eye & RCH -14 camps
- Skill based Training on WADI development for the farmers- 7 trainings
- Farm water reservoir cum storages developed on individual model 180 farmers and 120 established in cluster
- Trainings on backyard poultry management with 150 participants
- Training on WADI development- 10 trainings
- Pressure cooker distribution to 50 beneficiaries as component of women development support



Visit of NABARD's Officials in project area



Digital Financial Literacy Awareness Program with the Beneficiaries

# MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MEDP)

VHAT has been implementing various 'Micro Entrepreneurship Development Programme' to upgrade the skill of rural women on livelihood activities with support from NABARD Tripura office. Apart from the skill development, this activities were also aimed to build the basic entrepreneurship knowledge among the members of the Women Self Help Groups. In 2023-24, one training on 'Bee Keeping' was organized in Chhamanu Block under Dhalai district for 30 women members of SHG on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Facilitator of this training was Mr. Priyalal Chakma, who works as Master Trainer for Bee Keeping training. He is also a successful entrepreneur on honey production. One exposure visit for the trainees was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 'Tripura Khadi & Village Industries Board' in Agartala Jail Ashram Road



**Training on Bee Keeping**



**Exposure visit on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 'Tripura Khadi & Village Industries Board' in Agartala Jail Ashram Road**

## LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT(LEDPP)

As part of promotion of livelihood activities, VHAT has been implementing "Livelihood Entrepreneurship Development Project" on Self employed Tailoring for one year in Krishnanagar village at Rishyamukh Block under South Tripura district. The training was conducted for 5 days for each batch of 30 women candidates. Totally training for three batches comprising 90 women were completed in the month of September 2023. After the skill up gradation training, one exposure visit had organized to Garments manufacturing / production unit in Indranagar, Agartala, opposite to IT Bhavan. During this exposure visit, the organizers discussed about the market survey and marketing techniques to enhanced the knowledge of the trainees. The trainees were mentally encouraged to start the production. Among 90 trained women 15 of them already purchased their own tailoring machine & started the productions. One refresher Training would be done in the next year to gear up their skill.





# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGY (CAT) ON FLORICULTURE & FISHERY

The Capacity Building for Adoption of Technology (CAT) is one of the unique schemes of NABARD for the farmers in respect of livelihood enhancement through knowledge sharing and building the self capacity by adopting the latest techniques of any sector. Under this scheme, VHAT had conducted two exposure visits cum training for the farmers for increasing their learning and sharing experience.

- i) Floriculture- exposure visit was organized for the farmers engaged in flower cultivation, to Dakshin Charaikheya United club, POPI under NABARD at Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
- ii) Fishery- farmers who are doing fish culture went for exposure visit cum Training at ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Resource) salt lake sector Kolkata and IBRAD, Kolkata, in West Bengal



## RURAL HAAT IN MADHUPUR

With support from NABARD Regional Office, Tripura, VHAT initiated 'Rural Hut' project in Madhupur Gram Panchayat, Bishalghar under Sepahijala District. It would be an integrated rural marketing facility for Artisan and Small Scale Entrepreneurs to display and sell their product particularly for those who have no individual and separate marketing facilities. The foundation stone was laid down on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, jointly by Smt. Antara Sarkar Deb, Hon'ble MLA of Kamalasagar Constituency and Sri Diganta Kumar Das, DGM NABARD, Tripura Regional Office. Smt Ratna Sarkar, Pradhan of Madhupur Gram Panchayat, and Mr. Sujit Ghosh, Assistant Director of Voluntary Health Association of Tripura were also present in this ceremony.



**Inauguration of Rural Hut in Madhupur**

**Sri Diganta Kumar Das, DGM NABARD, Tripura Regional Office during inauguration of Rural Hut in Madhupur**



# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

♠ Shelter House for Urban Homeless

♠ 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of VHAT

♠ C-20 Chaupal & Civil 20 dialogues on Good Governance

♠ Mahila Udyogi Mela and observation of International Women's Day

♠ Round Table Discussion on Drug-addiction & Antibiotic Resistance





# ■ SHELTER HOUSE FOR URBAN HOMELESS

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) is a scheme under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Its aim is to providing shelters equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces. Homeless persons include persons who do not have a house, either self-owned or rented, but instead live and sleep on pavements, at parks, railway stations, bus stations and places of worship, outside shops and factories, at construction sites, under bridges and other places under the open sky or places unfit for human habitation. During last one year VHAT had various meetings with the TULM state office regarding the shelter house operation. Finally in January 2024, two shelter houses, one in Radhanagar, Agartala & another in Udaipur Gomati district were handed over to VHAT.

## Objectives:

- To ensure availability and access of the urban homeless population to shelters including the basic infrastructure facilities like water supply, sanitation, safety and security; these shelter houses were constructed for the shelter of the urban homeless & were managed by the ULBs previously.
- Cater to the needs of especially vulnerable segments of the urban homeless like the dependent children, aged, disabled, mentally ill and recovering gravely ill, by creating special sections within homeless shelters and provisioning special service linkages for them;
- To provide access to various entitlements, viz. social security pensions, PDS, ICDS, identity, financial inclusion, education, affordable housing etc. for homeless populations.



Organic Farming at top roof of Shelter House



Flex Posting of Shelter House for the outreach work

## Activities & progress after taking over since January 2024 :

- **Staff recruitment & orientation:** 5(five) staff (Caretaker, Cook cum Caregivers, Warden cum Security, Outreach Worker & Cleaner) were engaged to operate in each shelter house. We organized orientation for the staff to run the shelter house, to take care of the existing inmates and also took initiatives for promotion and other technical aspects of the shelter house.
- **Support to the inmate:** Special care was taken to the existing inmate like balanced diet, regular medical check-up & providing essential medicine.
- **Meeting with various Stakeholders:** like police personnel, AMC officials, bazaar committee, vehicle syndicate, club members, railway station etc.
- **Outreach for the Inmates:** Presently 2 (two) inmates are staying in the shelter permanently. To disseminate the information about the facilities in shelter house we have visited the Chandrapur, Nagerjala & Radhanagar bus stand. Organized meeting with vehicle drivers & the passengers for increasing the number of inmates. In the last three months 187 got the staying facility in the shelter.
- **Maintenance of cleanliness of the Shelter House:** The Cleaner regularly cleaned the shelter house, washed the cloths & bed sheets.

- **Banner & Postering:** We have posted several banners at Chandrapur, Nagerjala & Radhanagar bus stand, GB Bazar, Jogendranagar & Agartala railway station..
- **Visits to various places (Govt & Private):** We have visited various officials in Police Stations, Clubs, Bazaar Committees, Bus Stands, Railway Station etc. to spread the messages to help the people who need shelter.
- **Started Gardening & Organic Farming:** We have done the flower gardening in front of the shelter for beautification & to make it attractive. Staff are also doing organic farming in the roof top of the shelter .

## **35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TRIPURA**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Voluntary Health Association of Tripura had two parts- the business session and a theme session . The business session was held at Training Hall in VHAT office , Kunjaban , Agartala, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 and workshop on the theme '**Risk Management and Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance**' was organized in Sahid Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel Hall at Khejur Bagan , Agartala, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The Bussiness session was started at 2.00 pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

Ms.Sikha Saha Das , President of VHAT, chaired the session and extended a hearty welcome to all the members. Then she declared the meeting open and took up the agenda for negotiations:

➤Mr.Joydeep Bhusan , staff of VHAT- JSI Project, was selected as Recording Secretary of the Business Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. His name was proposed by Mr.Meghnad Debnath and seconded by Mr.Uttam Kumar Das..

➤Roll call: VHAT AGM Resolution Book was circulated and obtained signature of the members. Out of 64 members 47 (forty seven) members participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Voluntary Health Association of Tripura .

➤Hence the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM had the requisite attendance to meet the requirement of the quorum.

Following agenda were approved after discussion-

- To approve and adopt the minutes of 34<sup>th</sup> AGM of VHAT.
- Presentation of the Annual Report of 2022-2023 by the Secretary
- Presentation of the Financial Reports of 2022-2023, by the Treasurer
- Discussion on report of Secretary & Treasurer
- Presentation and discussion on the Internal Monitoring & Evaluation Report of VHAT for FY 2022-2023
- Discussion & Approval of reviewed version VHAT Child Safeguarding Policy the drafts of which were circulated to all the Members on **9<sup>th</sup> June,2023.**
- Appointment of Auditor for the year 2023 – 2024
- To receive and approve the Plan & Budget of 2023 – 2024
- Resolution to apply for financial support for the five CCIs to the Director of Social Welfare and Social Education through the DISE/DCPO of the respective district , for FY 2024-2025
- Selection of representative for VHAI's next AGBM
- Open House Discussion & presentation from the Member Organizations.

In the end of this session following Member Organizations presented their gist activities and challenges faced by them-

- Dr.Indrajit Debnath,Society for Alternative Thinking & Action.
- Mr.Ajit Paul, Science Club,Kadamtala
- Mr.Subrata Acharjee, Bodhan Social Welfare Organization
- Mr.Meghnad Debnath, Bidyasagar Samaj Kalyan Sansad
- Mr.Binoy Paul, Organization for Rural Survival
- Dr. Pranab Paul, Ushajyoti Social Organization
- Mr.Uttam Kumar Das, Prachesta Social Welfare Society &Mrs. Mithu Debnath, Dinkaal Welfare Society





**35<sup>th</sup> Annual  
General  
Meeting of  
Voluntary  
Health  
Association  
of Tripura**

## ■ **C-20 CHAUPAL ON ART, CRAFT, HERITAGE AND CULTURE & CIVIL 20 DIALOGUES ON GOOD GOVERNANCE**

### **C20 CHAUPAL on Art, Craft, Heritage, Culture :-**

C-20 India 2023 was one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20 that provides a platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSO) around the world to voice people's aspirations to the World Leaders in G20. It gave CSOs a forum to protect the agency of this sector, reflect the primary and common concerns affecting the people of the world, and to promote social and economic development with the vision of leaving no one behind. There are 14 Working Groups under C-20. One very important group was preservation and conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts and Culture; Traditional and Innovative Ways of Livelihood and Employment.

As a part of the outreach activity, one C-20 Chaupal was held on **25<sup>th</sup> April at Agartala**. This was jointly organized by Voluntary Health Association of Tripura and Lalit Kala Academy, Agartala. There were 54 participants from different sections of the society i.e. art - crafts community, representatives from cultural sector, drama units , Bamboo Mission & students of rural development of Tripura University . Various issues were discussed related to the sectors ,mainly how to preserve our own culture, heritage and how to create innovative livelihood opportunities through arts and crafts.

Milind Arlokor, member of C-20 working Group virtually joined in the event as virtually. Sujit Ghosh, Assistant Director of Voluntary Health Association of Tripura delivered the welcome address. Other dignitaries were- Tapati Bhowmik (Majumder), Senior eminent Artist, .Abhijit Bhattacharjee, Principal, Govt. Art Collage, Agartala, Abhinav Kant, Project Coordinator, NACTAR, Chandan Debnath, Member of Bharatiya Itihas Sonkolon Samiti , Tripura , Haridhan Jha, Project Director Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India and Shri. Subhas Das, Additional Mission Director, Tripura Bamboo Mission.

### **Civil 20 dialogues on Good Governance:**

India has been celebrating G-20 presidency in 2023 and Civil 20 is one of the official engagement group of G-20. There are 14 different working groups under C20 and Sewa- Sense of service, Philanthropy and Volunteerism. As a part of the Sewa working group one Civil 20 Dialogues on Good Governance was held at Agartala on **7th of May 2023**.

Voluntary health Association of Tripura in collaboration with Indian Social Responsibility Network, New Delhi organized this event. The program was inaugurated by the patron of Civil 20 under G20, and president of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Dr.Vinay Sahasrabuddhe. Other guests present were- Shri Santosh Gupta, India coordinator, SEWA working group of Civil 20 under G20 & CEO of ISRN. Dr. Satyadeo Poddar, Vice Chancellor of MBB University, Shri Diganta Kumar Das, DGM of NABARD, Tripura Regional office, Executive Director of Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Dr Sreelekha Ray. In the inaugural session, Shri Santosh Gupta briefed about the concept of G20 and Civil 20. Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe in his deliberation described the aspects of Good Governance and how CSOs can apply this in their own spaces. He stressed on the professionalism while providing the services and quality of thinking for planning.

There was one panel session which was chaired by Dr. Arobindo Mahato , Regional Director of IGNOU, Agartala, and other members of the panel were-Dr. Sanjoy Rudrapal, SPO, RCH, Dept. of Health and Family welfare. Dr Chandrani Biswas, DPO & DCPO, Dept of Social Welfare and Social Education, Dr Sanchita Roy, Deputy Director, Department of Tribal Welfare and Dr Dipayan Ghosh, Chief Operating Officer, Tripura Rural

Livelihood Mission. In the session, discussions mainly were held on services or schemes of the respective departments and how the community participation could be increased in respect of good governance. Participants were also interacted with the panelists and several queries were also answered. The program concluded with the final remarks by Sri Sujit Ghosh, Assistant Director of VHAT & Member of C20 working Group. He thanked everyone for their time and contribution to make the C20 dialogues on Good Governance successful.

## **MAHILA UDYOGI MELA AND OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

### **Mahila Udyogi Mela:**

VHAT organized a three-day "Mahila Udyogi Mela" (Women Entrepreneurs' Fair) in front open space of Rabindra Bhavan, Agartala. The fair showcased the talents and products of women entrepreneurs, providing them with a platform to showcase their skills and promote their businesses. Cultural programs added vibrancy to the event, celebrating the rich diversity of women's contributions to society. On 6<sup>th</sup> March the Mela was inaugurated by Smt. Jharna Debbarma, Chairperson of Tripura Commission for Women. Other dignitaries remain present were Ms. Supriti Chakraborty from Directorate of Skill Development, Ms. Purnima Roy, Vice Chairperson, Tripura Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank and Dr. Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director, VHAT. Shri Diganta Kumar Das, Deputy General Manager, NABARD presided over the event.

### **International Women's Day:**

Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) with support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated International Women's Day at the Press Club in Agartala on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries including **Padmashree Awardee Srimati Rekha Chakma**, Smt. Shipra Das, Officer In-Charge of East Agartala Police Station, Smt. Bina Debi Harijon, Principal of Shri Shri Ravishankar Vidyamandir & Social Activist, Smt. Payel Saha, Regional Manager of Tripura Gramin Bank, Dr. Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director, VHAT and members of various Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The celebration commenced with motivational stories shared by the distinguished guests, highlighting the resilience and achievements of women from diverse backgrounds. A technical session was conducted by advocates, bankers, and representatives from the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM), providing valuable insights and guidance to the attendees.

Shri Diganta Kumar Das, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the bank's commitment to women's empowerment and sharing the remarkable achievements of NABARD in this domain. He highlighted various initiatives and schemes implemented by the bank to support and empower women entrepreneurs and self-help groups across the state.

The International Women's Day celebration by NABARD aimed to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of women in various spheres of life, while also fostering an environment that encourages and supports their growth and empowerment.



**Padmashree Awardee Srimati Rekha Chakma during celebration of International Women's Day**



# ☐ ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON DRUG-ADDICTION & ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 VHAT organized a “Roundtable Discussion on Drug- addiction and Anti-biotic Resistance” In conference hall of Hotel Ginger, Agartala. Participants were from various departments and organisations like NYK, Directorate of Social Welfare, TSCPCR, Women Commission, RIPSAT, Police, CWC Sepahijala, MPH, SIPARD, National Law University, NABARD, Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission, Child Welfare Committee, Media and NGOs like Yuva Vikash Kendra & Tripura Adibashi Mahila Samiti.

During welcome address, Dr. Sreelekha Ray Executive Director of VHAT pointed out few issues relating to the topic of drug addiction and anti-biotic resistance with her experiences in the field. She also set the tune of the meeting and urged the participants to share their views and opinions.

**Smt. Jharna Debbarma**, Chairperson Tripura Commission for Women discussed about the effects of drug-addiction and how women are suffering. She raised important issues- creation of more awareness in the community, reducing child marriage, strict action to be taken against the persons deal with drug trading and supply.

**Dr. Rashi Raj Chhetree**: I/C Principal of Regional Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Agartala shared various aspect relating to antibiotic resistance with PPT. **Prof. Indraneel Bhowmik** of Tripura University, raised the concern on young generation addicted by drug and also informed that the govt. should look after this matter seriously. He has requested to all the participants to keep working on drug abuse and take part in the preventive activities.

**Dr. Joyshree Das**, Clinical Psychologist, Modern Psychiatric Hospital discussed about symptoms of drug addiction with emphasis on awareness activities to control drug abuse with help from ASHA workers, CHOs, Schools, University. She also gave the helpline number to helps the drug addiction victims.

**Mr. Sourav Sen**, Deputy SP, West Tripura office briefed about the law and roles of their work and few success stories. He also mentioned that police will do whatever necessary actions for combating the drug abuse within law.

**Smt. Sharmila Choudhury**, Member of TSCPCR discussed the role of family to play while nurturing the children. The teenage children must get more attention from the parents as well from the teachers. **Dr. Dipayan Ghosh**, Chief Operating Officer of TRLM raised the gender specific issues and how the drug addiction rising day by day in the state. The platform of rural women as Self Help Group (SHG) can be utilized to do more preventive activities on drug addiction.

**Dr. Rajib Malakar**: of SIPARD, discussed on Nisha Mukti scheme in Tripura. He also recommended 5 ways to control the drugs addiction on primary level, secondary level, advocacy level, capacity building and training to all departments to work together. **Adv Ashmita Banik**, Chairperson CWC(W), delivered about necessity of awareness of the about ill effects of drug abuse.

**Mr. Sanjoy Sen**, Reporter, Tripura Darpan, discussed on counselling of the children specially to aware them about drug abuse.

This roundtable discussion provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share best practices, and mobilize collective action to address the complex challenges of drug addiction and antibiotic resistance.

## Key actions points of the discussions:

- The youth and students are to be engaged for creation of awareness
- Education department to take some initiative to drug free mind of school and college students
- The awareness must be done in every district and block level
- Raising awareness through education/training on the prevention of substance abuse and antibiotic resistance.



# ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF 2023-2024

The following tables were filled in based on duly audited accounts of VHAT for the financial year ending on 31st March 2024

## 1. BALANCE SHEET

All figures are Rs. in Lacs

Assets as on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Fixed Assets	221.6843755	243.5953774
Investments	188.2718515	195.8031315
Loans & Advances	0	0
Cash and Bank balances	190.0412251	103.8270034
Other Current Assets,	1.641939	11.8835873
Excess of expenditure over income (if any)	0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>601.6393911</b>	<b>555.1090996</b>
All figures are Rs. In Lacs		
Liabilities as on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Trust/Society/Share-holder funds	0	0
General Fund (unrestricted fund)	272.2738841	299.5101324
Corpus and endowment fund (s)	0.0275	0.0275
Restricted/Earmarked funds	273.82563	310.04653
Grant balances	21.1307987	-87.1862229
Loans and borrowings	0	0
Current Liabilities and provisions	6.91598	12.69253
Excess of income over expenditure (if any)	27.4655983	20.0186301
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>601.6393911</b>	<b>555.1090996</b>

## 2.INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

All figures are Rs. in Lacs

Income for the year ended on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Self generated income	19.94769	20.95684
Donations from Indian sources	26.366035	17.45553
Grants from Indian sources	256.260485	293.9203448
Donations from International sources	0	0
Grants from International sources	303.7596814	102.1495198
Other Income	31.4237916	19.7590176
Excess of expenditure over income (if any)	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>637.757683</b>	<b>454.2412522</b>
All figures are Rs. in Lacs		
Expenditure for the year ended on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Programme	502.30284	394.9167
Pubilic education and fundraising	7.24421	6.5063968
Management and administration	32.0881216	18.2896272
Payments to Beneficiaries	25.46135	0.2
Other expenses	43.1955631	14.3098981
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>610.2920847</b>	<b>434.2226221</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>27.4655983</b>	<b>20.0186301</b>
	<b>637.757683</b>	<b>454.2412522</b>



### 3. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

All figures are Rs. in Lacs

Receipts for the year ended on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Opening Cash and Bank Balance	88.0918969	190.0412251
Self generated income	11.74707	10.26874
Donations from Indian sources	26.366035	17.45553
Grants from Indian sources	315.20044	235.74278
Donations from International sources	0	0
Grants from International sources	299.6859932	88.230963
Sale of investment /assets	10.43511	20.47342
Loans	0	0
Other receipts	73.1172216	20.6991876
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>824.6437667</b>	<b>582.9118457</b>
All figures are Rs. in Lacs		
Payment for the year ended on	03/31/2023	03/31/2024
Capital items / assets purchased for the organisation	0.5387	0.69813
Capital items / assets purchased for the beneficiaries	17.7808	35.72877
Purchase of investment	6	16
Grants / Donations to other Organisations	0	0
Loans and advances	0	0
Other payments	610.2830416	416.310974
Total Payments	634.6025416	468.737874
Closing Cash and Bank Balance	190.0412251	114.1739717
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>824.6437667</b>	<b>582.9118457</b>

4. Major Projects/ Donors of the year (2023-2024)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1) CCIs, Dept. of SW & SE, GoT	2,10,23,068.00
2) Bi The Union Tobacco Control Project (FCRA)	30,89,153.00
3) GIVE India Foundation	11,18,451.00
4) The Miracle Foundation (FCRA)	23,10,797.00
5) Woman Self Help Group, NABARD	13,44,956.00
6) Tribal Development Fund NABARD	40,41,737.00
7) CHILDLINE INDIA FOUNDATION, MoWCD	8,96,630.00
8) Madhupur Rural Hut, NABARD	2,55,000.00
9) Tribal Welfare Department, GoT	26,24,000.00
10) Shantineer Half Way Home, SW & SE, GoT	22,29,296.00
11) PREVENT it (Erasmus)	2,30,855.00
12) Momentum Routine Immunization Transformation & Equity, JSI	40,70,370.00
13) Vital Strategies Tobacco Control Project (FCRA)	5,49,060.00
14) Shelter House for Urban Homeless /TULM	1,50,000.00
<b>TOTAL (Rs.)</b>	<b>4,39,33,373.00</b>

**Transparency & Accountability Disclosures for the Financial year 2023-24**  
**Details of Board Members as on 31-03-2024**

Name	Position on Board	No- of meeting attended	Remuneration and reimbursements in Rs.	Remarks
Ms. Shikha Saha Das	President	5	Zero	
Md.Mokbul Ali	Vice President	4	Zero	
Ms.Banarani Choudhury	Secretary	4	Zero	
Mr.Benudhar Acharya	Assistant Secretary	5	Zero	
Mr. Hari Bhusan Das	Treasurer	5	Zero	
Mr. Partha Sakha Debnath	Member	5	Zero	
Mr. Uttam Kumar Das	Member	5	Zero	
Mr. Meghnad Debnath	Member	5	Zero	
Mr. Asit Chakraborty	Member	5	Zero	
Mr. Biswajit Bhowmik	Member	5	Zero	
Dr. Sreelekha Ray	Ex Officio (Executive Director)	5	372,000.00	

**The distribution of staff according to salary levels as on 31-03-2024**

Slab of gross salary plus benefits (Rs. Per month)	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff
Staff ( per month )			
Less than 5000	2	5	7
5000-10000	19	28	47
10000-25000	21	15	36
25000-50000	6	4	10
50000-100000	1	0	1
Greater than100000	0	0	0
Total	49	52	101

Particulars	Name	Designation	Remuneration (in Rs.) per year
Operational Head of the Organization	Dr. Sreelekha Ray	Executive Director	372,000.00
Highest paid person in the Organization (Staff )	Mr. Sujit Ghosh	Assistant Director	613,647.00
Lowest paid person in the Organization (Staff)	Ms. Sanjita Tripura	Cook of Ratanmani Vidyalaya	60,000.00



# INTERNAL MONITORING, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023 – 2024

For monitoring and evaluating the various projects run by VHAT in 2023-24 the Evaluation, Monitoring and Development Committee (EMDC) used the following **methods** :-

- Project site visits
- Interaction with staff, community and direct beneficiaries
- Combined half yearly and year end meetings with core project staff
- Verification of project reports submitted by the Project Managers /Coordinators

## **Main purposes of EMDC -**

- ♠ Strengthening the accountability to the support agencies and the beneficiaries.
- ♠ Allocation of expenditure as per activities.
- ♠ Improvement of performances by strictly adhering to the timeline
- ♠ Find out the gaps in implementation and correcting these.
- ♠ Measuring impact of the performances with key evidences.

## **Observation and findings:**

### ***Health promotion-***

- In post COVID period much importance was given on Routine Immunization (RI), Tobacco Control & Mental Health of the adolescents.
- Liaison with NHM, Modern Psychiatric Hospital and ECHO India became stronger and fruitful.
- It was came out from the discussion with staff and beneficiaries that work on mental health problems was extremely needed and should be continued in coming years.

### ***Education promotion-***

- This year Ratanmani Vidyalay completed 30 years of its glorious existence in providing quality primary education to tribal children of poor jhumia families. The School could build a new building for extension of hostel for girl children.
- VHAT should take more efforts to increase number of candidates for NIOS courses which were run centrally at Agartala.

### ***Child care & protection-***

- Services for the children in need were lessened as CHILDLINE was shifted from VHAT to the jurisdiction of DCPO.
- Care & other services in the CCIs were as per the guidelines of Mission Vatsalya. CCI staff attended many trainings in and out of the state to enhanced their skill and quality.
- Family based alternative care for the integrated children was broadened in comparison to last year.

### ***Divyangjans-***

- A new addition here was the Half Way Home for cured mentally ill persons. Besides providing essential services, effort was taken for reintegration of them with their families.

### ***Livelihood and skill development*** activities for marginalized people got momentum.

- JSS Dhalai project fulfilled the targeted activities.
- Integrated Tribal Development project in Kanchanpur was rejuvenated.
- Rural Haat in Madhupur under Sepahijal district was added in livelihood promotion.

***Shelter Houses for urban homeless*** in Radhanagar(Agartala) & Udaipur were also new initiatives in 2023-24.

♠ VHAT tried to maintain the guideline for operation of the projects. As every project sanctioned by different funding agencies and respective funding agency has own plan of action, monitoring and reporting system to achieve targeted goals and achievements within set time, so the documentation of activities was done as per requirement of respective funding agency.

♠ For all the projects, monthly meetings of the staff were organized in presence of Executive Director for understanding the mode of operation and achievement.

♠ VHAT intensively worked in collaboration with local government for tobacco control, care of children in need, routine immunization and for all other activities.

♠ The organization has given much importance to enhance the capacity of the staff for better performance through trainings in regional and national level.

### Challenges-

- VHAT could not publish Loka Swasthya Sambad due to absence of proper expertise
- Donations through Give India became very less due to lack of updated campaigns which need support of Technical Person.

### Recommendations-

- Engagement of technical staff (IT)
- Some of the core staff should be equipped for using more and more modern information technology for better monitoring and documentation of activities keeping space with the current time.
- More emphasis should be given for developing the competent second line leadership for the organization at least for sustained projects.



মঙ্গলবার আগরতলা প্রেসক্লাবে ভাট ও ত্রিপুরা জার্নালিস্ট এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে তামাক নিরস্ত্রণ শীর্ষক আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। ছবিঃ প্রাগগোপাল আচার্য

Workshop on Tobacco Control by VHAT & Journalist Association

## টিকাকরণ নিয়ে ভ্যাটের কর্মশালা



আগরতলা, ২৮ নভেম্বর। ভাটের হেলথ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব ত্রিপুরার উদ্যোগে মঙ্গলবার আগরতলার বনেনি হোটেলের কনফারেন্স হলে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় টিকাকরণ নিয়ে রাজ্যস্তরীয় কর্মশালা। মোমেন্টাম রুটিন ইমিউনাইজেশন ট্রাফফরেশন অ্যান্ড ইকুইটি প্রজেক্ট এর অংশ হিসেবে এই কর্মশালায় প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জেলা পরিষদের সভাপতি হরিদুলাল আচার্য। অন্যান্যদের মধ্যে উপস্থিত ছিলেন হেলথ অ্যান্ড ফ্যামিলি ওয়েলফেয়ার সোসাইটি'র মেম্বর সৌক্যেতারি ডাক্তার নৃপেন দেববর্ম। স্টেট ইমিউনাইজেশন অফিসার ডাক্তার শ্রীলাল দেববর্ম, আগরতলা প্রেসক্লাবের সভাপতি জয়ন্ত ভট্টাচার্য, অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের এক্সিকিউটিভ ডিরেক্টর ডাক্তার শ্রীলেখা রায় প্রমুখ। রাজ্য স্বাস্থ্য দপ্তরের সঙ্গে মিলে বিগত ২০২১ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাস থেকে ভাটের হেলথ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন কোভিড-১৯ টিকা নিয়ে মানুষকে সচেতন ও মনিটরিং জেনেশন করার ব্যাপারে কাজ করে চলেছে। ২০২৩ সালের ফেব্রুয়ারি মাস থেকে রুটিন ইমিউনাইজেশনও সচেতন ও মনিটরিং জেনেশন কাজ করেছে ভাট। মূলত সমস্ত কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা ভাগ করে আগামী দিনে আরো বৃহত্তরকারে কাজ করতেই এই কর্মশালার আয়োজন। বিশেষ অতিথিদের হাত ধরে এদিন বিগত দু'বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার রিপোর্ট কার্ডও প্রকাশিত হয়। এই অনুষ্ঠানে রাজ্য এবং জেলা স্তরের স্বাস্থ্য আধিকারিকদের পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন সামাজিক সংস্থা এবং পঞ্চায়েত রাজের সদস্যরা উপস্থিত ছিলেন। বিভাগে সমাজের শেষ স্তরের মানুষটি পর্যন্ত টিকা পৌঁছানো যায় এবং তাদেরকে সচেতন করা যায় সে নিয়ে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা হয়। শেষে অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট ডিরেক্টর সুজিত ঘোষ ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন এর মাধ্যমে অনুষ্ঠানের সমাপ্তি ঘোষণা করেন।

Sandyan Patrika 29th NOV 2023

## ভ্যাটের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সাইন ল্যান্ডুয়েজ ডে পালিত

কিরাৎ বার্তা প্রতিনিধি, আগরতলা, ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর। সারা বিশ্বের সাথেই সামঞ্জস্য রেখে রাজ্যেও পালিত হয় আন্তর্জাতিক সাইন ল্যান্ডুয়েজ ডে। শনিবার রাজ্যের স্বাস্থ্য সামাজিক সংস্থা ভাটের হেলথ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অফ ত্রিপুরার ব্যবস্থাপনায় ভ্যাটের কনফারেন্স হলে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় আলোচনা সভা। আলোচনা চক্রের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন করেন ভ্যাটের এক্সিকিউটিভ ডিরেক্টর ডক্টর শ্রীলেখা রায়। অন্যান্যদের



অভিভাবকরাও অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। রাজ্যে গত এক দশক ধরে এই সংস্থা দিব্যাসঙ্গন ভাই-বোনের স্বার্থে ন্যাশনাল ট্রাস্ট এর রেজিস্টার্ড অর্গানাইজেশন হিসেবে কাজ করে চলেছে। বিভিন্ন ধরনের প্রতিবন্ধীদের আইনগত অভিভাবক প্রদানের পাশাপাশি বিনামূল্যে স্বাস্থ্য বীমার তাদেরকে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার জন্য এই সংস্থা কাজ করে চলেছে বিশেষভাবে। তারই ছয়ের পাতায় দেখুন—

## ভ্যাটের রাজ্যভাষক অঙ্কন প্রাত্যোগতা



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