



Highlights of this Newsletter

(Jan – March 2017)

- Tribal Health Study
- InSIDE Northeast
- Bigyan
- Women's Day Celebration
- Breaking Gender Norms - "Woman on Wheels"

IDEA is a wing of the ant that is meant to support and further the voluntary sector in the region. Since its inception in 2007 it has been involved in capacity building for NGOs in the Northeast, in research and in networking with regional, national and international NGOs. For some glimpses of IDEA initiatives in the region, read on www.theant.org

Tribal Health Inequity Study

The multicentric research project titled "Health Inequities In a Conflict Area - An In-Depth Qualitative Study In Assam" supported by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute For Medical Sciences & Technology is anchored by IDEA. The rationale behind this study is to know how health and health care services are affected in an area which has been affected by conflict and to understand further how other determinants such as loss of livelihoods, land, housing, culture, safety and security contribute to further health inequities. The research is conducted in 6 villages of Chirang District with different ethnic groups belonging to the Bodo, Adivasi and Nepali communities. The study started in March 2016 with training workshops followed by literature review and data collection; as we go to press, the study is in the final stages of data analysis and report writing.

Guns to Pens - InSIDE Northeast



InSIDE Northeast is a partner organization of IDEA involved in a project "Building Young People for Peace & Development" in Saikul, Manipur. Like most other places in the region people of Saikul have experienced violence in the past. The project encourages young people to inculcate a peace building culture through *Shom-in* (young people's parliament), book banks, career counselling and guidance, sports for development, capacity building of community leaders, promotion of youth entrepreneurship, skills training, and through educational tours.



Through this study we hope we shall get a deeper understanding that can help policy makers and planners fine-tune the provisioning of health and health care services in conflict areas. It can help us design programmes and projects that cater to the actual and also differential needs of different populations of people. Knowing the coping mechanisms of different groups of people can help design programmes which can build on these strengths.

Jennifer Liang & Balawansuk Lynrah presented a paper on *Gender & Health - Understanding impacts of conflict on health using a gendered lens*, at a seminar organized by Azim Premji University in Guwahati, Assam.



New beginnings for a new year...

- 3 years project on Stop Domestic Violence supported by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives.
- One year project on Protection Of Rights Of Children Through Improved Social Harmony Among Different Ethnic Communities In Bengtol, Assam.
- Caring for Rights - Building Dialogue & Action for Child Rights in Conflict Affected Villages of Chirang"one year project supported by UNICEF.
- Bigyan - Improving Science Education in Govt. middle schools one year project supported by Child Aid Network.



Women's Day Celebrations!

International Women's Day is always a much-awaited event with our women's federations, who wholly take up the responsibility of organising the event, with meetings and trainings starting a month in advance. This year's theme was **#BE BOLD FOR CHANGE#** and women's day was celebrated in seven different places of Chirang district, with the participation of 1200 women. Fun games such as Tug of war, dancing, and discussions were organized to mark the day. The key note of the event was to declare bold action, and to encourage the participant women who had fearlessly taken a step to improve their or their families' lives or had developed an aspect of livelihoods or more importantly, if they had challenged traditional societal norms that suppressed women.



Working together with schools to improve science education

In 2013, the ant started the Science on Wheels programme in 14 partner schools with an aim to improve the quality of science education in government schools moving from chalk and board methodology to more hands-on science experimental activities by students. Now the project which is supported by Child Aid Network reaches out to 23 schools and has trained 59 teachers

Breaking Gender Norms - "Woman on Wheels"

Ulapi worked with the ant as community youth leader (CYL) in *Sports4Development project*, Bringing up a child on her own after her husband passed away, she took the opportunity that Azad Foundation provided at Jaipur to get enrolled in their "Women on Wheels" program that seeks to empower resource poor women to become professional drivers and enables them to gain remunerative 'livelihoods with dignity'.

With a shy smile on her face Ulapi shared how scared she was when she first arrived in Jaipur. It was totally a new place, and the people and culture were also new, but she eventually got adapted and started to enjoy her driving lessons. There were 6 other women in her batch from different places. They were taught first aid, spoken english, karate for self defence and were oriented on gender.

She feels shy sometimes that men stare at her when they see her driving but she also feels good at the same time to be able to drive a car. Ulapi who now works at the ant, said "Recently when I took the office car to the village, several men looked at me and commented 'sa sa maiki manu hoi gaari jolai ase' (look look!! a woman is driving a car). I now earn an income from driving and am able to take care of myself and my 12 years old son who is studying in class VII." **Her message to other women - Women should learn driving and income like men. Why should only men drive a vehicle? Women can do it as well.**



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We also welcome any feedback on the newsletter. Please do get in touch. Our contact is:

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