

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



UDALGURI (ASSAM)

9	Sub-Districts
2	Towns
800	Villages
11	CD Blocks



ASTHA NGO, UDALGURI

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Chairman's Mouth Piece.



There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.

It's my immense pleasure and pride to be a chairman of the ASTHA N.G.O. since the establishment of the ASTHA N.G.O. Year 2007 the workers of the N.G.O. had rendered its service in the social work and forwarded helping hand to the people of the area. The ASTHA N.G.O. has trade to overcome through various aspects without any distinction of caste, creed and religion. Though the economic condition of ASTHA N.G.O. is insufficient but it has not ceased to render support to the people of the society.

I thank to the secretary of the ASTHA N.G.O. for maintaining and running the N.G.O. smoothly and rendering his valuable time in helping and supporting to the people of the society. I thank all the executive and general members of the N.G.O. for their support. And I thank all the persons who have participated in the programs of Social Work organized by the ASTHA N.G.O.

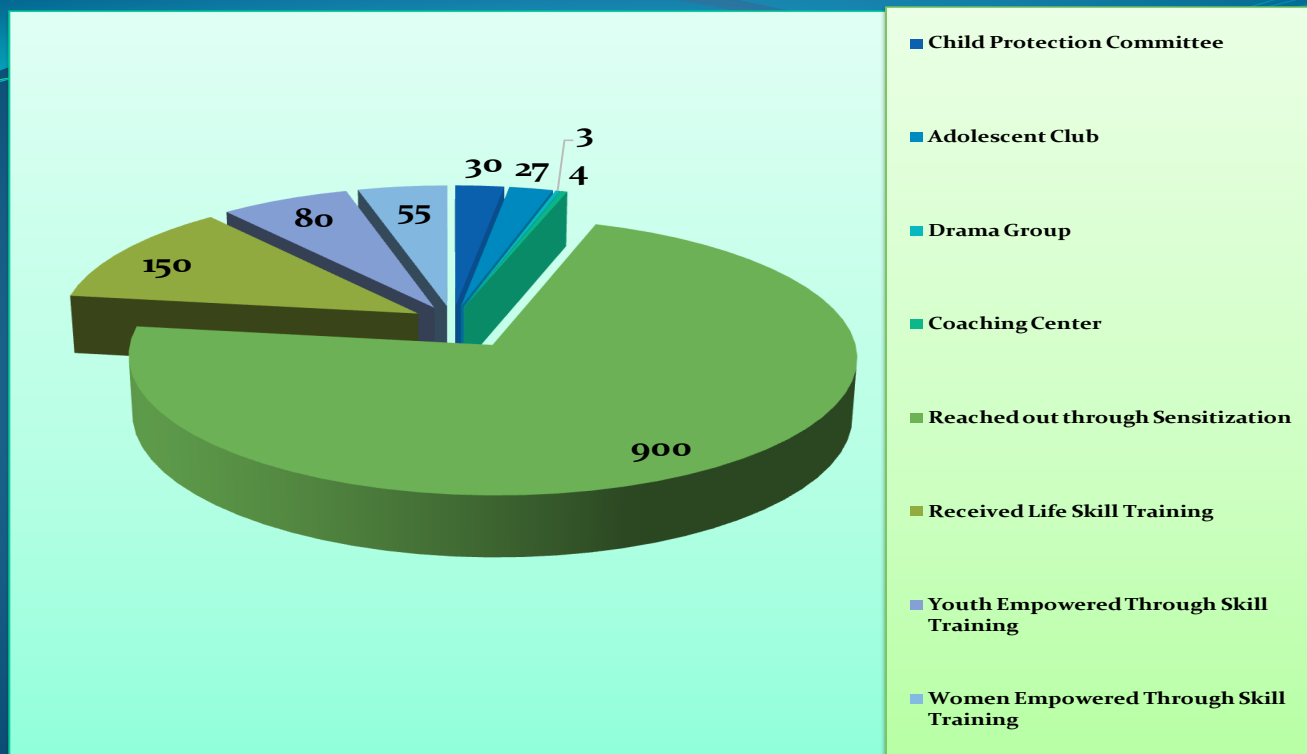
I invite and welcome all the people of the society to participate in any kind of Social Work organized by the ASTHA N.G.O.

Inception of ASTHA NGO

On the 23rd October 2007 under the president ship of Mr.Rihon Daimari Hon,ble Minister of state P.H.E, Assam at Ringu Damssa community hall, Udalguri Nalbari a general meeting was held to form an NGO.ASTHA an NGO for Social Welfare Udalguri is None Govt. Organization based in Udalguri; ASTHA was founded by the group of community elders in 2007, with the aim and vision to work with the poorest and voiceless ethnic communities living in the far flung un-reached villages of BTC, Assam Region of India. The crusade of underdevelopment in Udalguri District and to protect Children, girls and women from various types of atrocities like domestic violence, human trafficking, child prostitution, child labor, child marriage and other forms of exploitation by creating protective environments and also for working overall development of on Key Issues of Agriculture, Drinking Water, Education & Literacy, Health & Family Welfare, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation, Vocational Training to bring holistic development in the community level. Since the inceptions of ASTHA putting great effort to erase the social problems and bring changes in community level but due to the lack of experience and unavailability of qualified person it could not bring much more changes in the backward community. Now, again the young dedicated MSW qualified group came forward to carry out the aim and vision of ASTHA in changing society toward holistic development by contributing their skills and learning.



Ending Violence Against Women and Children in Udalguri District, BTC



Reaching out through Theatre & Drama Child Protection & RTE

Street theatre plays a vital role in educating the masses through enacting plays on society related evil issues. Human trafficking is one of those issues that rankle people even when they are unable to understand its actual shape and scope. So, it is important to educate the displaced vulnerable community and enable them to be aware of the modern day's slavery and its evil effects through the means of different forms of media.

To spread awareness about Child Protection, Human Trafficking and issues concerning children among the communities, the members of Trafficked Survivors Network Forum and Adolescents Clubs came forward and put their joint effort in combating and sensitizing individuals and communities on human trafficking and missing children through the medium of street theatre across the Udalguri District of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam. The empowered forum and club member uses street theatre as a medium to engage the public to confront important social issues that remain unaddressed. In doing so, the empowered trafficked survivors indirectly forces individuals and communities to seek solutions to their own problems. The main purpose is to prevent the alarming rate of human trafficking cases in the vulnerable areas and engage the members of trafficked survivors in a positive manner.



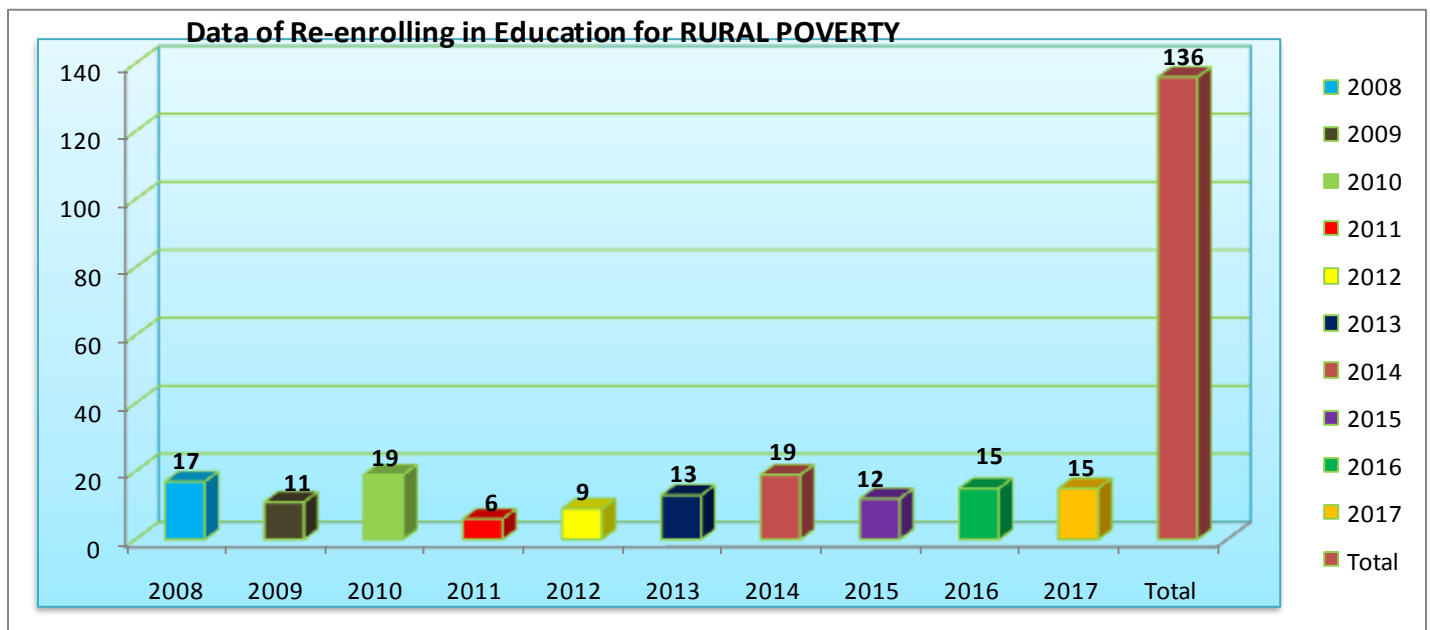
Re-enrolling in Education for “RURAL POVERTY,” Highly vulnerable to Exploitation and Unsafe Mobility

Providing basic education and healthcare to underprivileged children are ASTHA basic mission. ASTHA believes that whether you are addressing healthcare, poverty, population control, unemployment or human rights, there's no better place to start than in the corridors of education.

Countless children are not getting their entitlement such as Free and Compulsory Education yet because those children are exists with those community are related to conflict displacement and not reaching of the government schemes. There is no mechanism and promotion policy in BTC administration to re-enrolled any school drop out children from the region. As demography brought out by ASTHA Bodo, Adivasi and Nepali communities are residing into Udalguri District. Education is both the means as well as the end to a better life; means, because it empowers an individual to earn his/her livelihood and the end because it increases one's awareness on a range of issues – from healthcare to appropriate social behavior to understanding one's rights, and in the process evolve as a better citizen.

ASTHA NGO educational initiatives is to re-enrolled any drop out children from the rural poverty background, highly vulnerable to exploitation and unsafe mobility and providing bridge course specially for the women . It works for education for underprivileged children who are under difficult circumstances, such as child labour, children of poorest of the parents and disaster struck children. Special emphasis is given on girl education and women education, so that they and their families get empowered.

Since its inception in 2007 more than 136 underprivileged children have directly benefitted from the ASTHA initiative.



Reaching out to the most Marginalized Children's of Udalguri District of BTC Through Sensitization Program

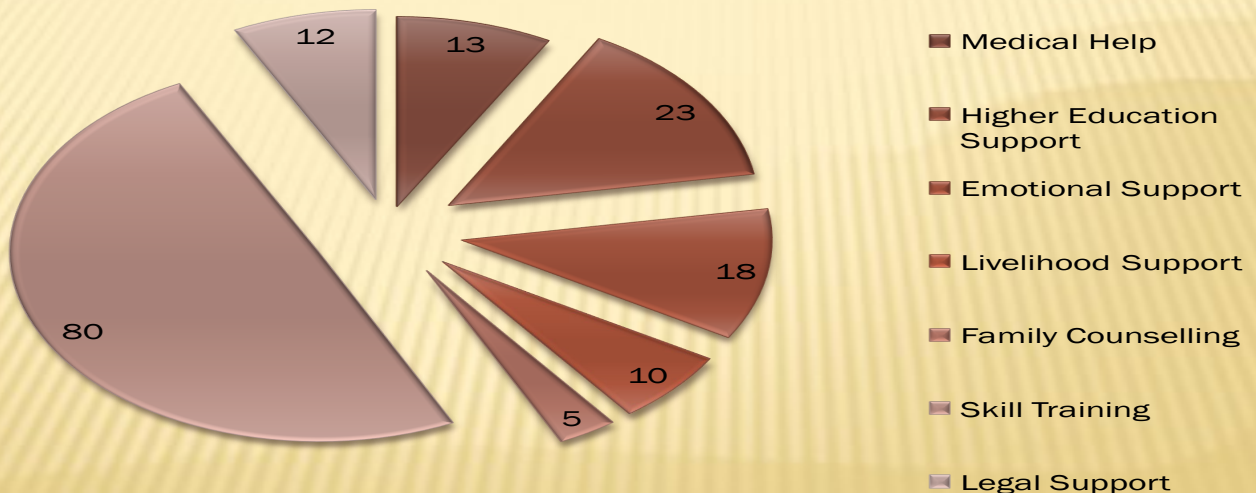


ASTHA NGO envisages creating safe environment for overall holistic development of children and adolescents. In order to make Udalguri a child friendly District we need support from Allied Systems (Police, Health Care, Juvenile Justice, Transport, Legal, Education, Media, and Political) and community people at large. There are 1000 children repatriated in last 12 years in Assam, who have been trafficked from this region, after being exploited at various cities in [India](#). We have accommodated a few children in [Udalguri](#) and some in care centres.

“It is one of the positive ways that [state](#) government is responding to the cases of child trafficking in the [state](#). There are many cases of children touching trafficking from Lower Assam districts especially from tea gardens that Assam is the second position in the case of child trafficking issue. Lower Assam has been devastated with various kinds of conflict and floods that are from most venerable children, most of the children need to be repatriated, who belonged to be from Lower Assam region.

Awareness is one of the essential ingredients of developing belief. Awareness has been highlighted by many as a key indicator of success in a range of performance environments. ‘ASTHA NGO belief in mass sensitization, the sensitization create awareness about common public and children on child trafficking, child [marriage](#) among society in the [state](#) which was [launched](#) by [state](#) government. It will be helping hand among society while getting information on children protection.

Cases Intervention of ASTHA NGO 2016-2018



Medical Health Care Services

Free Medical Checkup Camp:

Malaria is major public health illness in Assam and 30–40% of the population is estimated to be at high-risk. Despite decades of attempted control interventions, malaria transmission is perennial and persistent in most parts of the state mostly transmitted by *Anopheles minimus*. Malaria outbreaks are returning associated with high rise in *Plasmodium falciparum* and attributable death cases.

Since Malaria is a major public health illness in Assam, ASTHA NGO had taken a small initiative to contribute for rural poverty by providing free medical checkup camp at difference places for the better prevention from malaria disease since 2008 to 2017. The main intention of this program is to serve society with dignity for the prevention and removal of malaria diseases in Udalguri. To make the Free Medical Checkup camp successful, ASTHA takes the responsibility of inviting special Doctors from Guwahati and Mongaldai. Till now all total 743 patients had been given free medical check-up through ASTHA initiative.

Mass Vaccination Camp:

Vaccinating animals reduces animal suffering, reduces the transmission of microorganisms in the animal population, and is often more affordable than paying for the treatment of sick animals. Pets receive vaccines for infectious diseases such as rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and hepatitis. Livestock animals like chickens, cattle and pigs are vaccinated to protect against diseases like rotavirus, E. coli, pinkeye, and brucellosis. Vaccinations keep individual animals, flocks and herds, and people healthy.

By keeping those into mind ASTHA has been initiating every year mass vaccination camp for the rural poverty farmer to prevent their livestock from spreadable diseases. The secondary was also to give the knowledge about the effect of the vaccination to the community people and safe animal from any communicable diseases. With vaccine medicines and vitamins were also distributed. Till now through the camp more than 900 livestock's of poor farmers like cattle, flocks and pigs are vaccinated.



Medical Health care services

“There's lots of people in this world who spend so much time watching their health that they haven't the time to enjoy it”

--Josh Billings

India has made rapid strides in the health sector since independence. However, various eye opening data from NFHS clearly indicate that access to **healthcare** still remains a challenge.

While the health statistics of rural India continue to be poor, the health status and access to health for the poor in rural dwellers has surfaced to be equally deplorable and have less than 4% of government primary **healthcare** facilities.

Rural dwellers suffer from adverse health conditions owing to mainly two reasons –first the lack of education and thus lack of awareness; and second the unwillingness to lose a day's wage in order to reach the nearest medical facility. **Healthcare** for underprivileged, which is a desperate need, thus remains unaddressed.



The need of the hour is thus a two pronged approach – first to bring quality **healthcare** services to doorsteps of the needy and second to promote **healthcare** awareness and contemporary **healthcare** seeking behavior among the underprivileged. In such a scenario a **mobile healthcare** services delivery system is the most practical mechanism. And in subscription to this view, Smile Foundation has initiated the Smile on Wheels programme. This is a unique mobile hospital programme that seeks to address problems of mobility, accessibility and availability of primary **healthcare** with a special focus on children and women, in urban slums and remote rural areas.

ASTHA with enthusiastic provided **free healthcare** services like free medical camp for **malaria**, Free Eye Checkup Camp and Glass Distribution, A free general health checkup camp for children, women and men medicine cum cancer Awareness camp to more than 6000 rural poverty children and families.

Free Eye Checkup Camp and Glass Distribution:

The ASTHA has carrying out great initiatives to conduct every year free eye checkup camps at different places from its inception to give support to the peoples of the society who had not enough financial provision to get themselves for checkup by the eye specialist. The free eye camp held at several times from 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2017. In this free Eye Checkup camp reputed Eye specialist Doctors are used invited from Mangaldai and Guwahati with the coordination local Minister, MCLA, EM etc. Till now in this camp more than 500 patients had attended and got checkup. More over more than 130 patients were listed for eye operation.

Medical Health Care Service

Ambulance Facility:



The ASTHA NGO has been taking the initiative of providing low cost Ambulance service facility for the most difficulty community and it has been one of the most successful initiative. The main purpose of providing immediate helping hand to the rural poor sick peoples is push them a little up in reaching to the Hospitals and Nursing Homes in emergency cases. The facility covered whole of the Udalguri district villages and any persons in the need of emergency vehicle, community people can contact directly with the project coordinator of the organization at phone-7086330237. Ambulance service is one of the most essential facility provided to the

most vulnerable society of the Udalguri District. ASTHA aims at reaching to the more places by enhancing the AMBULANCE Service facilities at most difficulty rural community that are having lack of communication and transportation problems.

Supply of Dietary Items to Patients of Udalguri Civil Hospital

ASTHA has been running a successful program of supplying dietary item for patients of Udalguri Civil Hospital. It was started from 2nd January 2014 and the program is still running. Under this program hygienic and nutritious food is being distributed among the patients of Udalguri civil hospital. It is essential that every sick individual required hygienic and nutritious food to recover from the sickness and it one of the most helpful program for the poverty those who are admitting patients at civil hospital are enjoying with free cost of hygienic and nutritious food in due time.



Child Protection Intervention

Mainstreaming all out of school children to Formal Neighborhood school across Udalguri District:

Poverty, availability and accessibility are the three big reasons why children drop out of school.

Today, as the Millennium Development Goals draw to a close and the development community is thinking of new development targets, many children are not learning in school. But, in addition, more than 120 million children and young adolescents still remain out of school. That is almost one in ten children of primary school age, and one in seven children of lower secondary school age. For these children, the right to education remains a distant dream.

While India has made significant progress in raising enrollment rates for primary education schools have been less successful at preventing dropouts during this critical learning phase. According to data put out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the national dropout rate at the primary level was 4.34 per cent in 2014-15, and it was even higher at the secondary level, at 17.86 per cent.

There are many reasons why a child might drop out from school, which range from migration of families and child marriage, to lack of school infrastructure such as drinking water and toilets. “Poverty, availability, and accessibility are three big reasons why children drop out of school,” “When a family is not financially secure, prioritizing a child’s education takes a backseat. Post-Class V, distance to school also tends to increase, and parents deem it unsafe for a child, especially girls, to travel far. You see this validated in dropout rates as well, which rise sharply after Class V.”

Another reason why drop-rates rise after Class V is that this is the stage when a child reaches the age – 10-11 years – when it is considered suitable for induction into child labour. The role of the teacher, too, is critical, as drop-outs often speak of teachers beating them, and complain that teachers waste class time in chit-chat with other teachers.

In order to reduce school drop out from the Udalguri District ASTHA NGO has been putting a little effort to prevent school drop by conducting awareness camp, recreational activity and by forming child protection committees in every villages of udalguri specially udalguri block. To get data of school dropout children ASTHA conduct rural participatory appraisal every year and had enrolled many out of school children at KGVV, RSTC, NRSTC and formal school through counseling, financial support and emotional support.



Child Protection Intervention

Community based Child Protection Committee (CPC):

This is an initial initiative that ASTHA has taken up. The locations and community that ASTHA is dealing or working for child protection and RTE were unrecognized yet within the government plan of action. So truly we can consider it as most backward and socially excluded society or community. They are lacking behind knowledge, education and other necessity knowledge as well as parents are bound to raise their children in such an environment. For the protection mechanism knowledge on children's need care of children are discuss through the training, workshop and through discussion they have improved of minimum knowledge of children along with issues pertaining to atrocities against children and its protection mechanism.



Giving a minimum knowledge about child related acts and schemes such as Right To Education (RTE), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and other child welfare schemes, because it is very much important to them aware and indeed it will help them to raise voices for their rights against those schemes which are not functional in respective place. Oriented results will only be achieved by letting community people to play a major role and social activist for the protection of children and promoting to their own expectations and ideal goals. Child Protection Committee has played an active role along with ASTHA advocacy on "re-enrolling drop out children into nearest school to pursue their education entities". The CPC members of Udalguri District started working on their problems with ASTHA initiative (child related) such as RTE failure, ICPS implementation and other child welfare schemes to political agenda through workshop and consultation with respective stakeholders. To ensure a protective and learning environment for children and adolescents, ASTHA has also tried converging with different activities at the project inter-

vention areas. To enhance the capacity of CPC members the capacity building workshop is regularly organized every month at the respective village.

Youth Empowerment



In order to strengthened the power of youth ASTHA organized INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY with the theme of "Youth Against Human Trafficking" Youths from various schools and colleges from UDALGURI District has taken active participation with the objective of youth can play an important role in solving various problems. The programme is organized in order to make the youth aware of the serious issue of children related and youth related problems in the region. And ASTHA has been observing International Youth day Programme since 2013. The rising figure of Assam is shocking and this has to be checked by making the youth aware, working with the community and also in co-ordination with the administration. Youth has a very important role to play in curbing this heinous crime. Youth have the power to do or undo a thing. ASTHA NGO has always taken the initiative to empower young people to be in a position to shape tomorrows India and will continue to make our society free of slavery.

ASTHA also aims at empowering 400 plus Adolescent by giving them life skill education training through which they can deal with positive thinking. In these times of great social changes brought by the vast technological and scientific advancements made by mankind, the need to empower the upcoming generation, particularly the Adolescent to make informed choices and take decisions in life to assumes great significance.

Child Protection Intervention

Providing Supplementary Coaching for Metric and HS students for final exam :

ASTHA has been working on the Rights of Children since 2014 ASTHA has empowered children and adolescents from different locations of Udalguri District, BTC, Assam. ASTHA has selected the most vulnerable areas rural poverty. ASTHA has selected 12 most rural poverty villages from Udalguri District namely Khawrang, Garobasti, Bhuirabkudo, Chapangaon, Jaberitola, Kanpur, Demakuchi Tea estate, sesapani, kuberali, onthaibari, Bathabari and Gandalonga. The 12 areas were highly affected by the poverty were there is no proper and it is very difficult for the children and adolescent survive without basic amenities. For such reasons lots of children and adolescent drop out, trafficked, child labor, child marriage and forced migration etc.

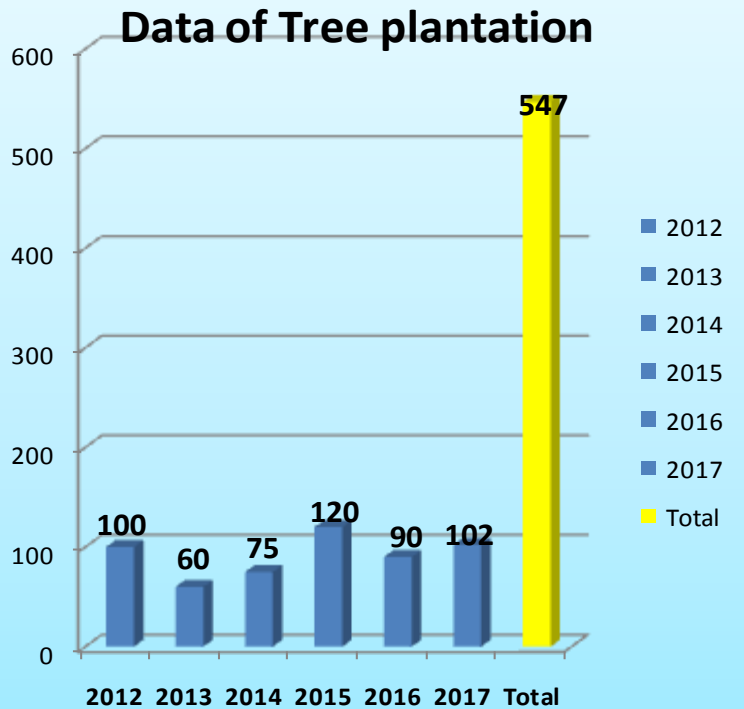
ASTHA NGO has provided supplementary coaching classes for the H.S and Metric candidates in five project location for the three months which is most conflict affected areas under Udalguri District. Three subjects Mathematics, English and Science were taught by the external tutors hired for five different locations. In supplementary coaching classes the Library boxes, Text books, Model Questions, Suggestion Books, pens etc needed materials were provided to five different locations.

Life Skill Training for Adolescents:

ASTHA has been creating space for the adolescent's boys and girls a learning as well as plat forum to express and interact with policy makers for their quality education rights and other entitlement rights. Many rally and street play has been organized by the team of ASTHA in many locations on right to education, child marriage, child labor and child trafficking issues. ASTHA has been working with children and adolescent long back. Community based life skill training is undertaken in the villages for building confidence of adolescents.

Every year ASTHA arranges community life skill development training at various location of the District. Every year ASTHA set the target of providing 80 life skills training for adolescents boys and girls on personality development like, Self Awareness, Empathy, Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relationship, Decision Making, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Creative Thinking, Coping with Emotions, Managing Stress. She also said life skill education is a relatively young approach in the field of education aiming to promote physical, social mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of children and adolescents. Therefore the stakeholders, especially the community workers, teachers, care givers and parents need to enhance their own Life Skills before they can effectively develop such skills in adolescents. The present day society and the learning processes are not able to fulfill those needs adequately. So, Life Skills Training is important for children's and adolescents.

Tree plantation for the Safety of the Environment



ASTHA NGO had started the tree plantation program for the safety of the Environment on 2nd May, 2012 and the main aims of this initiative was to spread social awareness about the importance of tree plantation by arranging meeting, tree plantation program and conducting rally in every year of 2nd May from the year of 2012.

At the beginning our inspiration were Members of ASTHA NGO attended in the orientation program arranged by Udalguri Town Committee where they gained idea about the social action project. ASTHA received application form and submitted project including detailed planning to the concerned authority. Udalguri Town Committee has screened approved the project and provided a grant. The name of our project is "Tree plantation Program". After receiving grant, ASTHA involved local people to the process and briefed them clearly on how our project could be implemented properly. Till now from the starting point of initiative 2012-2018 ASTHA has planted more than 547 trees within the Udalguri district.

As part of the project implementation, ASTHA arranged a discussion where participants were from the villages under Udalguri dist and representatives of local administrations in the meeting discussed that trees are very important in our life and there is a spiritual relationship between human beings and trees. Human beings get many services from trees which sometimes cannot be measured in term of economic calculation. They further said that one should plant trees in fallow lands and when one tree is chopped down two seedlings of trees should be planted. We also organized a colorful rally where students, village people and members of managing committee and local elites participated.

Livelihood and Social Entrepreneurship

Access to income through home-based activities is important for empowering disadvantaged groups of society, especially women. Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) is the latest regional tribal development area constituted under a special enactment of the constitution of India. Bodoland Territorial Council is the outcome of an Agreement reached at among the Government of India and Government of Assam and the Bodo Liberation Tigers in February 10, 2003. Bodos are a traditional tribal ethnic group in Assam primarily concentrated in the Bodoland area. With the formation of the BTC (Bodoland Territorial Council) a new vistas of development has begun in BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Area District) area. BTC is now preparing the Bodoland Territorial Area Development Plan and the Central Government sanctioned funds for the development of the area. BTC is a para –state administrative body with its separate Executive Council and Administrative staffs. The total area of Bodoland is approximately, stands at 8300 square K.M. comprising 3110 villages. There are four Districts in BTAD viz : Kokrajhar ,Chirang , Baska and Udalguri. The BTAD was created under the sixth schedule of the constitution of India. At present Kokrajhar town serve as the headquarter of Bodoland .

ASTHA beliefs Economic empowerment of women by entrepreneurial activities led to the empowerment of women in many things such as socio-economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal right, family development, community development and at last the nation development. Therefore ASTHA also initiated the home base weaving activity at Udalguri District on 2010 with lots of effort and struggled by providing some seed amount of money start specially women. The main of the NGO is to give opportunity to the unemployed men and women to engage in the home base weaving facility so that they may be able to earn some amount of money to earn their livelihood and to provide basic facility of their own children to enrolled in the school. In the home base weaving initiative many of the unemployed has been engage and the centre is running smoothly without any interruption.



Livelihood and Social Entrepreneurship

One month skill development training on Bamboo Agarbati sticks makings and its allied technology:

ASTHA NGO also take the opportunity of conducting some short period skill training for the unemployment youth and the women. At the first the training was initiated at cultural Centre, Udalguri on May 2010, regarding the skill development training on bamboo Agarbati stick makings and its allied technology. The training program has been made successful by the cooperation of the Bodoland Bamboo Development Board which has been supported by National Mission on Bamboo Applications, Govt. of India. It was one of the most successful training program organized by ASTHA Udalguri base ANGO and many unemployment youth and women were trained under this training and could earn some livelihood activities through this training.

ASTHA NGO has also again organized one month skill development training on Bamboo based Agarbati Stick making and its allied technology at ASTHA office on 2013 April, under Bodoland bamboo Development Board, BTC, Kokrajhar and National Mission on Bamboo Application, TIFAC, DST, GOVT. of India, New Delhi-16, India.

At the same way ASTHA is again aiming to bring many more skill development training where young generation youth and women could engage in some entrepreneurship program and become self sustained.



Advocacy-Networking

Advocacy can be defined as the practical use of knowledge for purposes of social changes. These changes can be directed to government policies, laws, procedures, or sometimes to ourselves. Advocacy is therefore an act of supporting an issue and persuading the decision makers on how to act in order to support that issue. This definition tells, in fact, that advocacy is a process, not an one-way activity. By this definition it is clear that advocacy is an effective process aimed at achieving some specific results.

Advocacy wing on child issues is one of the most optic for ASTHA NGO. ASTHA has brought up many issues and ground level challenges to inclusive development. ASTHA believed on advocating all ground issues to draw the line toward change and development.

ASTHA follows the three types of activities in Advocacy:

1. **Representation:** to speak on their own or in other's name in public

2. **Mobilization:** to encourage others to speak in public with you

3. **Empowerment:** to let others know they have the right to speak in public and have the right to be heard.

ASTHA has very close networking with Juvenile Justice Board, Child welfare Committee, District Legal Authority, Social welfare, Health Department, District child protection Unit, Uniform Personnel and Nehru Yuva Kendra. ASTHA always aims toward building of mutual relationship between stakeholders and maintenance of close working relationship to bring holistic development of the society. The mutual working relationship between stakeholders has been bringing high impact on building child friendly environment and creating protective environment for women and children within the Udalguri District, BTC, Assam. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human rights defenders around the world are working to advocate for the protection of women and children from all forms of violence. Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination against women and is a fundamental violation of the right to life, liberty and security of person.



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