

When will services reach them?



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Kangkana Barman 17 August 2015 10100 views

Ural basti, a village of Sonapur which is 42 k.m far away from Guwahati [city](#) in which the materialistic [city](#) life has not fully touched their simplicity.

The department of [Social](#) work, Assam Don Bosco University and University college Dublin volunteers Overseas (UCDVO), Ireland organised International student volunteer exchange programme of 2015 in Sonapur area of Guwahati Assam for one month(12th june-12th July); a twenty two member volunteer team including faculties have identified Ural basti and kachari basti(Sonapur) [as](#) the areas of intervention and aim at contributing towards the socio-economic development of the villagers and promote attitudinal changes among the members of the [community](#) towards life. The main objective was to enhance the development of marginalised and underprivileged communities through the [community](#) participatory development model and social Outreach programme. The major issues [as](#) per the identification are Alcoholism, drop out, drinking water, illiteracy, unemployment and religious politics is taking a crucial place in the [community](#) with the existence of Christianity and Hinduism and two major ethnic groups BODO and ADIVASI. Nowadays when people talks about only problems instead of constructive solutions, the step taken towards understanding reality and seeking for solution by department of social Work, [ADBU](#) and UCDVO is really appreciable and [as](#) a student of social work I am privileged to experience this programme.



The basic amenity for the children like preschool is also not accessible



in this village. The condition of the

Aganwadis of the village

discouraged the parents to send

their children to Aganwadi. It is

necessary that AWC is consolidated

[as](#) the first village/ habitation post

for health, nutrition and early learning centre or on which the Schemes

like SABLA and IGMSY are also implemented. The ICDS Scheme does

not provide fund for construction of AWC buildings except in the North

Eastern (NE) states. But still the conditions of these aganwadis in this

particular village are unexpected. Aganwadis are considered [as](#) the focal

point for the delivery of services. This is one of the major factors why we

picked up the Aganwadis for renovation in order make it a child friendly

[as](#) it is the foundation of their educational journey of course for those

who cannot afford the private sector. Both the primary schools are not

functioning properly due to the availability of teachers. Lack of

awareness and access to some public services has made their life

tougher. The quality of life cannot be improved unless the basic facilities

like water, sanitation, nutrition, hygiene and so on are not improved.

Therefore the intervention was planned in such a way so that not even a

single major issue left untouched.



Apart from the renovation of Aganwadis, We conducted awareness programme and workshops on different issues health and hygiene, sanitation, the hand washing habit among the children, alcoholism and domestic violence, language impart classes for the school students. [As](#) the youths are very much unorganised and most of them are drop outs and therefore a [career](#) counselling session has been organised where they were informed about various sectors [as](#) per their interest and [as](#) well [as](#) the open universities especially for the drop outs. There are only one tube well, two wells and one stream on which the whole village depends for drinking water which is really unsafe and unhygienic. Though we could not contribute much towards it but we sensitised people on this issue and also approached village authority to take this to the higher [level](#), because we do believe in people's power and they are capable of bringing the change what they want to bring. Two more [Event](#) have been Organised [as](#) 'Sports day' and '[community](#) cultural event' where we created a platform for the whole [community](#) towards the attainment of the goal of enriching their potentials and confidence building.

Livelihood is another major concern in this [community](#). Livelihood is mere a basic need of food, shelter and clothing along with quality of life, education and good healthy life. Livelihood pattern of a family or a village very much depend upon the geographical areas and the resources available in around the [community](#). [As](#) per the 'participatory Rural Appraisal' findings most of the [community](#) people are engaged in agriculture and daily wage labour in brick factories (two factories are there) and tea gardens. [As](#) today the whole world is talking about women empowerment and we do not know how far we have reached! But we emphasized on women for the livelihood [training](#) programme on Art and Craft keeping in mind the objective of Sustainable [Development](#). During this one month of participatory [Development](#) project [as](#) a team we were involved in multitasking and trying to touch the larger objectives of [community](#) organisation and [Social](#) work accordingly in bringing co-operative and collaborative attitude among the [community](#) people and help people to help them.



Every one of us should work hard, prosper and succeed through innovation and hard work and once successful, we should give something back to society which has made us or cable of doing so. It's an appeal to all the young students irrespective of any stream give your hands to those who have been struggling to fulfil the basic needs of life. If we will walk together a path will emerge and we will make our own path. Do not depend too much on God and Government believe in Yourself and be great at what you do, and this way all of us can contribute towards a greater Assam, greater India and of course a greater world.

Kangkana Barman

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