

INSTITUTE FOR MOTIVATING SELF EMPLOYMENT

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2020-21



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The Institute for Motivating Self Employment (IMSE) started its journey in 1973, being founded by a group of hardworking youths, led by Late Mr. Biplab Halim.

Since its inception, IMSE has been trying to organise those living on the margins of society and create awareness among them so that they can raise a collective voice for a better society, free from exploitation.

In the past few decades, the organisation has been able to extend help to more than a million people with its activities. However, the journey has been an arduous one for IMSE which has faced various impediments and had to weather many-a-storm during its long journey.

IMSE works to strengthen grassroots level governance and effective participation of poor, particularly women, in decision-making process so that they themselves can decide their development priority and also for providing them with improved livelihood opportunities. IMSE has been able to develop a network of 8000-strong women groups in West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand. The organisation has been able to set up its village-level units in more than 700 villages in Eastern India.



Vision:

A society based on egalitarian principles and food sovereignty.

Mission:

Ending socio-economic exploitation by enabling people to claim and exercise their democratic rights through social movements and participation in democratic decision-making

The women's network has successfully promoted gender responsive development at various strata of society and spread awareness about their livelihood improvement. IMSE implements Economic Empowerment Programme among 43,000 rural women, living below the poverty line. The grass root level organisation has also been promoting climate resilient agriculture and their implementation. By doing so, IMSE highlights an alternative development paradigm.

IMSE also works among the small scale fishers thereby providing them with improved livelihood opportunities. Intensive work is also being done among adolescent girls and boys to promote awareness against trafficking & child marriage .

We are continuously motivating farmers for formation of FPC & to avail benefits of the various Govt. Schemes. We make the poor people aware of the various government schemes and help them to apply for the same.

ADVENT OF A PANDEMIC

The FY 2020-21 experienced the gravest situation of the century- " The COVID-19 pandemic". The highly contagious virus within no-time changed the whole scenario of the beautiful world. Masks & sanitizers became an indispensable part of our lives and the number of deaths continued to pile up. Our frontline workers and social workers worked tirelessly to provide healthcare and relief. Life came to an absolute standstill with the sudden nationwide lockdown announced on 24th March 2020. This brought irony to the lives of the 138 crore population of India. With the poor and the vulnerable being the worst hit as usual. .

However, as always human beings adapted to this change as well and slowly everything became digitized- from books to businesses, food to fodder and pills to prescription, everything became just a click away

IMSE is among those few NGOs who from the very beginning joined the nation-wide fight against Corona virus together with government and local administration. Our starting point was awareness generation which in Kolkata, Birbhum, Bardhaman (West Bengal), Baleshwar & Bhadrak (Odisha) and in Dumka district (Jharkhand) We have taken registration as Covid19 volunteer under Government of India. We are working in tandem with the local administration. We have also generated community awareness about the need to comply with hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, with lockdown , social distancing and home isolation, through our campaigns. We have developed a team of trained volunteers, who are able to perform relief work with utmost care to prevent any further spread of the disease.

RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN WEST BENGAL

IMSE VOLUNTEERS STOOD BY THE PEOPLE LIKE A ROCK SINCE DAY ONE OF THE PANDEMIC

·We have been providing relief (including rice, potato, Puffed Rice , Eggs , Soap , Mask , Sanitizer) to two Gram Panchayats covering 11 villages in Labpur , another two Gram Panchayats covering 7 villages in Ballavpur and eleven villages are covered in Purba Bardhaman and Nadia. Though the extensive hard work of our volunteers we have been able to reach out to more than 20000 people. Hoping to reach out to more in the coming days.

·Our volunteers have been going around the villages giving demos on how to wash hands properly following the 20 seconds regime.

·In this scenario of total lockdown, even when the emergency services like pharmaceutical shops are open, it is not possible to reach out to them because of lack of transport facilities. IMSE volunteers are providing the delivery service of medicines at the doorsteps of helpless people especially the poor and the old.

·IMSE volunteers are also out in the streets helping in the full observance of the lockdown by requesting and in cooperation with local people and police in case there is any gathering or unruliness observed.

IMSE is reaching out to poorest of poor like beggars and homeless people with food and temporary shelters in Bolpur area

·IMSE is fostering network with other NGOs to increase outreach of the services



RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN JHARKHAND & ODISHA

IMSE VOLUNTEERS STOOD BY THE PEOPLE LIKE A ROCK SINCE DAY ONE OF THE PANDEMIC

In Jharkhand:

IMSE works among the tribal communities in Jharkhand and the primary task there was to raise awareness in the local language. So the WHO guidelines on safety and measures were translated for dissemination. Our volunteers also gave demo on the 20 seconds handwashing regime along with the distribution of 2000 soaps.

·Through our relief and awareness campaign we have been able to reach out to 15 tribal villages under the Gram Panchayat Dhanbasa reaching out to more than 4500 tribal population with essential items as needed .

In Odisha:

·In Odisha we work among the small scale fishers who are the worst hit due to the lockdown as post the lockdown they entered the banning period that stretches from May to July 2020. Their savings to sustain themselves during the ban period were getting used up.

We have reached out to them with our relief packages in twelve villages covering five Gram Panchayats reaching out to more than 3500 small scale fishers in distress.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Imse believes in growing stronger together. Like previous years, IMSE's major focus was on women empowerment programme following its gender policy of the organization by mainstreaming gender aspect in all its programmes. IMSE's social activities to achieve the targeted goal so that the poorest of the poor may get the benefits have started yielding results.

IMSE's women empowerment projects included Capacity building of women farmers for better agri production & market linkage, imparting trainings to peasant women in three states of Eastern India - West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand in order to support self help groups at community levels so that they can emerge as strong women's network. This programme was successful and the peasant women gave leadership to various social movements in IMSE's working areas. IMSE's Head Quarters at 195 Jodhpur Park at Kolkata, the hub of various development programmes, hundreds of activists of IMSE in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa worked tirelessly with great devotion for changing the basic socio-economic structure of the society.

IMSE has been engaged in the following programmes in last one year to translate its belief into reality and for the betterment of the poor and needy women:



SWADHAR GREH

IMSE strengthened its Short Stay Home/Swadhar Greh running since 1993 with the financial assistance from Government Of India, for distressed women. IMSE provided shelter to distressed women at its Swadhar Greh at Krishnakunja, Vill. Malancha, P.O. Singi, District Purba Bardhman and had been successful in rehabilitating a good number of women in the society by developing their skills and extending counseling services. Socially and economically marginalized women have been provided with shelter and support and proper rehabilitation.

We take utmost care towards ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of our dear inmates through various activities like gardening, counselling,

engaging them in creative activities, exploring their interests, giving them training on maintaining personal health and hygiene, playing games etc.

During the lockdown period, we have taken extra care towards their health issues. Proper medical checkups were done from time to time by the Government health workers and we provided them with all types of nutritious food to help them stay safe from the deadly virus.

The Durga Puja 2020 was not joyous because of the pandemic situation, however we had wellwishers and other social organisations sending over sarees, clothes, fruit etc for them.



PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL & ANGANWADI PROGRAMME

IMSE is running a pre-primary education centre for the children in the remote villages particularly who came from the families of the workers of the unorganized sector. IMSE organized a few pre-primary education centres called Ankur in Birbhum in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. This programme drew the wide spread attention of the workers of the unorganized sector in rural areas.

The advent of the pandemic has effected the education system severely. But as the whole world was going digital , our kids at labpur were not left behind. We had volunteers from GD Birla College to teach our students daily via zoom. The classes were very interactive and lively.

The Govt. of India, is supporting IMSE since 1983 in successfully running a training centre for Anganwadi Workers under their ICDS Scheme. IMSE also organized regular health check up camps for the mothers and their children in remote areas in different district. However, it was always felt that the economic development programme of the women was a precondition for women empowerment. Running for more than 30 years now , Anganwadi programme has been successfully performing pro poor activities continuously. Due to the pandemic, in the FY 2020-21 , the classes have been quite irregular due to the intermittent lockdowns, we are hopeful to continue like previous years as soon as the situation normalises.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

IMSE is always exploring avenues to encourage the youth in becoming vigilant and responsible citizens. Because the youth are our future. We provide them with various workshops on contextual topics to make them aware of the perils of the society and how to keep themselves safe.

It was not possible to organize live workshops like previous years. However, we were able to organize few semi-virtual and virtual events for our dear youths because the good work should never stop.

We focussed on the newest threat apart from the pandemic which is the "Infodemic" wherein we invited Mr Prateek Sinha, Founder of ALT News to elaborate on the matter. We continued our "Responsible Use Of Social Media" Campaign which focuses on generating public awareness on the judicial use of social media and sharing the tips to distinguish between a fake news and a real one. The workshops were conducted by Ms Jagati Bagchi, Social Development Specilist and Mr Subhendu Chakraborty, faculty Cyber Security, Govt Of WB.



VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Information – How it shapes our decision

- ▶ Information is important for progress of humanity. For ages, information has shaped our society and our personal decisions.
- ▶ Reliable information is the fuel for democracy



Workshop on "Responsible Use Of Social Media" was hosted by IMSE with students at Ballavpur, Bolpur. Wherein our trainer Ms Jagati Bagchi, Social Development Specialist joined via Zoom

Organized by Forum Of Voluntary Organisations WB (FOVOWB) the workshop focused on the " Opinions Of the Voluntary Social Organisation on the new Agriculture Laws of Govt. Of India. Representatives from 7 renowned civil society organisations were panelists and several other organisations joined as audience. Dr Ujjaini Halim moderated the session.

ফোরাম অফ ভলেন্টারি অর্গানাইজেশনস, ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল

বিষয়- ভারতীয় সরকারের নয়া কৃষিনিতি, ২০২০ সম্পর্কে স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংগঠনগুলির মতামত

সময়- সকাল ১১.৩০ থেকে ১.৩০ পর্যন্ত

বক্তা-



ডাঃ মানবেন্দ্র নাথ মন্ডল
(সেনিও সিপাল এন্ড
রিসার্চ অ্যান্ড ট্রেনিং
সেন্টার)



চন্দ্রন পান
(গান্ধী শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠান)



ডাঃ সুজিত ব্রহ্মচারি
(আই.আই.এম.সি)



ডাঃ এ. গোস্বামী
(পিএস)



শ্যামল পান
(লোক কল্যান পরিষদ)



ডাঃ শ্রাবজিত জানা
(দুর্ভার)



রিশমা খাতুন
(টি.জি.ই.কে)

সঞ্চালিকা-



ডাঃ উজ্জাইনী হালিম
(ইনসে)

UNPACKING FCRA 2020: KEY MESSAGES FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

Organized by
Forum of Voluntary Organization West Bengal (FOVOWB)

Key Speakers:



Mr. Harsh Jaitli
CEO
Voluntary Action
Network India
(VANI)



CA Ashis Agarwal
Co-founder
NGGenabler



Mr. Anil Singh
Secretary General
(SANSAD)



Dr. Sujit
Brahmachary
Director (IIMC)



Ms. Rahima
Khatun
Secretary (NSKK)



19th October, 2020

Chair Person:



Prof. Manabendra Nath Mandal
President (FOVOWB)



6 Pm to 8 Pm



Zoom Webinar

Moderator:



Dr. Ujjaini Halim
General Secretary (FOVOWB)

Link in Email

The meeting " Unpacking FCRA 2020: Key Messages For Voluntary Organizations organized by FOVOWB discussed about the new FCRA amendment 2020 that raised some serious concerns among VOs/NGOs who were afraid that the new amendment would limit the good work done by hundreds of social organisations no matter whether they are registered with FCRA or not. Dr Ujjaini Halim moderated the session.

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in today's world stands at a crossroads. There is increased pressure to provide adequate, affordable and nutritious food for population that is ever growing, in order to cope with climate change and the degradation of natural resources, including water scarcity, soil depletion and biodiversity loss.

IMSE promotes following sustainable agricultural practices as this method utilises the resources to the maximum without harming the ability of the current or future generations to meet their needs. We have been continuously conducting various awareness campaigns, training and disseminating IEC materials among the farmers to adopt the practice. To facilitate/support, groups of small scale food producers were trained to acquire new knowledge and skills on methods of making small scale farming/organic farming viable like preservation of local seeds, techniques of sustainable production practices collectivization, marketing and so on



VERMICOMPOST & TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

VERMICOMPOST:

Vermicompost has a large number of advantages over chemical fertilizers. It restores microbial population which includes nitrogen fixers, phosphate solubilizers etc. Provides major and micro-nutrients to the plants. Improves soil texture and water holding capacity of the soil. It boosts the yield of crops.

IMSE has been providing extensive trainings to the farmers on how to easily produce vermicompost. This has given them increased crop production and this also aids in keeping the environment free from harmful chemical fertilizers.

TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

Traditional system of medicine continues to be widely practiced on many accounts till date. Inadequate supply of drugs, population rise, huge cost of treatments, side effects of several synthetic drugs and development of resistance to currently used drugs for infectious diseases have lead to the increased demand for using plants and herbs for medicinal purposes. In 2019-20, IMSE continued its programme in its project areas in West Bengal and Jharkhand for the promotion of tribal medicine and acupuncture among indigenous communities and others, as peoples' alternative to promote realization of right to health of the poor and marginalised indigenous groups. IMSE's herbal tribal medicinal programme has already drawn wide spread attention of the people from different walks of life. Health check up camps and blood donation camps oraganized in Jharkhand , Odisha and Krishnakunja and Birbhum.



PROMOTION OF RURAL ECOTOURISM

In the previous years we had visitors, volunteers and students visiting our campuses in Labpur, Ballavpur, Krishnakunja etc. However, the campus at Dighalpahari in Dumka District of Jharkhand had remained unexplored. This year we have made the campus visitor-ready with all the amenities including lights, fans, proper toilets and beds. The cooking will however continue being done over the centuries old traditional mud ovens.

In order to promote diversified livelihood opportunities among rural households we are eager to promote rural ecotourism in line with the rural ecotourism goal of the Jharkhand Tourism Department. We aim to promote the raw beauty of the mesmerizing landscapes of Dighalpahari amidst the cool breeze of the Dam as well as revive the tourism post covid. Tourists, mostly backpackers, youth and students will be hosted in tents or in the houses of the tribal people (home stay). This will aid in adding an educational aspect to the tourism providing the tourists with an exposure to rural life of Jharkhand. And will directly benefit the community & local economy. We will provide necessary training to SHG groups for hosting guests. We will further coordinate tourism activities by providing guided trekking which will enrich tourists about tribal culture of the area.



RECOGNISING SOCIAL WORKERS

IMSE has taken the pledge to recognize the social workers who are providing meaningful contribution to the social sector through their good work but are yet to receive recognition. IMSE honors them with the " Biplab Halim Memorial Award " each year in order to encourage them further .



**SMT PRAMITA BHADURI
SOCIAL WORKER**

**SHRI KHOKON MONDAL
SOCIAL WORKER**



**SANKALPO
AN INITIATIVE OF THE EX-STUDENTS
OF BARANAGAR RAMKRISHNA
MISSION
ASHRAMA (BATCH OF 2010)**

SUPPORT SERVICES AND NETWORKING

IMSE like earlier years extended support services to a good number of small organizations such as Forum of Voluntary Organisations West Bengal, Pension Parishad West Bengal, FIAN West Bengal, East Coast Fish Workers Union, Workers Owner Forum, Peoples Action Network National Integration and Communal Harmony, Indian Federation of Toiling Peasants, Right to Information Network and others to facilitate the process of meaningful social change.

Due to the pandemic situation it was not possible to attend meetings, training etc physically. But that opened up opportunities to attend a larger number of these activities virtually.

Dr Ujjaini Halim, Executive Director, IMSE attended the " Education Series On People's Resistance in South Asia and was a speaker on "Webinar on Land & People" organised by PCFS,ILPS and IPMSDL in November 2020.

She was the speaker on the one-day state level webinar on "Voices from the Margins: Re-visiting the Legacies of Begum Rokeya and Jyotiba Phule on Teachers Day" on 5th September 2020.

Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) like past years continued to provide more trainings.

Ms Pooja Moitra, Programme Officer Research & Documentation, IMSE took the training on " South Asia People's Research Training Of Trainers" from APRN.

She was the moderator for the opening plenary session of "Towards a Pro- People Economy " a research conference in Asia Pacific. It was co organized by Asia Pacific Research Network - APRN , Int'l Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination & Liberation , IBON Foundation and People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty - Global on 25th January 2021.

She facilitated the International webinar on "Breaking the Barriers" organised by APRN,APNED,IPMSD and PCFS where they talked about the impacts of large scale dams in Asia in commemoration of the International Day of World's Indigenous People on 10th August 2020.

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

IMSE put major emphasis on conducting participatory action research on various issues in Role of Sustainable Agriculture in ensuring household food sovereignty, ways to establish a functional democracy, Deprivation of elderly people from old age pension, transparent governance, economic empowerment of rural poor and restricting rural to urban migration were undertaken by IMSE among others. The outcome of those participatory researches have strengthened the organization further.

We have worked under various UN bodies such as FAO, UNHRC, COFI, IFAD on various UN Guidelines on Land tenure and small scale fisheries

IMSE worked on a small assignment on "Food and Nutrition Security in India and the Role of the State and Judiciary in the Context of COVID-19-An Empirical Study" by National Law School. The overall objective of the study was to the legal, policy, financial and institutional responses of the state to address food and nutrition security in India in the context of Covid19.

ADMINISTRATION & COORDINATION

For successful coordination of its various programme spread over hundreds of villages in three states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, the Administrative wing of IMSE remained always active in 2020-21. In 2020-21, IMSE made arrangement to build the capacity of its core staff members at the head quarters for planning, monitoring, evaluation (PME), computerization of accounts etc. and thus to facilitate the successful implementation of its various programmes .

DAY CELEBRATIONS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

APPRECIATING WOMEN ON WOMEN'S DAY, 2021
ORGANIZED BY
FORUM OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WEST BENGAL
7th March, 2021 4:00 P.M onwards
Live on streamyard

Speakers:

- Dr. Indrani Bhaattacharyya
CEO, Child In Need Institute
- Dr. Ujjaini Halim
Executive Director, IMSE
- Rahima Khatun
Secretary, Nari O Shiksha Kalyan Kendra
- Pramita Bhaduri
Chairperson, Nikhil Bihari Memorial Foundation

Moderator:

- Sivamang Das
Volunteer, FOVOWB



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

আবদুল হালিম (১২০তম) জন্মবার্ষিকী উদযাপন
বিষয়- বর্তমান ভারতীয় রাজনীতির প্রেক্ষাপটে দেশের নামপত্নী মনোনিবেশ ভূমিকা
আগামী ৯ই ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ রবিবার
সময়: বিকাল ৫টা থেকে ৭টা

সকালিনিকা:

- ডা. উজ্জ্বলিনী হালিম
- সমাজ উন্নয়ন আন ইন্ডিয়া ফোরামে সেক্রেটারি, আরএসএস
- রাষ্ট্রিক আনন্দ পরিবর্তন সেক্রেটারি, অল ইন্ডিয়া সফওয়োর্ড ব্লক
- কাজিক পান সেবার পরিচালক, (নিপাকসেবা)
- অসিকোড ভারতীয় কলিটি, এনই

বিশিষ্ট বক্তা:

- কল্যাণ কনসাল্ট্যান্ট গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান, সৌদি আরব/আমেরিকা
- কাজিক পান সেবার পরিচালক, (নিপাকসেবা)
- অসিকোড ভারতীয় কলিটি, এনই

102nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE ABDUL HALIM



REPUBLIC DAY



WORLD FISHERIES DAY

REMEMBERING



PROF SATYABRATA CHOWDHURY

23.03.1936 - 19.01.2021

He will always be remembered for his valuable contribution to the social sector and his principles related to selfless social work.



MD SALIM

JULY 1954 - JULY 2020

A secular person at heart, Md Salim would always be remembered for his tireless contribution in promotion of peace and communal harmony.