

Annual Report

2018-2019

Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research

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C-NES is registered under Section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961. Contributions to C-NES qualify for tax-exemption. The Trust is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs; vide their letter II/21022/83/ (102)/2003 dated 13.8. 2003. The FCRA registration number is 231660377, Category: Social

Support:

The Centre invites funding from individuals, business and industry, government and philanthropic institutions for its corpus and activities. Details about how you can support C-NES can be obtained by writing to respective office at New Delhi and Guwahati

1. Introduction

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES) was established in January 2000 as a Trust under Sec.80G/ Income Tax Act 1961. It has offices in Guwahati, Assam state in North eastern India and at New Delhi and works on a range of issues and areas at both field and policy levels relating to governance, participative planning and rights, water resources, environment, rural livelihoods, peace building and building better understanding among communities. C-NES is committed to building bridges between the North-east, among the lesser known and misunderstood parts of India, and other regions. The region is finally and slowly creating its own space and finding its own pulse after over six decades. C-NES develops innovative ideas for implementation to reach the poor and marginalized group in areas of health, education and environment, conducts workshops and training programs, reviews government policies and projects and designs ideas for development.

MISSION STATEMENT

- C-NES recognizes the right of every individual in the region to live in dignity, peace and safety because only under such conditions can the quality of their lives improve and their deepest aspirations met.
- Values the unique ethnic and ecological diversity of the North East as an advantage.
- Encourages local governance, decision- making and initiatives as the key to social and economic growth.
- Lobbies actively for changes in official policy at the national, regional, state and district levels which it considers necessary to build a just society
- Supports regional cooperation as a strategy to create, sustainable economic development

The Centre's priorities include:

- Health, education and environment
- Livelihood generation
- Infrastructure and transport
- Documenting cultural and environmental diversity
- Studies of migration, internal displacement and refugee flows
- Media exchanges and communication

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From the Managing Trustee



'Reaching the Last Person'

We began 2019 with a crucial meeting with NHM at its Guwahati Office on 19th January to review the Boat Clinic program implemented by C-NES supported by NHM, Assam. With me, the Program Management Unit and for the first time ever the district teams from the 15 Boat Clinic units were present. Also present was Dr Milan Barooah, C-NES Advisory Council Member, who has been a big and constant support for C-NES and our health programme. It was heartening to hear the Mission Director, NHM, Assam, J.V.N.Subramanyam say that through the Boat Clinic programme the government has been able to "reach the last person" living in difficult terrain. An appreciation much deserved.

Seminars and workshops organized by C-NES as well as lectures have drawn wide ranging audiences interested in the issues. This year, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Foundation in collaboration with C-NES and Majha House, a newly formed Trust in Amritsar for creative arts, research and literature, initiated a project titled "The Assamese Sikhs: Negotiating Transitions" which undertook research on the identity of 'Assamese/Asomiya Sikhs'-- who migrated from Punjab to Assam and Meghalaya over centuries. The report of the study which was released on 27th November 2018 at the Kanaklal Baruah auditorium of Assam State Museum, Guwahati found that the Assamese Sikh community which traces its origin to the 17th century still remains an unknown community outside the state.

The visit by a team from Myanmar in December 2018 was another highlight this year. The delegation of ethnic groups including political leaders, scholars and negotiators, hosted overall by C-NES, visited Mizoram, Manipur and Assam on a week long journey (from 5th to 13th December 2018) to understand historic efforts, existing challenges and constitutional innovations which have been developed for ethnic representation and equality. The team was hosted in Mizoram by Mizoram University and in Imphal by the Burma Studies Centre at Manipur University. The 34member group, which saw representation from states in Myanmar with cultural and historic connections to the North-east such as Shan, Kachin and Chin, was on a study tour of the three states to assess what was applicable from constitutional and people-led innovations here. A senior range of figures addressed and had energetic conversations with the visitors including former Union Home Secretary GK Pillai, Chief Minister N. Biren of Manipur, the Governor of Mizoram as well as Himanghsu Sekhar Das, Assam State Information Commissioner, Patricia Mukhim, Editor, Shillong Times, Nilay Dutta, senior lawyer and Advocate General for Arunachal Pradesh and Debojit Thaosen, former Chief Executive Member of the Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council. They provided a window into the complex world of policy making, dealing with difficult governance issues and enabling greater say for local communities and political groups in the wielding of political and economic power. As Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, I spoke at various sessions on the need to assert freedom of expression, protect human rights and ensure transparency through Right to Information as well as deal with impunity and arbitrariness. The chief coordinator of the SCCB delegation, Victor Biak Lian, said "this is just the beginning" of exchanges, that intense learning and study tours should continue.

Our Boat Clinics continue their incredible work. Our work goes far beyond the usual cycle of camps and events and health goals under the National Health Mission to which we are committed. It also falls within the Sustainable Development Goals under which health care is a critical component and which India and all countries of the world

must seek mightily to attain by 2030, the deadline for the UN-set objectives.

As in previous years the boats have been covered extensively in the local and international media. An extraordinary essay for BBC Future by a London-based neurologist Dr. Jules Montague was published on May 21 st 2018. She writes of the Brahmaputra, the people of the river and its islands, of challenges in her piece, "The river people under threat" with deep understanding of the issues and people.

We have had visitors too. Noted environmentalist Almitra Patel, member of the Supreme Court committee for Solid waste management and technical expert, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of India, attended a boat clinic health camp during her visit to Assam in June 2018. Ms Patel donated solar lamps to remote villages in the Brahmaputra river islands in Assam after reading about the Boat Clinics. From February 2008 till March 2019, over 2.7 million numbers of basic health services have been provided. Every year, we handle not less than 3,40,000 cases of patients needing care and succor.

It gives me pleasure to announce a book published by one of our dedicated community workers. Jadumani Hazarika has served the Boat Clinic Unit at Jorhat with dedication and passion the past nine years working under challenging conditions as do the rest of the Boat Clinic teams. He has penned his experiences on board and shared stories from the world's largest river island, Majuli, in upper Assam in his book "Majulir Sakulu" (Majuli's tears) with sensitivity. Our team has grown professionally and personally.

My latest book "Strangers No More" was also launched at Guwahati's Racquet and Billiards Club on 27th May 2018 where I was in conversation with Dhurba Hazarika, author and Chairman of Assam State Public Service Commission. On 1 June, 2018, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma of Meghalaya released the book at Shillong's Heritage Club which was followed by a conversation with Patrica Mukhim, editor of the Shillong Times(and C-NES Trustee) and Dr. Glen Kharkhongor, former Vice Chancellor of Martin Luther University.

Our Brahmaputra Community Radio Station(BCRS) continues its excellent and wide reaching work. With over 10 hours of programming every day, BCRS has an audience on islands and tea plantation communities with a geographical spread that covers three districts and hundreds of villages.

We are deeply grateful to each member of my team in C-NES led by Ashok Rao and the PMU as well as the programme staff at the district level, the research unit and the office staff. Our accounting unit regularly trains our staff in financial procedures.

I wish to thank the Department of Health, Government of Assam, the Minister of Health Dr Himata Biswa Sarma, Mr.Sameer Sinha, Principal Secretary (Health), Dr J.V.N Subramanyam, NHM's Mission Director, and colleagues in Assam, who have been a source of support.

Our Auditors, Jagdish Chand & Co ensured the accounts are in order. The Board of Trustees have been not just supportive but actively involved in several of our projects. Their unstinting support and that of the Advisory Council members have helped us walk steadily over difficult patches.

Donations are welcome because we are always charting challenging waters and tides beyond the rivers and boats and need constant support. Donations are tax exempt under Section G=80G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961.Our FCRA status enables us to get international funding

Hope and Healing on the Brahmaputra

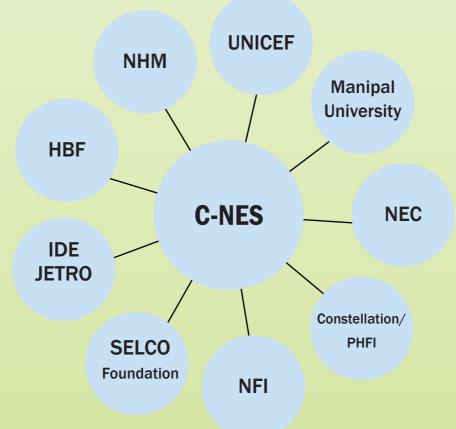




(Barpeta and Dhubri have two Boat Clinics each due to the size of island population and size of islands)

C-NES Partnerships

Fig.2



Abbreviations :

C-NES- Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research NHM-National Health Mission IDE -Institute of Developing Economies JETRO- Japan External Trade Organisation HBF-The Heinrich Boll Foundation UNICEF-United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund NEC-North Eastern Council NFI- National Foundation For India PHFI- Public Health Foundation Of India

Health Initiative: Boat Clinics with NHM

Boat Clinics

Since 2005, C-NES has been providing basic health care services to the flood vulnerable population living in the Brahmaputra islands, through specially developed boats equipped with OPD, laboratories on board as well as pharmacies, first to one, then three and now reach thirteen districts in Assam through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the National Health Mission (NHM), Government of Assam. The goal is to take sustained health care to lakhs of persons on the islands, for the first time since independence, with a special focus on women and children, who are the most vulnerable in difficult conditions. Assam has India's worst Maternal Mortality Rate at 237 MMR (Registrar General of India, Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2014-16) higher than Bihar or Uttar Pradesh and a high Infant Mortality Rate at 44 IMR.

Each district has 15 staff headed by the District Programme Officer (DPO) who is the key person in organizing district plans and coordinating among the team, district health departments, district administration, NHM and the community. His or her team includes two Medical Officers and paramedical staff including two ANMs, a GNM, a pharmacist and one laboratory technician besides three community workers and a four member boat crew. The work of the boat clinics has led to remarkable results: On an average, 18,000-20,000 people are treated every month in the districts, individuals who were earlier beyond the reach of government programmes because no doctors or paramedics would go on a regular basis. The only time, villagers say, they would see a doctor on site was during an emergency like a major flood. Otherwise, they had to travel long distances at great cost and risk to get treated. Today, the services come virtually to their doorstep. Till March 2019, over 2.7 million basic health services have been provided.

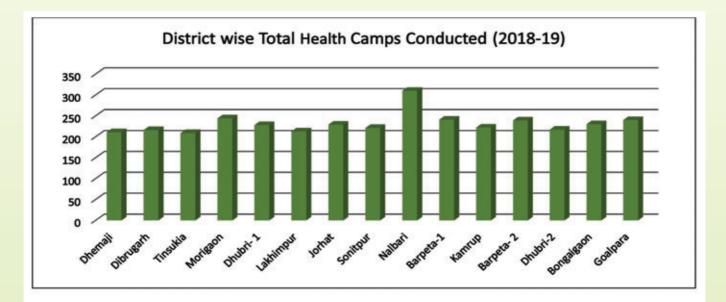
Trust Meeting

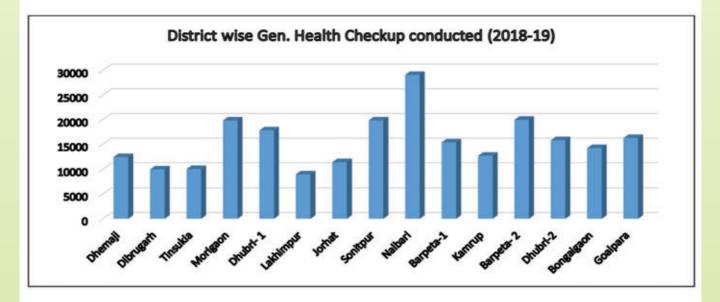
A Trust meeting was held at Guwahati on 29th August 2018. C-NES Trustees Dr Jayanta Madhab, Patricia Mukhim, Mahfuza Rahman and Jayanta Bhattacharya, Member, Advisory Council were present along with Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee. Program Manager, Ashok Rao briefed about programme updates and challenges faced in the year 2017-18 especially the difficulties from the delay in receiving funds from NHM due to which the performance had considerably gone down compared to previous years. Based on his presentations relevant issues were raised by the Trustees.

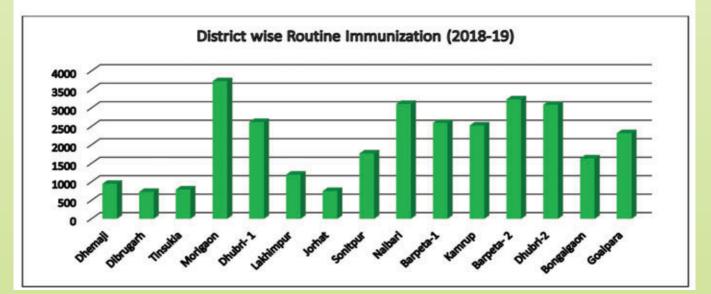


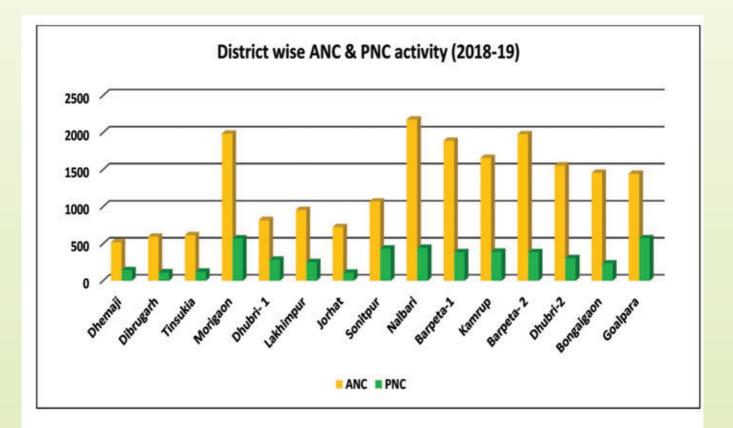
PMU members with Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika and C-NES Trustees Patricia Mukhim, Mahfuza Rahman(right) at the Trust Meeting

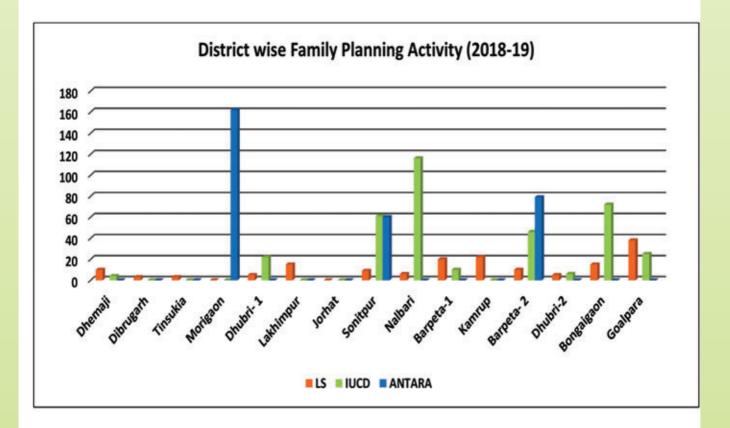
Boat Clinic Figures











Review Meeting with NHM

A meeting with NHM was held at the NHM Guwahati Office on 19th January 2019 to review the Boat Clinic program implemented by C-NES supported by NHM, Assam. The Managing Trustee C-NES, Sanjoy Hazarika, the Program Management Unit, DPOs and Medical Officers of 15 Boat Clinic unit were present. Dr Milan Barooah, Advisory Council Member, C-NES was also present. NHM, Govt of Assam was represented by the Mission Director, NHM, GoA J.V.N.Subramanyam and Dr. A.C. Baishya Executive Director, NHM, GoA among others.

In his remarks Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee C-NES, thanked NHM for the support to the program and said that it would not have been possible to reach the unreached without the strong support extended by NHM. He informed that in order to reach the islands and serve the targeted population the Boat Clinic teams has to overcome various challenges and still the passion and dedication of the teams is never compromised. He invited the Mission Director & Executive Director to visit the Boat Clinics for further guidance and suggestions.

The Executive Director NHM Dr Baishya, said he was glad that the Boat Clinics were able to reach and make themselves present among the remotest of communities residing in the islands of the Brahmaputra. He said that the programme now needs to look at a comprehensive health care service package which will also look not only at the numbers but also at the quality of service. The Mission Director, NHM, Assam, while thanking Sanjoy Hazarika and the Boat Clinic team, said that the expectations of the government from the Boat Clinic program is high as through the program the government is able to reach the last man living in difficult terrain. A presentation of the Boat Clinic programme was made by Ashok Rao Programme Manager, C-NES including showing the programme supervision and monitoring under DHS, reporting component and levels, manpower, annual micro plan, consolidated yearly activity report and performance.



Sanjoy Hazarika interacting with Mission Director and senior officials of NHM, Govt of Assam



District Programme Officers(DPOs) and Medicals Officers from the 15 Boat Clinic Unit with the Managing Trustee and Programme Management Unit at Guwahati's Ginger Hotel before the Review Meet with NHM on 19th January 2019

Meeting with US Consulate Kolkata



Officials from the US consulate Kolkata- Saadia Azim,Public Affairs Specialist, Jay Treloar, Assistant Affairs Officer, Rupam Sen, Manager, Web and Social Media at a meeting with Ashok Rao, Dr CR Hira and Bhaswati Goswami on September 1st 2018, at Guwahati

Solar IRL Inauguration

On 25th July 2018 the Joint Director of Health Service, Tinsukia along with other DHS members- Addl. Chief Medical Officer, Regional Project Officer UNDP, Dibrugarh Region, Vaccine & Logistic Cold Chain Manager, Tinsukia, DPM, DME, DDM from NHM Tinsukia visited the Tinsukia Boat Clinic unit to inaugurate the Solar ILR which was donated by the Bengaluru based SELCO foundation. The visitors also visited a Boat Clinic health camp at Erasuti sapori.



Inauguration of ILR by Joint Director of Health Service, Tinsukia as DPO Mitra Jyoti Konwar(left) looks on



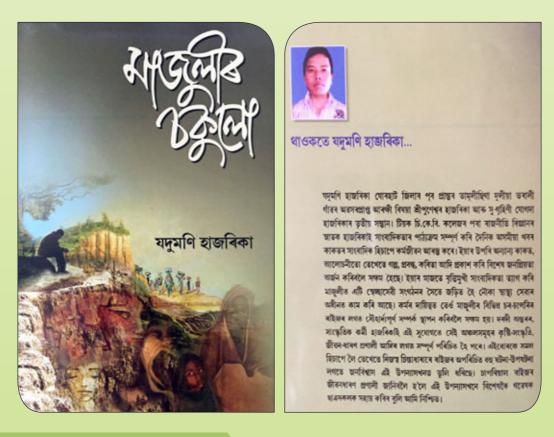
Group photo of the visiting members with the Tinsukia Boat Clinic staff.



Dr Milan Baruah , Member Advisory Council, C-NES was present with Ashok Rao, PM and Manik C Boruah, APM, on a review visit to the Barpeta Boat Clinic district on 26th September 2018. They are seen here with the health team of Barpeta Boat Clinic II

Majuli's Tears Published

Since the past eight years Jadumani Hazarika has been serving the Boat Clinic Unit at Jorhat as a dedicated community worker. Working under extremely challenging physical conditions, 24X7 with the entire 15 member team (as do the rest of our Boat Clinic units- 15 in all) making sure that the insular river island dwellers around Majuli, the world's largest river island, do not miss out on health camps. In his spare time, he writes. He has a lot to write, life on board, the river island dwellers , their misery with annual floods, the constant dangers of erosion and the mighty river itself. He has finally published his work" Majulir Sakulu" (Majuli's tears) to share Majuli's stories with the world



C-NES Events

The Assamese Sikhs: Negotiating Transitions

Heinrich Böll Stiftung in collaboration with C-NES and Majha House, a newly formed Trust in Amritsar for creative arts, research and literature initiated a project titled "The Assamese Sikhs: Negotiating Transitions" which undertook research on the identity of 'Assamese/Asomiya Sikhs'-- who migrated from Punjab to Assam and Meghalaya over centuries. The report of the study was released on 27th November 2018 at the Kanaklal Baruah auditorium of Assam State Museum, Guwahati. The report found that the Assamese Sikh community which traces its origin to the 17th century still remains an unknown community outside the state

The Panel saw spirited discussions led by Manjit Singh, Sikh litterateur and leader from Assam, and also included presentations by Niyati Singh, the project Coordinator and on Skype by Simran Kaur, the researcher in Punjab. Managing Trustee C-NES, Sanjoy Hazarika made the opening remarks and provided a background to the report on what he called "efforts to build bridges between the North East and North West". A similar presentation was made in Amritsar on November 18 to many Sikh scholars, cultural leaders and senior leaders of the city. Manjit Singh critiqued the report for bringing the Shillong Sikhs into the project saying that was a 'different history'. Manik Boruah, Associate Programme Manager of C-NES introduced the programme while Chok Tsering of HBS explained the goals of the German foundation and its association with various projects in the North East.



Sanjoy Hazarika giving his remarks at the event(left) while Manjit Singh(right) speaks at the panel



A section of the audience

C-NES hosts Myanmar delegation

A delegation of ethnic groups from Myanmar, including political leaders, scholars and negotiators, hosted overall by C-NES, visited three states of North East India- Mizoram, Manipur and Assam on a week long journey in December 2018 to understand historic efforts, existing challenges and constitutional innovations which have been developed for ethnic representation and equality. The team was hosted in Mizoram by Mizoram University and in Imphal by the Burma Studies Centre at Manipur University. The 34-member group, which saw representation from states in Myanmar with cultural and historic connections to the North-east such as Shan, Kachin and Chin, was on a study tour of the three states to assess what was applicable from constitutional and people-led innovations here.

A senior range of figures addressed and had energetic conversations with the visitors including former Union Home Secretary GK Pillai, Chief Minister N. Biren of Manipur, the Governor of Mizoram as well as Himanghsu Sekhar Das, Assam State Information Commissioner, Nilay Dutta, senior lawyer and Advocate General for Arunachal Pradesh, as well as Debojit Thaosen, former Chief Elected Member of the Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council. They provided a window into the complex world of policy marking, dealing with difficult governance issues and enabling greater say for local communities and political groups in the wielding of political and economic power. Others who shared experiences in Guwahati included Gautam Mukhopadyaya, former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Patricia Mukhim, editor, Shillong Times and human rights activist

Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES and Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, spoke at various sessions on the need to assert freedom of expression, protect human rights and ensure transparency through Right to Information as well as deal with impunity and arbitrariness. The chief coordinator of the SCCB delegation, Victor Biak Lian, said "this is just the beginning" of exchanges, that intense learning and study tours should continue.



The delegation from Myanmar at Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport after being felicitated with traditional Assamese Gamochas by the C-NES team led by Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika



From left: Patricia Mukhim, Editor, Shillong Times, Victor Biak Lian, chief coordinator of the SCCB delegation, Sanjoy Hazarika , Managing Trustee, C-NES and former Union Home Secretary GK Pillai at the panel discussion



Some of the visiting Myanmar delegation members getting introduced to the panelists



A group photograph of the visiting delegation

SALT Knowledge Fair

C-NES and Voluntary Health Association of Assam (VHAA) supported by Constellation, organized a Knowledge Fair on 14th and 15th March 2019, at Pragjyoti ITA Centre, Guwahati, Assam. Community facilitators and champions of the SALT intervened villages shared successful stories and experiences which emerged during the project implementation period. In this context it was dream building for better health of their children through immunization, along with education, safe drinking water, nutrition and sanitation and how communities took steps through action plan after self-assessment.

Group discussions were held where experiences were shared with the SALT approach. SALT representatives from Himachal and Delhi were also present and shared their experiences. Phillip Forth, Founder member Constellation from UK, Rituu B. Nanda from Constellation, Delhi, Dr R M Dubey Head of Centre for SDGS,Dr Sandra Albert, Director IIPH, Shillong, Dr Ashoke Roy, Director RRC (NE), Khanapara, Mr Raju Tamang ,Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Ramnath Ballala, STM, Assam Piramal Foundation, Rashmi Rekha Bhuyan, Assistant Director, Assam Aids Control Society, Dr Purobi Saikia, District Immunization Officer, Kamrup and Bharati Goswami, District Public Health Nursing Supervisor, Kamrup were the resource persons for the two day meet. Dr. Nayanjeet Chaudhury, Senior Technical Adviser, Global Best Practices and a public health specialist moderated a session. C-NES and VHAA teams and the community facilitators and champions from Bongaigaon, Kamrup and Udalguri were present at the fair. The Bongaigaon SALT team organised a Knowledge Fair 2019 at Bongaigaon on 9th March 2019. More than 140 participants from 30 villages were present to share their SALT experiences. A similar fair was held at Guwahati the previous year on 27th April 2018, with a focus on better health of children through immunization. SALT representatives from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Manipur Himachal & Delhi were also present and shared their experiences.

VHAA and C-NES supported by Constellation, a registered not for profit organization are working (from February 2017) on a project titled "Impact assessment of the SALT (Stimulate, Appreciate, Learn and Transfer) approach of community engagement - a mixed methods study in Assam". C-NES had been given the responsibility to conduct the project in 30 villages of Bongaigaon district while Voluntary Health Association of Assam (VHAA) have been given Kamrup (Rural)and Udalguri districts. In 2017, Constellation introduced the SALT and CLCP process in order to encourage and engage communities to take ownership of immunisation. The first year was an evaluation of the approach which was carried out by PHFI & IIPH.



Community champions share their SALT experiences, stories of community upliftment



A group photograph of the participants of the Knowledge Fair 2019



Knowlwge Fair at Bongaigaon, March 2019. Community Facilitator Baharul Islam to the extreme left



Facilitator Noor Jamal interacting with the local champions of the community at Bongaigaon 's Sonakhuli pt 2 village

C-NES Participation

C-NES at TISS CSR Conclave

The TISS Eastern Conclave for Building CSR Partnerships supported by UNICEF and the Indian Institute of Technology (Guwahati) was held at IIT Guwahati campus on the 4th, 5th and 6th December 2018. C-NES Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami participated at the conclave as a panelist on the session on "Why CSR, What CSR, How CSR". She spoke about how CSR as a concept has undergone a huge change since it was initiated and her experiences working on CSR support for C-NES over the years – the challenges and opportunities. The session was moderated by Rohan Sarma (Head, TISS AESDII). Her co panelists were Prabir Banerjea (Co- Founder, Balipara Foundation)Ananya Goswami (Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF India) Guwahati Campus) Dr. Sanjay Barbora (Dean - School of Social Sciences and Humanities , TISS Guwahati Campus) Dhiraj Kakati (Managing Trustee, Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Limited Foundation) and K.N. Hazarika (Former CMD, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.)



Communications Officer, C-NES Bhaswati Goswami with her co- panellists at the Conclave



A group photographs of the panellists and participants at the TISS CSR Conclave

C-NES at SELCO Energy Conference

The District Programme Officer, Jorhat Boat Clinic, Riturekha Baruah Phukan attended the Decentralized Healthcare and Sustainable Energy conference, held on 7th and 8th December 2018, organized by SELCO Foundation at Bengaluru. SELCO Foundation seeks to inspire and implement socially, financially and environmentally inclusive solutions by improving access to sustainable energy and envisions a world where sustainable energy is a part of the approach to development and not an afterthought. As a panelist Riturekha gave a presentation of the Boat Clinic initiative in Assam which got an overwhelming response from the participants. Energy and heath experts from across the globe attended the conference. It needs mention that the Jorhat Boat Clinic has been given solar power by SELCO as parts of its active CSR policy



Riturekha Baruah representing Boat Clinic initiative at Health and Energy conference of SELCO Foundation



Programme Manager Ashok Rao and Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami attended the launch event of Arogya, a community based intervention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) organized by Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) on 12th February, 2019 at Guwahati. Ashok Rao and Bhaswati Goswami wih Alok Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, VHAI, Jyotika Baruah, Senior Programme Manager, VHAA, Ruchira Neog, State Programme Coordinator, Arogya and Dr Nancepreet Kaur, Senior Programme Officer, VHAI.



Participants at a workshop held at Guwahati on the 18th September 2018 organised by Unicef and Tezpur University to shape the design of "Communications4NE" a web based forum to utilise common resources and experiences for learning. Communications Officer,C-NES Bhaswati Goswami represented the organization as part of the initiative.

Boat Clinic: Write ups and Media Coverage

Held as a flagship innovative programme by the Government of Assam, the Central Government and UNICEF, the boat clinics have been written about extensively in local, regional, national, and international media. Follows the media coverage this year:

- By the BBC on May 21, 2018. The link follows: http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20180516-the-sapori-peopleliving-on-indias-brahmaputra-islands
- By Al Jazeera on May 22, 2019 The link follows: https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/india-assamboat-clinics-saving-lives-brahmaputra-river-180515073833759.html
- Coverage on Brahmaputra Community Radio Station(BCRS) : https://www.sentinelassam.com/news/when-thecommunity-speaks/
- Link to the article on the Boat Clinics by Pratyasha Acharya, Market Research Associate for the United Health Group: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/dropping-anchor-brahmaputra-boat-clinics-assam-pratyasha-acharya
- In May 2018, a team from Loksabha TV, led by .Mamta Singh accompanied the Jorhat Boat Clinic and covered a health camp at Bhekeli 1 no sapori. The programme was telecast on 29th and 30th July 2018. The link follows: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILa_H9784K8&feature=share



A documentary team from Selco Foundation at the Jorhat Boat Clinic on 18th March 2018. The link to the documentary follows: https//youtu.be/JWv9-K3LMQ

Visitors

Almitra Patel Visits Boat Clinic

Noted environmentalist Almitra Patel, member of the Supreme Court committee for Solid waste management for Class 1 cities, Technical expert, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of India, attended a boat clinic health camp during her recent visit to Assam in June 2018. Patel donated solar lamps to remote villages in the Brahmaputra river islands in Assam. She felt the need of the communities inhabiting the islands while reading an article on the Boat Clinics written by Devjyot Ghosal in the Quartz India online magazine and appreciated C-NES' innovative health outreach work in the Brahmaputra islands. 399 solar street lamps, with light sensors which automatically function, have been installed in the islands where the Boat Clinics provide health care, one for each village in an area where the community congregates like prayer halls, school buildings, market places. They light up the islands post sunset.



Almitra Patel with C-NES Regional Office staff

Researcher visits Boat Clinic

Dr. Shirish N R, a researcher from Bengaluru's SELCO foundation visited and stayed onboard the Jorhat Boat Clinic for three days. A co-founder of "Ideas Unbound –Ideas for better tomorrow", he interviewed villagers about transportation and medical services. His focus was to find out the various problems of island villagers including how they were getting health facilities during monsoon and winter season.



Dr. Shirish interviewing a villagers at Bhekeli 2 No Sapori

Officials from Andaman & Nikobar Islands

A two member team from Andaman & Nikobar comprising of Assistant Commissioner, Directorate of Tribal affairs, Rose Shimray and Dr HM Siddaraju Deputy Director (FW, HE & HIC) and Joint Director (NHM), visited the C-NES Regional Office at Guwahati on 23rd August to know about the Boat Clinic health outreach programme. The next day (24th August) they visited the Boat Clinic unit at Kamrup along with Associate Programme Manager Manik Boruah and interacted with the health team. The visitors were accompanied Dr. Jaydeep Das from the Regional Resource Centre. At the C-NES office Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami gave them a presentation of the Boat Clinics.



The officials being felicitated by the Kamrup Boat Clinic team(left) and at the regional office of C-NES (right)

UNICEF team visit

On 23rd May 2018 a health cum awareness camp was conducted by the Dhubri Boat Clinic I at Sutlamari where the UNICEF Assam team led by Dr Tushar Rane (Chief Field Officer,UNICEF NE Office,Dr Shweta Sarma,Nutrition Specialist, State (UNICEF),Dr Sridhar,Health Officer,State (UNICEF),Mr Manish Khetawat,Program Associate including the District Program Manager NHM,Dhubri and District Community Mobilizer NHM, Dhubri were present . The camp was conducted at the L.P School, prior to which the awareness session on Non Communicable Diseases,Clean Drinking Water and Routine Immunization was given by the DPO, Sultan Nekib and the health team.



The UNICEF team interacting with the health camp beneficiaries



Sultan Nekib DPO, Dhubri Unit I conducting the awareness session during the Unicef team visit

Team from JICA visits C-NES

A study team from Japan's JICA visited the C-NES Guwahati office and interacted with the Programme Management Unit(PMU) members- Ashok Rao, Dr C R Hira, Manik Ch Boruah and Bhaswati Gowami on 12th March 2019 to know about the Boat Clinics. The team was led by Hironori Nakajima, Deputy General Manager, Global Project Division of ITEC(International Total Engineering Corporation), Ayako Kondo, Project Consultant, Infrastructure Development Division, PADECO and Dipankar Deka,Office Manager PADECO India, Assam. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a governmental agency that coordinates official development assistance for the government of Japan



Sultan Nekib DPO, Dhubri Unit I conducting the awareness session during the Unicef team visit

Researcher on the Boat Clinic:

Pratyasha Acharya, a Market Research Associate working for the US based UnitedHealth Group, accompanied the Kamrup Boat Clinic health team Kaltuli char of Chhaygaon, Kamrup on 10th July 2018. She also visited the Boat Clinic unit at Dibrugarh on 12th July and accompanied the health team on a overnight camp Her trip was to observe the health camp and services delivered by the Boat clinic. Follows her report:

I am a Market Research Associate working for an MNC. While working long hours and trying to gain some knowledge on the health indicators in India, I realized that there is so much we need to know about the public health landscape before we devise mechanisms for trying to bridge the gaps. I was scouting different sources for a suitable learning opportunity which would feed my curiosity and provide a fresh perspective. Then I came across a BBC news article which covered the innovative boat health clinic initiative by the C-NES. What caught my attention was that these mobile clinics have been operating successfully and diligently for quite a good number of years. It takes grit, determination, a strong vision and a completely cohesive team to pull this off. This was exactly what I needed and I was on board within a couple of days after contacting the team at C-NES. I took a complete week off from work and flew down to Assam to be a part of this mission in some capacity.

Many relatives warned me about how the Brahmaputra during the monsoons would be in a spate, but I knew deep inside that come what may I needed to take the plunge. After meeting the team at Guwahati and gathering more background information about this initiative, I took off for my first health camp to 'Kamrup' the next day. Kamrup is a rural district in the remote interiors of Assam with a population of around 17,000. Since this was lower Assam, the river waters weren't that tricky to navigate and this was a day health camp where the main focus was on women and reproductive health. The folks residing there gathered at the camp within no time. They were mostly women with newly born infants and children. It was as if they were waiting for the camp to be set up and were thankful that the team had arrived. The local residents started queuing up outside the camp and proceeded one by one to the camp. They seemed pretty shy while interacting with me and another fellow intern and were not very open at once. I surmised from this that the C-NES, during the initial phase, must have worked tirelessly to convince them of the necessity of regular health checkups and this may not have been an easy task. This challenge is compounded by the fact that the men are usually the chief decision makers within households and until they are convinced the women would not come forward howsoever pressing their health needs might be. This was a Day health camp, and so, honestly speaking, I didn't have much time to gather all relevant experience and insights I needed.

The major game changer was at Dibrugarh where I spent two days in the boat clinic, traversing the rough waters of Brahmaputra in upper Assam. The captain deserves special mention and credit for his mastery at navigating those waters. We covered a couple of 'char' or 'sapori' villages during the span of those two days. Wherever necessary, we walked down to the villages for the mothers who had just delivered infants weren't in the condition to walk up to the boat clinic. While negotiating my way through the muddy terrain I wondered about the living conditions of the local inhabitants. The ASHA worker was delighted to lead us inside the village towards the patients' modest huts, and she told us about the various difficulties they face while commuting which is a major problem in these areas. It made me think that in a short while I would be back in my safe and secure surroundings in a metropolitan city, but the locals will have to contend with their surroundings on an everyday basis. Their huts would be hit by the floods, they would have to travel for three hours to reach Dibrugarh in case they needed special medical attention, and they would face many other situations, both imaginable and unimaginable. However, among all these adversities, the boat health clinic tries to bring some much-needed relief and medical attention, particularly primary healthcare to them by visiting them every month. What is more important and noteworthy, is that the doctors are very different from the doctors we would see sitting in the hospitals in cities. They know the patients by their names and they make it a point to follow up with the community workers on patients they haven't seen for a while. Every single person associated with the boat clinic is highly motivated and deeply committed to the cause. This noble cause is what ties them together and they don't seek credit or recognition for their work.

Interacting with both the rural population in these remote areas and the boat clinic teams has been both a very humbling and richly rewarding experience for me. This has given me a new direction, a stronger motivation and further goals to work on.

> Pratyasha Acharya Market Research Associate UnitedHealth Group



Pratyasha Acharya with the Dibrugarh Boat Clinic team

C-NES Intern

Boat Clinics have provided opportunities to students doing research on delivery of primary healthcare and education to the islands on the Brahmaputra. Research studies have been conducted by students from across the globe for the last over ten years.

Abhimanyu Hazarika pursuing his graduation from the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune interned with C-NES' Boat Clinics at Tinsukia and Dibrugarh in June 2018. Follows his report:

I was privileged to intern with C-NES' boat clinic programme. Through the Tinsukia unit, I was part of 2 trips, of 3 day and 6 day durations including commute. The first trip covered villages under the Laika division (Pomua, Phasidia) as well as Erahoti. The former were by and large people of the Mising tribe and constituted much of the island population of the Tinsukia division.

Each trip of the boat to an island (or two if logistics permitted) thus covered excess of 500 people with a sizeable portion of adults among them showing up for the health camps with their infant children. The first trip had me covering 6 interviewees including 2 females, besides informal conversations with villagers. From conversations with the doctor as well as programme coordinator, it became clear that many of the ailments affecting the people can be traced to the practices essential to the Mising community. A meat intensive diet, rearing of pigs (in a non-dairyfarm fashion due to poverty) are practices that observation indicated as being significant contributing factors to the treatments sought for commonly – high blood pressure, worms, skin rashes, fever etc.

It was revealed that poor family planning is a rampant practice, with kids amongst Mising tribals often running into double digits with minimal age gaps amongst them. This contributes to a poorer immune system in offspring. When supplemented with the iron-filled drinking water that the island dwellers are forced to use for consumption, it explains the prevalence of ailments stated earlier.

The trip undertaken through the Dibrugarh unit also produced similar results to a significant extent. I covered the villages of Chekiya and Charkhila. Both these villages also had a combined population of over 850 people and consisted mostly of British-era migrants from the Purvanchal region of India (UP-Bihar border). These islands were geographically located in closer proximity to the town hub of Dibrugarh and the answers revealed that island residents were heavily dependent on travel to town for remuneration. This has translated into smaller landholdings among residents here, except those employed to disburse benefits of government schemes. Given that in this case the patients came to the boat for their diagnosis, the involvement of the A.S.H.A workers were greater in mobilizing numbers for the camps. It also negated possible delays and issues in logistical arrangements that could result out of inclement weather.

In the islands under the two districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, an agrarian society with de facto patriarchy was observed. None of the women interviewed had avenues to participate in individual enterprise and were dependent on income earned from the sale of produce. At the same time, digital and telecom proliferation meant that basic mobile connectivity was present in most of the islands which eased the process of communicating with locals on the itinerary of the boat clinic. Constitutionally mandated governance structures at the grassroots level, viz the ward/panchayat system, was the mode of availing government schemes in diverse areas including but not limited to, ration, gas connections, electricity, pucca housing, health coverage, infant nourishment and child education.

In their capacity as basic medical service providers, the boat clinic staff facilitated general diagnoses, infant vaccines, laboratory facilities to gauge sugar/hemoglobin/pressure levels, pharmaceutical sales and general awareness on health issues. This was at each and every stage done such that the island dwellers bore no costs and received due treatment free of charge.

Insights from the field

The connectivity issues in terms of changing water levels and ever widening width of the Brahmaputra river, result in frequent trips required for the island residents to nearby urban/semi-urban areas. These are for reasons like need to procure basic household items, sell farm produce, emergency health services, children's education from middle school onwards, buying housing materials, procuring forms to avail banking/telecommunication services, among others. Depending on the proximity to the mainland from their homes, the round trips costs per person at current fuel rates can be in the range of Rs 40-Rs400, which increases when accounting for lodging expenses off-shore running into multiple days.

Several claims of the government as made to the mainland population also fall flat on examining the scenarios in the islands. Electricity has only reached every village to the extent of some purchasing solar panels of their own or being provided by NGOs, rather than the standard government definition of minimum electrification which stipulates 10% of households over and above schools, health centres, community halls, offices being connected to the grid.

The boat clinic initiative, as gathered from my experiences, is extremely popular with the island inhabitants across districts. Apart from the odd lamentation about the boat not being able to diagnose serious illnesses, there is gratitude among the folk at the overall health and immunity situations of the villages covered notably improving.

Conclusion

Overall, my experience at the boat clinic opened my mind up to new realities and the sorry state of affairs of many of our less privileged in both the economic and geographic sense. Through my field work and interviews as part of the internship I attempted to analyse the health scenarios, livelihood and living condition of the island residents. The simple fact is that I learnt more in my days with the boat clinic staff about my state than any news item or documentary could teach me, and for this I will remain grateful to C-NES always.

Abhimanyu Hazarika



Abhimanyu(left) in a team photo with the Tinsukia Boat Clinic unit

Visit by Breast Cancer Hub Founder

Dr Lopamudra Das Roy, founder of Breast Cancer Hub, based at Charlotte, US with experience in Research, Teaching and Mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in the field of Genetics and Breast & Pancreatic Cancer Research visited the C-NES office at Guwahati on 12 th July 2018. She founded the Breast Cancer Hub with a vision to globally connect and help increase the survival frequency of women and men with Breast Cancer through Awareness and Research. Dr Roy connected with the Boat Clinic team at Dibrugarh led by District Programme Officer Arup Saikia and Bhaskar Bhuyan, coordinator of Radio Brahmaputra. An interactive session was organized by Arup Saikia at the C-NES office at Dibrugarh on 20th July, 2018 where she gave a presentation.



Dr Roy with the Boat Clinic team at Dibrugarh led by District Programme Officer Arup Saikia and Bhaskar Bhuyan, coordinator of Radio Brahmaputra

Sanjoy Hazarika at Commonwealth meeting

C-NES Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika is also the International Director of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives and leads the South Asia Media Defenders Networks (SAMDEN). He is seen here in April 2012 at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in London where CHRI organized a series of well attended side events ranging from pretrial detention, Small States at Chatham House, a film festival on human rights at the British Museum in collaboration with Commonwealth Foundation, a panel on the Gambia, the release of the CHRI report to CHOGM on SDG 8.7 (human trafficking, bonded labour, child labour and modern slavery).



Hazarika raised questions relating to impunity and killings of media workers, the need for extensive changes in the common law and colonial period mandated police and prison systems. CSOs are coming out with a communique on a range of issues pushing for changes in laws relating to LBGTQ, better access to information and transparency, the need for more humane policies toward migrants.

"Strangers No More" launched at Guwahati and Shillong

Sanjoy Hazarika's latest book "Strangers No More" was launched at Guwahati's Racquet and Billiards Club on 27th May 2018 where he was in conversation with Dhurba Hazarika, author and Chairman of Assam State Public Service Commission. He read passages from the book and there was an energetic round of question and answers with audience followed by conversations.



Sanjoy Hazarika in conversation with Dhurba Hazarika at Guwahati's Racquet and Billiards Club

On 1 June, 2018 The Heritage Club, Shillong, and Aleph Books, organized the launch of Hazarika's book at Shillong where the Chief Minister Conrad Sangma of Meghalaya released the book at the Heritage Club followed by the authors conversation with Patrica Mukhim, editor of the Shillong Times, and Dr. Glen Kharkhongor, former Vice Chancellor of Martin Luther University.

Travelling down the river

Following Boat Clinic SB Pallabi as it sails downstream the mighty river from Dibrugarh in upper Assam to reach Morigaon in middle Assam, its final destination. The boat is donated to C-NES by prominent editor and economist, Swaminathan S Aiyar, and named after his daughter (along with four others, each named after members of his family). It was built at Dibrugah's Maijan Ghat, by local boat builders with local materials and technology, like the rest of the Boat Clinics.

Early on 25th June 2018, the boat crew and the team led by the District Programme Officer, Morigaon Boat Clinic Unit Shyamjit Pashi and Associate Programme Manager Manik Boruah started the three day long journey- (a distance of about 350 kms) after offering prayers to the Brahmaputra. It was mostly pleasant weather throughout with surreal sunsets onboard. On 26th morning the sailing team met the Jorhat Boat Clinic team at Bhekeli, near the famous island of Majuli. There was a lot of excitement as the two teams met, the camaraderie and team spirit spontaneous. After a while the Morigaon team sets off towards Tezpur and then onwards to final destination. The sailing team then met the Sonitpur Boat Clinic SB Numali and boat crew at Telia gaon where they spent the night. The photographs show the sunset onboard just before reaching Telia gaon. Finally on 27th of June, early morning, S.B.Pallabi was anchored at Morigaon's Lahorighat. Sohoruddin, the master of Morigaon Boat Clinic safely sailed the boat from Tezpur and completed a memorable journey.

The rejuvenated Morigaon Boat Clinic team seen posing on their new boat. They set off on their mission the next day with renewed vigour.



From the Field:

Akha back in service



C-NES' first Boat Clinic Akha, built with an award money from the World Bank in 2004, has been providing health care service to remote Brahmaputra islands in upper Assam's Dibrugarh district since 2005. This photograph taken on 25th May 2018 shows the boat back in service after a 5 month break due to repair with happy beneficiaries posing with it. The boat clinics need at least one major annual set of repairs so that the safety component is not compromised. Boat repairs take long and major repairs can only be done during the dry months of winter when camps are conducted with the help of smaller country boats. Lifting of boats like SB Akha to the bank for repair is not easy- it requires specialized skill apart from weather and river water conditions.

Kamrup:



Kamrup Boat Clinic team on way to a health camp to screen SAM (severe acute malnutrition) children accompanied by the district nutrition counselor on 26th September 2018.

Journey to Kobu Sapori

A report by Kakoli Gogoi DPO, DHEMAJI

Due to the increasing current of the Siang, the camp at Kobu Sapori was not conducted in June 2018. However ASHA Geeta Devi of Kobu Sapori repeatedly asked the Boat Clinic team to conduct the camp. The DPO and community workers discussed the situation of the river with the ferry services and with the C-NES Regional Office after which the team decided to conduct the camp at Kobu Sapori on 28th July 2018. The team headed to their destination at around 6.30 A.M. The team had to go approximately 12 kms between the Poba Reserved forest and the Siang River to reach the boat where it was anchored. While moving around 1 km the van got stuck in mud. We decided to walk to our destination. We hired two cycles from the forest reserve to carry the medicines. It was not easy since the condition of the road was bad. Moreover Poba Reserved forest is known for wild elephants, snakes and leeches. As we started walking leeches started falling from trees and sideways. We had to be careful the whole way, leeches started crawling inside much to our discomfort and fear. After walking a few kilometres we got an autorickshaw but as soon as we entered it we found lot of leeches inside. We cleaned the rickshaw but still many leeches were falling from top on us. At around 1.15 P.M we reached the ghat where the boat was anchored. Now the main risk was the river. Just to start the boat took 15 minutes as it got stuck due to sediments. After moving for few minutes, the current of the river started increasing due to flow. We were tense. Luckily we crossed the river safe and reached destination at around 3.00 PM. Within one and half hour the team conducted 115 General Checkups, ANC, PNC immunization and awareness camp.

We could not spend as much time as we would have wanted to due to the risks involved in the travel and the unpredictability of the river. At around 4.30 PM we returned and luckily this time there was no problem. And a big thanks to the auto rickshaw drivers who stayed back for us although the forest we had to cross was dangerous in evening. By 6.00 P.M we reached the reserved forest where we had our meal after hours, each one famished. At around 6.45 P.M we returned back after this extremely challenging journey, physically exhausted but happy that we could reach our beneficiaries.



Walking to the camp at Kobu sapori



Dhemaji Boat Clinic in a flood relief camp conducted 15th September 2018

Bongaigaon: Sessions on IEC/BCC

The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic organized a series of IEC/BCC activities with the help of District NHM, DHS in March 2018 on pneumonia, diarrhea, complementary feeding and prevention of child marriage. The sessions were held in different island villages covered by the boat clinic. The boat clinic community worker and ASHA played an active role gathering the community. Through village meetings, street plays, chocolate distribution among school children, recreational activities at school it was ensured that villagers enthusiastically took part in the events. The Boat Clinic Medical Officers spoke on population control and family planning.



In June 2018 the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic team conducted awareness and screening camps on nutrition. Nutrition counselor Mondakini Bardoloi deputed from the civil hospital accompanied the team. The objective of the programme was to identify SAM (severe acute malnutrition) children. During the screening process, 5 SAM cases(under 5 years) were detected and necessary actions taken.

Barpeta Unit I

The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic organized a series of IEC/BCC activities with the help of District NHM, DHS in March 2018 on pneumonia, diarrhea, complementary feeding and prevention of child marriage. The sessions were held in different island villages covered by the boat clinic. The boat clinic community worker and ASHA played an active role gathering the community. Through village meetings, street plays, chocolate distribution among school children, recreational activities at school it was ensured that villagers enthusiastically took part in the events. The Boat Clinic Medical Officers spoke on population control and family planning.



Community workers of the Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit I carrying medicines on way to a health camp with flood waters submerging the village



Dr Milan Baruah , Member Advisory Council, C-NES was present with Ashok Rao, PM and Manik C Boruah on a review visit to the Barpeta Boat Clinic district on 26th September 2018. A review of the work done during the past six month and the challenges faced during the period was done. Seen here with the Barpeta Unit I team

Barpeta II



In June 2018 the Barpeta Boat Clinic, Unit- II as part of the IDCF (intensified diarrhea control fortnight) which begun from the 29th May to 9th June, distributed ORS and zinc tablets among children and infants between 2 months to 5 years





On 25th July, 7 beneficiaries from Ramapara Pam village, who were motivated after regular counselling were inserted IUCD in the boat, a big success for the Barpeta II Team. Swapna Das(sitting, right),DPO Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit II helping in conducting the camp. World Population Day on July 11 is an annual event, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. Efforts was made by the Boat Clinics to increase Family planning performance. The Barpeta Unit II was successful in inserting IUCDs to 18 beneficiaries. Six awareness meetings were conducted specifically on family planning & breastfeeding by the unit.

Morigaon

Children and young adults are most vulnerable to worm infection. As per National Centre for Disease Control (2016) the prevalence of worms in Assam is 50% and is among the high prevalence state in India. This necessitates deworming among all especially children and adolescent of 1 to 19 years. The objective of National De-worming Day (NDD) is to de-worm all preschool and school-age children between the age of 1-19 years through the platform of School/ Collage and Anganwadi centre in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of the life.

This year the first round of NDD was observed on 12th February, 2018 in Assam. Accordingly the Morigaon Boat Clinic team tried to generate mass awareness through sessions among the beneficiaries of the island villages. The awareness sessions were held in the local dialect led by the Medical officer of the unit Dr. Asraful Islam, the District Program Officer (DPO) Shyamjit Pashi, the Community Worker (CW) and ANM of the unit. Albendazole 400 mg tablets were distributed.



Post a deworming session by Morigaon Baot Clinic

Sonitpur



Sonitpur Boat clinic motivated nine women for laparoscopic surgery in July2018 as part of Population Stabilization Fortnight. ASHA Hasina Khatun of Alitengoni char has herself undergone L.S. to be a role model .Motivated beneficiaries were brought by Md. Mofidul Islam, active and dedicated community worker (cw)of Sonitpur to Tezpur Medical College and Hospital where the L.S. camp was organized by Bihaguri block PHC. The CW took the responsibility of dropping them at their respective homes end of the day.



DPO Sonitpur Mousumi Dowerah seen motivating a 78 year old beneficiary to adopt permanent family planning method for a better future.He was at the health camp to vaccinate his 9 month child (from his second wife)



The Sonitpur team's success in implementing interval IUCD insertion. Here the team poses with IUCD beneficiaries at Mekar char in August 2018.

Goalpara

The Goalpara Boat Clinic team got conducted 11 laparoscopic sterilizations at Lakhipur BPHC on 31st July and 16 laparoscopy surgeries at Agia BPHC on 4th August 2018 as part of a successful World Family Planning Fortnight initiative through positive counselling on a regular sustained manner among the beneficiaries.



Family planning initiatives by Goalpara Boat Clinic team

Jorhat

In March 2018, an awareness camp was organised by the Jorhat Boat Clinic Unit at Salmora village of upper Majuli on Diabetic awareness and eye screening. Lions Eye Hospital and Satyam Hospital of Jorhat took the responsibility of organizing this special camp led by academician Dr. Nirmola Sarmah. Seven diabetic cases were detected and they were given free treatment at Lions Eye Hospital.







Screening sessions



Moringa seeds being distributed among farmers by the Jorhat Boat Clinic at Bhekeli 1 and Bhekeli 2 No village. This initiative by all Boat Clinic Units have been undertaken after being supported with the seeds sent by donor Almitra Patil. Moringa seeds are cheap, renewable and highly-nutritious food supplement and can alleviate nutritional deficiencies among the economically weaker sections



Children from Jorhat district's island village of Abani sapori were given colored pencils, and crayons on behalf of Rupal Desai and Dhiren Mehta from Ahmedabad,. A Bihu dance was organised at Abani sapori. The gifts were given according to their performances.



Village elders attending a camp conducted by the Jorhat Boat Clinic team in June 2018

Dhubri I



Dhubri Boat Clinic Unit I conducting awareness sessions on Iodine Deficiency under Medical Officer Dr Benzir Rahman, supported by the health team led by DPO Sultan Nekib and ANMs on the occasion of Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day or World Iodine Deficiency Day which is observed every year on 21st October. Iodine is an essential micronutrient required for normal thyroid function, growth and development.

Dhubri Unit II

Boat Clinic Dhubri Unit-II was assigned the special Measles Rubella Campaign drive to cover school children in targeted char villages under South Salmara BPHC. There was huge rumour against this vaccine in char areas for which the team conducted rigorous awareness campaign and successfully completed the MR vaccination drive in all targeted school except 1077 No. LP School situated in Chalakurarchar island village. The team conducted awareness meeting with the guardians of the student but failed. At last DPO Mehebub Hazarika personally invited a few guardians from the nearby village whose children were given MR vaccine in their school by the team and nothing adverse had happened to them after which they conducted another meeting with the villagers. After this meeting each guardian agreed to give this vaccine to their children and all the 80 targeted children in the school were vaccinated by the boat clinic team on 26th September 2018.



Successful Measles Rubella Campaign drive to cover school children by Dhubri Boat Clinic II

Lakhimpur : Awareness through Street play and traditional Mising songs

As part of iodine deficiency disorders prevention and control week the Lakhimpur Boat Clinic unit organized awareness sessions through street plays and cultural programmes at Aunibari, Pavabhekeli, Kankur Number 1 and Cenimora island villages from 26th to 30th October 2018. These villages are inhabited by the Mishing tribe.Dr. Rinku Knower, Medical Officer, Boat Clinic and Dr. Deepjyoti, Medical Officer, Boat Clinic also spoke the deficiency, its prevention and control. It was observed that villagers found it particularly appealing when awareness was conducted through the traditional Mishing Oinitom song and street plays. They easily understood the goal of the program and actively participated in the awareness meeting. Compared to documentary screening and speeches as was done earlier, bringing in community culture in awareness drives is more effective in terms of community participation and acceptance.



Awareness through street play and cultural program at Aunibari village on 26th October 2018



Awareness through street play and cultural program at Lakhimpur's Aunibari village

MR campaign in Nalbari

India's MR campaign against measles, a major childhood killer disease and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), responsible for irreversible birth defects has been one of the world's largest vaccination campaign. The photographs show the MR campaign by C-NES' Nalbari Boat Clinic(along with the rest of the 14 Boat Clinic units across Assam) where school children from remote island villages were actively involved



Dr. Rishikesh Koundinya vaccinating children during the MR campaign. District Boat Clinic Officer Parvis Ahmed is seen actively assisting the campaign



Boat Clinic Nurses vaccinating school children as part of the MR campaign at Baramara L.P. School, Tupkarchar



School children actively involved in the MR campaign at Baramara L.P. School, Tupkarchar.

Conducting Boat Clinic health camps: Shots from the Tinsukia Boat Clinic Unit. July 2018

The Boat Clinic health camps are held under extremely challenging conditions. During summer there is no respite from the scorching sun and heat for the teams while conducting health camps in remote flood vulnerable Brahmaputra river islands. They have to walk for long distances to reach interior villages where the camps are scheduled. Monsoons find the Boat Clinics struggling their way through angry rivers with strong water currents, full to the brim and often overflowing banks making it mandatory for the team members to wear life jackets to ensure their own safety. During monsoons and post monsoons the roads to the river banks are often damaged and full of potholes, negotiating through these stretches, in most cases only an apology for a road is a challenge. During the dry winter months with river water subsiding, the boats often get stuck in the river bed and it is only after a lot of struggle that they are freed. The walking distance to the camp also increases much more during winters due to the boat not being able to reach the village banks with subsiding water level. But camps are never missed.











Monitoring visit

Programme Manager, Ashok Rao and Associate Programme Manager, Manik Boruah visited four Boat Clinic units in Lower Assam- Dhubri Unit-I and II, Bongaigaon and Goalpara from 11th September to 14th September, 2018 to review the programme. The DPOs were asked to conduct at least one mega awareness camp each month by inviting experts from the DHS and also to develop well designed plan for improving the performances. CWs and ANMs were asked to prepare the beneficiary list well ahead to be submitted to the DPO before proceeding to the camp site. The importance of conducting the 4th ANC for pregnant women for all registered cases. Severe anemic patients were asked to be taken to the higher institution and anemic patients to be advised for consuming moringa leaves to overcome anemia.



Reviewing Bongaigaon Boat Clinic



With Goalpara Boat Clinic team post monitoring

Brahmaputra Community Radio Station

Brahmaputra Community Radio Station (BCRS) or Radio Brahmaputra as it is commonly known, is based at Dibrugarh. While BCRS seeks to reach the most marginalised groups in 14 islands and 30 tea plantations and more than 180 villages in Dibrugarh district, its footprint reaches across the Brahmaputra to other districts as well. Today it broadcasts for eight hours every day on FM 90.4 from Dibrugarh and can be heard in three districts along and across the Brahmaputra.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) behaviour

On the occasion of the World Environment Day, 5th June, 2018 a session on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Flood and Preventive Health Behaviors was organized by BCRS at Kallowlowa Deori Adarsha Gaon the most flood affected village under Khowang Development Block. Groups of women from the indigenous Deori community participated in various activities through knowledge assessment, cause analysis, assessment on probable situation, practice mapping and community action tools.



Women from the indigenous Deori community participating in a session on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Flood and Preventive Health Behaviors by BCRS



In September 2018, Radio Brahmaputra organized narrow casting sessions on Disaster & Nutrition focusing on nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers and complementary feeding among the riverine, tea garden and indigenous communities from the most flood affected areas of four districts of upper Assam.



Members of Mothers group from Padumani Nagaon Anganwari Centre under Khowang Dev. Block, Dibrugarh listening to a radio program on pregnancy complications, consequences on fetus and ways of prevention during community narrowcasting session on Early Childhood Development program by Radio Brahmaputra.



Women happily playing games on pregnancy and related issues under the initiative "Early Childhood Development" for a Radio Brahmaputra community narrowcasting programme at Naharpukhuri Aangadwadi Centre under Khowang Development. Block on March 22nd 2019

Team Radio Brahmaputra



From left: Vaiolina Gogoi, Charu Dihingia, Bhaskar Jyoti Bhuyan, Tutumoni Munda, Rubi Naik, Rumi Naik, Pinku Gohain, Dipankar Bird Chore

The Boat Clinic Teams



Barpeta I

Sitting from left: Dr. Asir Uddin (Medical Officer), Sanuwara Parbin (ANM), Nasema Parbin (ANM), Dr. Tridip Das (Medical Officer), Bhaskatjyoti Mahanta (Pharmacist)

Standing from left: Zahirul Haque (Laboratory Technician), Wahabur Rahman (Community Worker), Jaman Nurjamal Hoque (Community Worker), Abdul Baten Bhuyan (Community Worker), Santu Pathak(Cook), Saikot Sukla (District Programme Officer), Atwar Rahman (Boat Crew)



Barpeta Unit- II

Sitting (From left) – Swapna Das, DPO, Dr.H.M Hussain Shohail, Medical Officer (M.O), Dr. Taficul Islam(M.O) Pankaj Kr Mandal, Pharmacist, Himamani Talukder ,ANM, Mukunda Pathak, Cook,

Standing (From left)- Rayhan Ali, Community Worker(C.W), Anowar Hussain, C.W, Aliman Nessa ,ANM, Jagadish Deka, Laboratory Technician, Montaz Ali Khan, C.W, Riajul Ali,Boat Crew,Yeasin Ali, Boat Crew



Bongaigaon

Standing from left: Monjur Hussain Mondal (DPO), Dr Firoj Ahmed (M.O), Ismail Hussain

(Boat Crew), Ajijul Mollah (Pharmacist), Dr Deepranjan Das (MO), Ranjanjyoti Baishya (Laboratory Technician), Kabad Hussain (CW), Shajahan ALi (CW), Mofidul Islam (Boat Crew)

Sitting from left: Shahadev Das (cook),Nirupoma Roy (ANM), Kulodipa Mondal (ANM), Satyajit Kolita (CW), Abu Said (Boat Master)



Dhemaji

Left to Right: Punyeshwar Baruah(CW), Ramcharan Majhi (Boat Crew) Dharjya Banai (Cook), Nitul Borah(Laboratory Technician),Dharitri Das (ANM), Kakoli Gogoi(DPO), Dr Manjil Saikia(M.O), Junmoni Saikia(ANM), Dharani Saikia(CW),Bhupen Taid(CW),Bijoy Tayeng(Boat Crew)Narayan Acharjee(Pharmacist)



Dhubri Unit I

Sitting from left: Mofida Begum(ANM), Rehena Ahmed(ANM),Dr Ashit Kumar Mondal(M.O), Sultan Nekib(DPO),Tarulata Kalita(ANM), Ahad Ali Mollah(Pharmacist).

Standing from lef: Zahangir Alom(CW), Manoj Chowdhury(CW)Moynal Hoque(CW),.Azizur Hoque Balban(Laboratory Technician),Taleb Uddin (Boat Master) Kalu Das(Cook),Abdur Rohim Ali(Boat crew) Joydev Chowdhury(Boat crew)



Dhubri Unit II

Sitting(L-R):Mehebub Alom Hazarika(DPO), Dr.Benzir Rahman(MO), Dr.Ayan Ch. Das(MO), Firoza Ahmed(ANM), Lavita Pathak(ANM), Madhusudan Roy Prodhani(Lab. Tech).

Standing(L-R): Samsul Hoque(Driver), Manirul Khan(Pharmacist), Gabinda Baroi(Master), Sambhu Prasad Bin(CW), Abul Kalam Azad(Helper), Sanju Mondal(Cook), Sudama Bin(CW), Afzal Hoque(CW).



Dibrugarh

Standing from Left: Arup Kumar Saikia (DPO), Apul Das (Pharmacist), Promud Dutta (Cook), Siddhanath Gogoi (Lab-tech), Kapilash Choudhury (Boat Master), Ramakant Yadav (CW), Binit Bhuyan (Boat Crew), Shyam Yadav (Boat Crew), Sitting from Left : Devarani Deori (ANM), Dr. Juganta Kumar Deori (MO), Damayanti Das (ANM)



Goalpara Boat Clinic

Front row (from left)

Nathini Basumatary(ANM),Bandana Khound(DPO),Rangshila Basumatary(ANM),Akshay Barman(Laboratory Technician), Second row (from left)

Hasmat Ali(Pharmacist),Dr Jnanankor Roy(M.O),Lakman Ali(CW),Shohor Ali Mandal(Boat Master),Mannaf Ali(CW),Shohidul Islam(C.W),Somorandra Ghosh(cook)

Last row(from left) Monowar Hussain(Boat helper), Johirul Islam(Boat helper)



Jorhat

From left: Achyot Jyoti Das (Lab Technician), Dipen Pegu (CW), Dr Bivash Saikia(Dentist), Jadumoni Hazarika(CW), Riturekha Baruah Phukan(District Programme Officer), Pranjalii Thakuria(ANM), Juli Phukan(ANM), Rimpi Bordoloi(ANM), Jitu Dutta(C.W), Bipul Payeng(Boat Crew), Deep Jyoti Nath (Pharmacist), Dr Deep Shankar Saikia(MO), Bipul Payeng(Boat Master)



Kamrup

Seating from left: Sofiqul Islam(DPO), Padumi Kalita(ANM), Rijuana Begum(ANM), Dr. Naba kanta Das(MO), Jugal Goswami(Pharmacist).

Standing from left: Md. Lalmamud Ali(CW), Ritumoni Das(Cook), Dhanjit Das(Laboratory Technician), Md. Safiqul Islam(Boat Crew), Abu Chama Ali(Boat Master), Md. Abdur Rahim(CW), Ziarul Islam(CW), Md Ain Uddin(Boat Crew)



Lakhimpur

From Left: Tapan Borah (DPO), Dr Deepjyoti Das(MO), Elizabeth Kom(GNM),Krishna Hazarika(CW), Prafulla Kalita(Boat Crew), Minaram Tayung(CW), Pabin Boruah(Lab Technician),Dilip Borah(Cook)Ajit Tayung(CW), Jumi Doley (Boat Master) Absent- Dr Rinku Konwar(MO), Dharmendra Taye(Pharmacist), Lima Chutia (ANM)



Morigaon

From Left to Right: Dr. Asraful Islam(MO), Johirul Islam(Boat Crew), Ruplal Malo(Cook), Sohoruddin (Boat Master), Nasim Ahmed(Vehicle Driver), Alaluddin(Community Worker), Mushaluddin(Community Worker). Dr. Digjam Sarma(MO), Mrs. Nirmala Nath(ANM), Mrs. Dolima Boro(ANM), Sofiqul Islam(Boat Crew Driver), Mofizuddin Ahmed(Pharmacist), Didarul Islam(Community Worker), Biswajit Mazumdar(Laboratory Technician), Shyamjit Pashi(DPO)



Sonitpur

Standing from left: Bidyut Nath (CW), Amzed Ali(Boat crew), Mullah Md Zinnah (CW), Bhargav Jyoti Dutta (Laboratory technician), Susil Kumar Nath (Cook), Nitul Pegu (Boat Crew), Nazibur Ali (Referral boat driver), Mofidul Islam (CW), Dr. Nasir Hassan Khandakar (MO) and Fulsan Ali (Pharmacist).

Sitting from left:Bidyabati Das (ANM), Hasena Banu (ANM), Rijumani Deka (ANM) and Mousumi Duwarah (DPO)



Nalbari

From left: Parvis Ahmed(DPO), Dharanidhar Kalita (Laboratory Technician), Ayub Ali (Cook), Dr. Harthis Kumar Englang (MO), Jaher Ali Ahmed (CW), Dr. Rishikesh Koundinya (MO), Nur Islam Ali(Boat Crew), Ripul Ali (Driver), Sarifuddin Ahmed (CW), Chandan Baishya (Pharmacist), Rebi Sultana (ANM) and Deiji Ahmed (ANM)



Tinsukia

Sitting from left : Mitra Jyoti Konwar (DPO), Suniya Doley (ANM), Chandra PrabhaTalukdar (ANM) ,

Dr. Saurav Kalita (MO)

Standing from left : Koncheng Gogoi (Pharmacist), Indrakanta Saikia (Boat Master), Murari Yadav (Boat Driver), Lakhi Kanta Charo (CW), Dr. Kaushik Baiswas (MO), Bholanath Pegu (CW), Pulak Chutia (Cook), Sibit Gogoi (Lab.Tech), Raju Pegu (CW), Durga Prasad (Boat crew)

Financials

CENTRE F	OR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH
	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 ST MARCH ' 2019

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (In ₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (In ₹
CORPUS FUND		FIXED ASSETS	2,809,909
Opening Balance 33,869,148	20 005 747	(As per Schedule- I) Capital Work In Progress	22,976,128
Closing Balance	36,025,747	Capital Work III Progress	22,070,120
		PROJECT ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		(At nominal Value)	35
Other Payable	402,592	INVERTMENTS	
TDS Payable	117,920 181,384	INVESTMENTS Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks	327,755
PF Payable Professional Tax payable	29.084	Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Danks	027,700
Advance from District Programme Officer	240,847	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS	
Bank Account (Guwahati)	125,973	& ADVANCES	
Payable to Bhaskar Bhuyan	364,711	Other Advances	13,88
18-1 2014 Å		Advance to District Programme Officer	469,767
		Imprest with Staff	64,44 ⁺ 43,000
		Security deposit for Rent	4,530,013
		Other Recoverable	16.679
		Accrued Interest on FDR	72,933
		Advance for Boat Building	453,798
		Loans & Advances	144,50
		Prepaid Expenses Amount Recoverable from Milan & Pinku	168,275 3,288,720
		Cash in Hand	169,746
		Bank Accounts (NET)	1,938,36
TOTAL	37,488,258	TOTAL	37,488,258

AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date attached
For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN) PARTNER M.No. 085629

Place: New Delhi Dated : 16.10.2019 JDIN - 19035623AAAAAR4424



(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

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PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹) PARTICULARS		AMOUNT (₹)	
Accomodation Expenses	576,346	Grant - in - Aid	87,610,471	
Accounting Charges	91,400	Donation Received	16,072	
Administrative Expenses	323,650	Interest Received	161,790	
Advertisement Expenses	42,881	Programme Fees Receipt	549,456	
Asha Incentives	397,164	Misc. Receipt	88,815	
Payment to Auditor	557,104	mise. Necept	00,013	
-Audit Fee 129800				
	101010			
-Other Service & Expenses 34216	164,016			
Bank charges	26,273			
Boat Hire Charges	2,920,416			
Boat Expenditures	6,844,013			
Bonus	25,000			
Carriage charges	455,865			
Conveyance & Travelling Expenses	1,243,758			
Camp Expenses	270,007			
Depreciation	498,463			
Electricity & Water	139,752			
Food & Snacks Expenses	5,185,397			
Hire Charges Other	140,033			
Incentive	392,800			
Insurance Expenses	442,324			
Instruments & Equipment Expenses	20,543			
Interest on TDS	2,684			
Legal & Documentation Expenses	135,000			
Laboratory Reagents	420,539			
LPG Expenses	5,577			
Medical Expense	373,803			
Meeting Expenses	1,718,236			
Mobility & Monitoring	24,000			
Newspaper & Periodicals	63,806			
Other Expenses	78,094			
Office Expenses	28,986			
Postage & Telegrams	101,787			
Photography Expenses	14,500			
Printing & Stationery	506,484			
Project, Seminars & Program Expenses	711,496			
Professional Charge	115,710			
Rent Expenses	1,283,026			
Repair & Maintenance	104,151			
Salary, Honorarium & Incentives	55,402,652			
Solar Light Expenses	21,595			
Staff Welfare Expenses	92,706			
Survey Expenses	9,960			
Telephone & Internet Charges	298,883			
Training Expenses	42,079			
Vehicle hiring Charge	4,427,025			
Website Expenses	87,125			
Excess of Income over expenditure	2,156,599			
TOTAL	88,426,604	TOTAL	88,426,604	

AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date attached

CHANO For JAGDISH CHAND & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS FRN: 000129N NEW DELH 1ouran n (PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN) ERED ACC PARTNER M.No. 085629 Place: New Delhi Dated : 16.10.2019

UDIN - 19035629AAAAAAA424

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

Significant Accounting Policies :

1) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements -

The Financial Statements comprising the Balance sheet and the Income and Expenditure account are prepared under the historical cost convention, on the Accrual Basis of accounting. The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the statements are consistent with those followed in the previous year.

2) Donation / Grant -

Donation received is recognized as income when the donation is received, except where the terms and conditions require the donations to be utilized over a certain period. Such Donations are recorded under Income side in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Grants received with specific programs/activities are recognized as income when it is received and are recorded under Income side in the Income and Expenditure Account.

3) Fixed Assets -

Fixed assets are recorded at cost of acquisition including incidental costs related to acquisition and installation.

4) Depreciation -

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets on Written Down Value basis at the rates specified by the Income Tax Act, 1961.

5) Employee Benefits -

- Contribution towards the Employees Provident Fund is made on monthly basis with relevant Government authorities which is charged to Income and Expenditure A/c in the year to which it pertains.
- Mediclaim and Accidental Insurance is provided which is charged to Income and Expenditure A/c.

Board of Trustees:

GK Pillai, former Union Home Secretary, Chairman

Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee

Preeti Gill, Literary Agent and Independent Researcher, New Delhi

Niketu Iralu, social worker from Nagaland

Dr. Jayanta Madhab, Economist

Patricia Mukhim, Columnist and Editor, Shillong Times, Meghalaya

Dr. Mahfuza Rahman, former Professor, Cotton College, Guwahati

Adviser

Dr. V A Pai Panandikar

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Annual Report : 2018-2019

Delhi Office:

Managing Trustee

C-NES

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Website: www.c-nes.org

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