

REPORT ON

**“Supporting HSLC and HS Final examination for Homeless Adolescent Candidates affected by 2014
December Conflict”**



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Introduction

The districts under Bodoland Territorial Council has witnessed Ethnic conflict, violence as one of the factors contributing to underdevelopment, aggravated vulnerability, raised of trafficking and high drop-out rates in the region. The region is devastated with various forms of conflict for many decades. Long ethnic conflict has drained away peace and prosperity of the area. In this conflict, thousands of people in region have lost their houses, dropped from schools, colleges and living in the temporary camps. The people in the states live with fears and suspicion. The conflict situation enhances the vulnerability of ethnic groups and exposes them to worst forms of violence including sexual exploitation, school drop outs, unsafe mobility- trafficking and HIV/AIDS. Among all the sections of the society, children and youths are the worst sufferers, some of the school going students are bound to leave their further studies because their houses are set ablaze, no other form of livelihood support to continue their studies. These ethnic groups are as it is vulnerable the conflict situation makes them further vulnerable and victims of worst forms of violence. **Around 2,86, 270 inmates are taking shelter in the 139 relief camps set up in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Sonitpur and Udalguri following the incidents of terrorist attack on villagers on 23rd and 24th December, 2014. In Kokrajhar district around 2, 35,385 inmates are taking shelter in 92 relief camps.**

At such a crucial point, NEDAN Foundation took the initiative of providing supplementary coaching classes for the metric candidates whose houses are totally burnt and living in the camps. NEDAN has been asked by the district administration to help the metric exam candidates who need to write exams on Feb. 2015. 3 centers have been set up; teachers are being permanently appointed to provide the supplementary coaching to the metric candidates. The adolescent's girls affected by violence and living in nearby relief camps go for attending the coaching classes where the 3 subjects, i.e. mathematics, science and English are being taught. Total 35 female metric candidates are being accommodated at Weaving Destination livelihood for the purpose of appearing their metric exam for 90 days. Apart from providing supplementary education and providing shelter to the metric candidates, NEDAN Foundation also visited the inmates of relief camps and distributed necessary things to the inmates. Number of blankets and warm clothes has been distributed in the relief camps under Kokrajhar district. The entire metric candidates are given necessary things like geometry box, note book, text book, travel cost during examination, pen, pencil, model question and answers text books, medicine for urgent, other toiletries items.

1. Providing supplementary coaching classes to the metric candidates at the Relief camps:



NEDAN Foundation has been providing supplementary coaching classes for the metric candidates who have been living in different relief camps under Kokrajhar district, Assam. The students comprises of both the gender and of two different communities: bodo community and Adivasi community. The students will be appearing their 10th final exam in the month of February, 2015. Till date, there are 3 coaching centres established at the 3 different relief camps namely, Duramari-Kokrajhar, Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus, Anthaigwla- Kokrajhar and Kochugaon (Baganpara) Drop in Centre of NEDAN Foundation Kokrajhar. There are 30 metric candidates at Kochugaon coaching centre, 31 at Duramari coaching centre and 35 metric candidates at Weaving Destination Campus Anthaigwla Kokrajhar. Metric candidates from the nearby relief camps come together to the coaching centres for attending classes regularly. The sole purpose of setting up coaching centres and providing supplementary coaching to the metric candidates is to prevent the students from dropping out and clearing their metric exams. The following subjects are taught- Math, science and English per days a week. A proficient teacher is being appointed at each of the coaching centres by NEDAN Foundation.



2. 35 female metric candidates provided accommodation and support to write metric exams at Weaving Destination Livelihood campus

35 adolescents girls metric candidates hailing from different relief camps under Kokrajhar district are provided with fooding, accomodation and coaching classes at the Weaving Destination Livelihood. The female metric candidates are from the following affected villages: Sonapur- Karigaon, New Bashbari- Karigaon and Samsinkela- Karigaon and 6 No Amlaiguri under Kokrajhar district. They became homeless and their houses are burnt down during the violence which occurred in 23rd December, 2014. Since then, they have been living in the different relief camps with no proper food, shelter and proper environment for preparing their upcoming final exams.

Since NEDAN Foundation has been supporting adolescents' girls in promoting higher education, NEDAN again took up the initiative of supporting the metric candidates for appearing their exams. NEDAN Foundation identified the metric candidates through visiting several relief camps, gathered the information through the camp in-charge, took the guardians written permission and took the responsibility of keeping the 35 metric candidates at Weaving Destination Livelihood campus under the initiative of NEDAN Foundation, Kokrajhar besides centre at Kochugaon and Duramari. The 35 metric candidates will be kept for the next 3 months till the completion of their final exams. At the campus, respective time table has to be maintained by the 35 metric candidates under the guidance of appointed supervisor.



3. Distribution of material for HSLC Candidates

Materials including blankets, warm clothes, toiletry items, traditional dresses, vegetables, snacks and reading materials to the inmates were distributed by NEDAN Foundation.

I. Distribution of geometry box for exam:



II. Distribution of Cosmetics and Toiletry items



III. Distribution of dress (Dokhona) by Deputy Commissioner of Kokrajhar



4. Program Organized for the Affected Adolescents Girls

On 10th March, 2015 comic workshop was organized in the NEDAN Foundation Office with 20 girls from the recent 2014 conflict. The theme of the comic was to tell any story of post conflict environment. Many of the girls portrayed beautifully, the post conflict environment of their own villages.

One of the comic says about the escape from conflict situation. How the conflict affects the mind of the children. And they want to escape from it and come to a better world.

And many of the children brought out pictures of their burning villages. The living condition in the relief camps and the suffering, miseries of the people are beautifully portrayed.

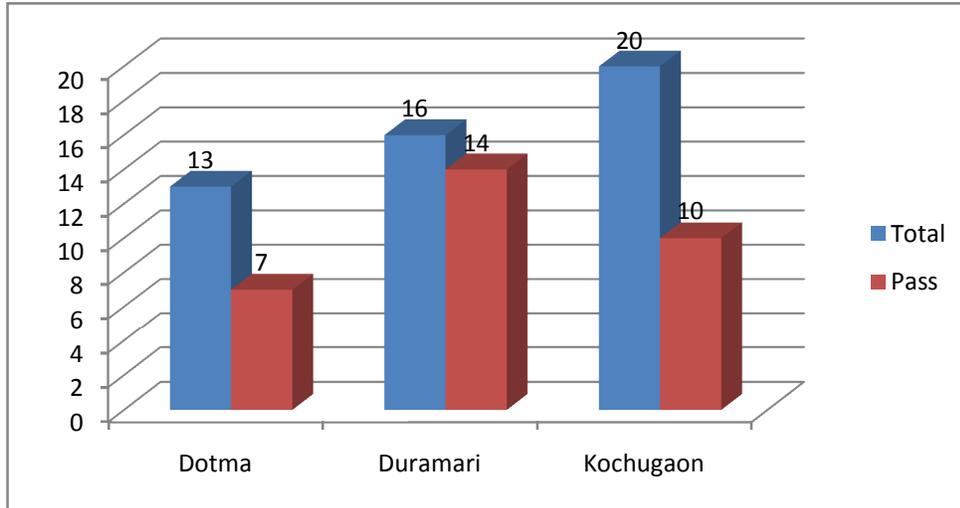
This picture says how the houses in their villages were burnt and in the process one of the girls was about to be taken by a trafficker from the relief camp. But later intervention by an NGO helped the girl in continuing with her study.

With this comic strip, the children by making a storyline could reveal and share their thoughts, idea. Therefore, using comic as an important media tool has helped our organization to identify the needs way of communication through which we can get the actual information from the stakeholders.

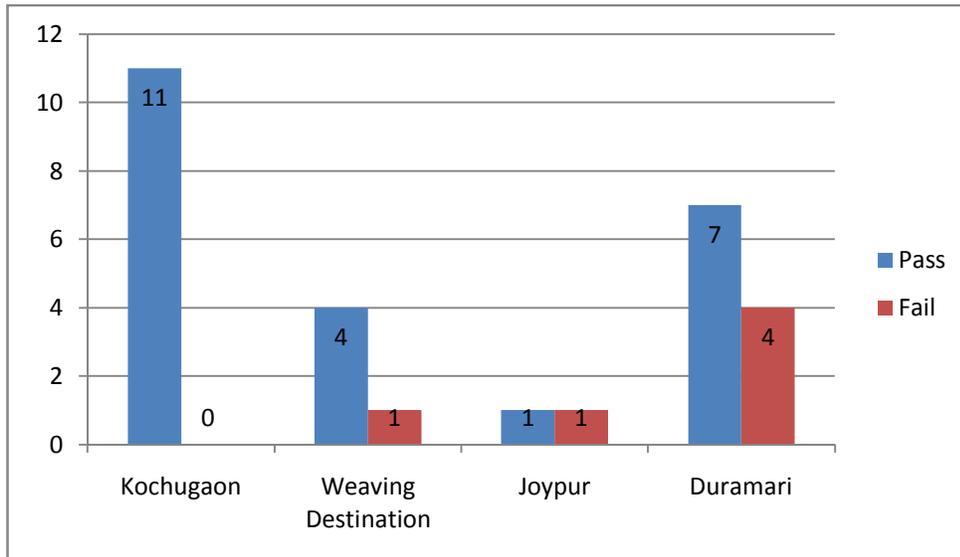


Homeless Adolescents of HS and HSLC Results out with Flying Colours:

HSLC – Titaguri, Kochugaon and Dotma blocks,



HS- Kochugaon, Titaguri, Dotma



Conclusion:

Conflict is a human made disaster on humanity. Conflict has become a part of our system and it is very difficult to be overcome in contemporary India unless and until we retrospect. There are many forms of conflict like the one ethnic, communal, political etc. but what is the solution, no one is bothering about

solving it in a sustainable way. Most of the time we are trying to impose our own ideas and values but never took the consent from whom we are planning to change and trying to implement on them in their areas. Proper development by keeping focus is the only way to bring change but for that education is the sole necessary element of change. The development should be in an equity, so that there won't be any grievances, the marginalized, ethnicity, differences among various communities should be integrated but not assimilated in a true spirit, so that positive and sustainable change should breed in near future.

Way-Forward:-

- 1. Supporting already passed students for pursuing higher education and ending the cycles of violence.**
- 2. IT empowerment for 20 homeless girls who could not pass the exam this year which will prevent them from vulnerable to trafficking.**
- 3. Creating social entrepreneurship for young women who do not want to write the exam anymore.**

