

**BLOCK LEVEL ORIENTATION WITH ALL CONCERNED DUTY BEARES ON
CHILDREN FORCE MIGRATION DUE TO NON ACCESSIBILITY OF EDUCATION
AND CHILD PROTECTION IN UN-SERVE AREA IN BODOLAND TERRITORIAL
COUNCIL (BTC)**

ORGANIZED BY: NEDAN FOUNDATION
VENUE: BODOLAND GUEST HOUSE, KOKRAJHAR.
DATE: 20/09/2016

To address the various issues “on children force migration from displaced locations of Kokrajhar”, one day block level workshop was organized on 20th, September, 2016 at Bodoland Guest House Kokrajhar, BTC. The invited guests were Mr. Amorsing Brahma (BEEO) of Kochugaon Block, Mr. Samrat Brahma (BEEO) Dotma Block, Mr. Swmdwn Brahma BEEO of Titaguri Block, DFO of Haltugaon division, DBI cluster coordinators, and CWC chairperson of Kokrajhar and DCPO’s child protection officer of Kokrajhar. And the other participants were from Kokrajhar, Kachugaon and Dotma Block, intervention locations of NEDAN Foundation CPC members, SMS committees and others responsible intellectual. The deliberations and discussions were on issues related to on Child protection and children force migration from displaced locations in forests encroacher villages and civil strife displaced locations.

The Chairperson of NEDAN foundation Mr. Digambar Narzary put forward the objective of the programme, highlighting the issues in relevant to current scenario in Kokrajhar and also stated that the block level orientation meant to work together focusing the child protection as top priority in development context. Due to non accessibility of education thousands of children are forced to migrate in the name of education out of the State. There is proper system in protecting child in Assam. He also highlighted that there is no secure entitlement rights for children in Assam, so thousands of children are being trafficked to the other States for various purposes like for education, domestic work, and many child abusive purposes. Under the RTE Act every child between the age group of 6 to 14 should get free and compulsory education whether a child is living in Forest or water wherever he/she should get free and compulsory education. As NEDAN Foundation is working with Anti-human trafficking and re-integration of school dropout children to higher education and also give the vocational training and IT program. So here we NEDAN foundation had come forward to work with those children who are most vulnerable and to support them in education. NEDAN is very privilege in conducting block level orientation for working together for children development in the region.



In this workshop, issues of various child rights violation- Child exploitation, Child Neglect, Child abduction, Child labour, Child Trafficking and Child Marriages were discussed.

Mr. Amarsing Brahma the BEEO of Kachugaon block stated regarding child migration in the name of education and migration meant shifting from one place to another place. He highlighted basically the issues of children those who are living in the Brick clan industry areas from Muslim communities. SSA undertakes measures to provide free residential or hostel for the children of migration fathers/ mothers out of the state. He also highlighted that there is no proper maintenance by government teachers in the school. There could be changes in the region when people change spiritually and mentally. There should be proper collaboration between



government and NGOs. Under the RTE Act, 2009, education is free and compulsory for each and every child. It is also mentioned in the Act that, under the age 6 to 14 years children they must get free text books, school uniform and school bag from Sarbha Shiksha Abhiyan. Mr. Amarsing Brahma has also requested civil society organization to submit all the names of recently drop out children if data is available in respective office of BEEO and SSA office Kokrajhar. There are 7

R.S.T.C, 3 N.R.S.T.C and 3 K.G.B.V institutions under Kokrajhar District. The government has decided that the capacity of enrolment in institution is going to be more than 100 from 2016. They are ready to help in re-enrolling or re-integrating them into school and formal education. This message was very effective for the community people those who are residing at Forest comes under Encroacher village and other backward places. Through this message they are aware and Mr. Amarsing Brahma have requested to all participants to submit drop out list if they have and not yet submitted to respected office.

Mr. Swmdwn Brahma BEEO (Block Elementary Education Officer) of Kokrajhar has also stated about RTE Act, 2009. Mr. Brahma has highlighted the Function of RTE and its power and also issues related to RTE and its implementation in forest encroachers village. Mr. Swmdwn Brahma have mention regarding ICDS scheme that it's only for the below age of 6 year which comes under primary education section but under the Mid Day Meal scheme these children are not included. So here Government is not clear on the two schemes. Mr. Brahma also addressed the issues affecting in lower primary school such as overcrowded student in one school, minimum number of teacher and other forms of challenges which are again pulling back children from development. He also recommended that BTC should have inclusive BTC education policy since it is autonomous district. Without having the policy we can't hope for effective implementation of RTE Act in BTC and forest encroacher locations. People should know their basic rights. Mr. Swmdwn Brahma BEEO of Titaguri/Kokrajhar also stated that children living in forest encroacher villages are the ones neglected and so face such issues. Children living in the forest are more likely to confront any kind of harms and issues. Because of not having basic entitlement rights such as free and compulsory education it is true that children can be seen as

vulnerable. Also they will move out from own home in the name of seeking better hope in their life.

Mr. Sambrat Brahma the BEEO of Kokrajhar Block stated regarding the system of education of Assam. The present Formal and non formal education are different from earlier system of education. The earlier system of education was TCLC, DPEP and EGS. From 2011 SSA was started. Now under the system of SSA midday meal, free text books and school uniform is provided free to students. He also highlighted the dropout student basically in un-serve village. He clearly mentioned the seat capacity of RSTC, NRSTC and KGBV for those who are dropout.



Mr. Sambrat the BEEO of Dotma block mentioned the role and responsibility and implementation of RTE in BTC area.

Mr. Matilal Basumatary DFO (Divisional Forest Officer) of Haltugaon Division, Kokrajhar clearly stated the Forest Act in the workshop. Entering any reserved forest is an offence. Why people are entering in the forest land and there should be changes in the mindset of people, he said. Save the forest, save the natural scenery is the opinion for him. The forest law was started in 1891. Environment, forest department and forest conservation act was started in 1980. Forest is central and state subject and no land can be given to others under the jurisdiction of the forest department and can do nothing for villagers concern. Iron wood of Assam, saal trees forest department tried best to protect the forest but they failed. There seems to be manipulation made by external organization in the work of forest department which needs to be controlled. Alternative solution or measures from stake holder for the rehabilitation of the forest area people is very important. 30% of the land in earth should be covered by forest for ecological balance. In 1972 the forest wild life sanctuary Act was formed. In 1980 the forest was forest and there was no change but today the forest has totally changed due to the ignorance of the people. Under the Forest Act 1980, land under the forest cannot be sold and bought and so people cannot inhabit in such places.

Outcome of the consultation:-

1. Figured out the children missing and trafficked from BTC
2. Increase the seats of teachers in the school.
3. The mutual cooperation between CSOs and govt.
4. Every child under the age of 6-14 should get free and compulsory education.
5. NEDAN Foundation and in collaboration with SSA jointly to run a NRSTC Schools in un-serve areas.