



NEDAN FOUNDATION

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FACT SHEET

CHILDREN IN ETHNIC CONFLICT

Ethnic conflict of July, 2012 left 4, 30,960 people homeless and more than hundred deaths.

Among the four districts in Bodoland Territorial Council, in Kokrajhar itself more than 3,096 children became homeless.



KEY MESSAGES

Positive and Peace initiatives

1. With the children in the relief camps:

It was the time when there was terror and disaster all around in lower Assam BTC when the **ethnic conflict between Bodo and Muslim Broke out**. This conflict of July, 2012 left **4, 30,960 people homeless and more then hundred deaths**. In this **children were the most vulnerable group where there was high chance of trafficking, child marriage, fear and all forms of exploitations**.



Keeping all these in mind NEDAN stepped forward for peace initiative to the children and youths those who were staying in relief camp. First of all The staff emergency meeting was organized at NEDAN office before starting the **psycho- social support initiative on 3rd of August**. Unfortunately one of our Asstt. Co-ordinator Ms. Mukthar was also in relief camps with her entire families. It was also difficult for all the staff to come to Kokrajhar due to the unavailability of bus services. Finally we could come together and hold the meeting at NEDAN Secretariat. All the Asst. Co-ordinators were given an option of staying at Weaving Destination Campus and reach out to all the Camps existing in Kokrajhar. The identification of relief camps were done keeping in mind the possible coverage areas and reachable areas for the field NEDAN staff.

The NEDAN team started the initiative after having the discussion with the parents, children and including the relief camp in-charge. The assistant coordinators had organized meetings with the parents, provided individual counseling and group counseling to the parents and children. They had also carefully listen their voices and the violence which they came across during the riot. The team had tried every possible way to make the children and the adolescents talk while having group discussions, allowed them to express their feelings, frustrations, trauma, fear, night mare and problems of urinating at night, etc. The children and the adolescents have been provided enough spaces to play and to have other activities in every relief camps.

The activity materials for the children have been provided in all the 5 relief camps mentioned above. The activity materials includes football, flying disc, skipper ropes, small nut ball, ludo, colour pencils, pencils, art papers, drawing books etc. The assistant coordinators are maintaining the register of the products being provided to the children. Initially, the children and adolescents were shy and they could hardly communicate with the assistant coordinators, however, gradually the coordinators could able to motivate them and make them participate in every activity carried out in the camps. The assistant coordinators have organized competitions for drawing, paintings and racing in all the 5 relief camps where large numbers of children and adolescents had participated.

2. 15th August: sports for peace

On 15th August 2013 in Sikharpur under Kokrajhar district Nedan Foundation also observed Independence Day while the whole nation was celebrating the day of Independence. All the children of the three Drop in Centers actively took part in this programme. The main motive of the programme was to spread the message of peace conducting sports for children. Different games were conducted for the boys and girls who participated in the programme. About 200+ children took part in the activities and the winners were also rewarded with prizes like Pencil boxes, Tiffin boxes, and Note books.

Sports for peace conducted in Sikkharpur, Kokrajhar district, BTC, Assam



3. Peace Marathhon on 2nd October

2nd Oct., Gandhi Jayanti is a day which is observed as a day of non violence in whole nation. Nedan foundation and district administration also took the initiative to observe this day by conducting peace marathhon. The main motive of this event was to spread message of peace and harmony to the people entire Kokrajhar district, BTC. This is very much essential according to the present situation that is going around in Kokrajhar area.

On that auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti people from different community irrespective of different caste creed and religion took part. Apart from common people specisl guests like Mrs Pramila Rani, MLA and principle secretary Mr Sahu also increased the pride of the programme. Other guests like Mr. Nitin K. Khade, deputy commissioner of Kokrajhar and Sp of Kokrajhar as well. Around 40 Children of adolescence club from three Drop In Centers Baganpara, Sikharpur and Kachugaon bazzar also took part in the marathhon.

It was a crowd of about 1000 people among which 450 of them took part in marathon. Marathon was conducted in three category- children's group (5-10 and 11-15), adult group and senior citizen's group. The race was flagged off by the MLA and the principle secretary, BTC, Assam. It was very impressive that the people of all age group took part in the marathon with lots of enthusiasm. DC, ADC, SP as well as Mrs khade took part in the marathon which was sufficient enough to spread the message of peace and non violence among the people and the region. This will reflect the message among the people to enjoy their life without any fear and tension.

The first prize for the children of the age group 5-10(male) was begged by Monjit Mushahary from Habrubari, kokrajhar and of age group 11-15(male) went to jwngshar narzary from Vidyapith high school, kokrajhar. Again for the female category of age 5-10 went to Somaina Basumatary from baganpara, kachugaon, kokrajhar who was member of adolescence club of DIC center, baganpara and for age group 11-15 went to Preventina Narzary from SAI, kokrajhar.



First prize for the male adult group went to Gendrabil, kokrajhar and for female went to Bhagyorani Goyari from Borkaghat, Baksa.

And for the senior citizen group male it was awarded as joint champion to DC, SP, ADC and other participants. For the female category it was awarded to Mrs Khade wife of DC.

4. International Day of Girl Child – ‘Proud to be a Girl’

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. For its second observance, this year’s Day will focus on “Innovating for Girls’ Education”.

The fulfillment of girls’ right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls’ education, especially at the secondary level, is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves: it is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in mortality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

While there has been significant progress in improving girls’ access to education over the last two decades, many girls, particularly the most marginalized, continue to be deprived of this basic right. Girls in many countries particularly North East Region of India is still unable to attend school and complete their education due to safety-related, financial, institutional, inaccessible and cultural barriers. Even when girls are in school, perceived low returns from poor quality of education, low aspirations, or household chores and other responsibilities keep them from attending school or from achieving adequate learning outcomes. The transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls’ education is yet to be realized.

Recognizing the need for fresh and creative perspectives to propel girls’ education forward, the 2013 International Day of the Girl Child will address the importance of new technology, but also innovation in partnerships, policies, resource utilization, community mobilization, and most of all, the engagement of young people themselves. All UN agencies, Member States, civil society organizations, and private sector actors have potential tools to innovate for and with girls to advance their education. Examples of possible steps include:





- Improved public and private means of transportation for girls to get to school—from roads, buses, mopeds, bicycles to boats and canoes;
- Collaboration between school systems and the banking industry to facilitate secure and convenient pay delivery to female teachers and scholarship delivery to girls;
- Provision of science and technology courses targeted at girls in schools, universities and vocational education programmes;
- Corporate mentorship programmes to help girls acquire critical work and leadership skills and facilitate their transition from school to work;
- Revisions of school curricula to integrate positive messages on gender norms related to violence, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, and male and female family roles;
- Deploying mobile technology for teaching and learning to reach girls, especially in remote areas.

NEDAN FOUNDATION has been pioneer in countering child trafficking, child marriage and creating social entrepreneurship development for the drop out girls in this tiny part of Kokrajhar, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Assam North East Region of India. On that auspicious day NEDAN celebrated the day with 100+ girls coming from every corner of Kokrajhar district to lend solidarity with global children that they do stand for the UN Resolution to have better innovation for girls’ development and safe society for the girl child.

The 100+ girls of Kokrajhar also joined hands in launching the campaign of NEDAN ‘SAVE GIRLS CAMPAIGN’ at Kokrajhar. To mark the occasion of International Day of Girl Child with the campaign of ‘SAVE GIRLS, Kokrajhar, girl from the NEDAN Office had prepared a BIG CAKE with the message SAVE GIRLS and PROUD TO BE GIRL written on the cake.

The celebration of International Day of Girl child was held at NEDAN FOUNDATION’s office lawn and girls were also joint by mothers to be part of the campaign launched – “ SAVE GIRLS CAMPAIGN’ Kokrajhar. The program schedule was prepared in such a way that- IT’S REALLY GIRLS DAY- with lots of games, music and dance. The program ended with lunch prepared typically by tribal women and served in a traditional way.

5. Peace Rally

As the cases of kidnapping and extortion and all anti social activities hiked in kokrajhar an initiative was taken to prevent all such kind of unsocialized activities. Therefore on **23th October 2013**, students of Kokrajhar took out a peace rally with the motive of spreading peace in kokrajhar and in demand to release Biki Pandit a School student who was kidnapped by the militants. The rally was organized by the Post Graduate Students Union of the Bodoland University and the Students' Coordination Committee of Kokrajhar.

Peace Building as the concerned area of Nedan Foundation, took an active part in that peace rally. It was very impressive to see students from different schools and colleges of kokrajhar from different mediums enthusiastically taking part in the rally. Students walked through the heart of town in scorching heat carrying play cards with slogans **“Release Biki Pandit on Humanitarian Ground”, “We Condemn Antisocial Activities”, “Stop Kidnapping”, “We Want Peace and Justice”**.



On these special event chairperson of Nedan Foundation Mr. Digambar Narzary, delivered a strong inspiring speech. “On humanitarian ground our community shouldn’t be a bar to fight for justice and anti social activities, we should have the feeling of oneness”. Mr. Digambar also said that today Biki Pandit was kidnapped and tomorrow any one of you might be the target. Kidnapping and all anti social activities in Kokrajhar is rising day by day so we should strongly protest for such kind of activity. And the biggest weapon to fight back is to maintain or to spread peace.

6. CHILDREN DAY CELEBRATION : With a Campaign Launch ‘CHILD FRIENDLY KOKRAJHAR’ and Social Entrepreneurship Training and Promotion of Higher Education to the Dropout Girls.

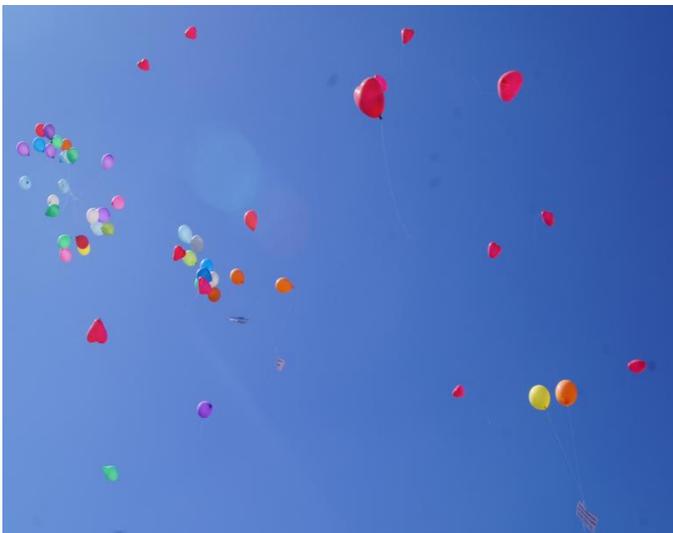
The 14th of November (birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru) has been set to celebrate as children’s day all over the India. The 14th of November is the birth date of the first Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru famously known by children as Chacha Nehru. He became the prime minister of India just after the independence of India. The birthday of Chacha Nehru, a great Indian leader, is celebrated as Children’s Day in India despite being Children day observed worldwide on 20th Nov. His involvement and passionate for the wellbeing of children as well as youngsters after the independence of India is well recognized. He worked so much for the education, progress and welfare of the children of India. He was very affectionate towards children and became famous as Chacha Nehru among them. Children’s day (also known as Bal Divas) in India is celebrated every year on 14th of November to increase the awareness of people towards the rights, care and education of children by Chacha. Children are the key of success and development of the country as they would lead their country in different and new technological way. They are adorable and shine same like the precious pearls. Children are the God gifts to their parents by the almighty. They are innocent, admirable, pure and loved by everyone.





NEDAN as an on-going tradition and working towards providing protective environment for children in Kokrajha, BTC in collaboration with UNICEF, Guwahati, Assam. Keeping in mind the crisis children has faced through different issues in the areas, NEDAN on this auspicious occasion along with 400 plus children irrespective of cast creed and sex like to celebrate this day with lot of fun and games activities.

On this auspicious day NEDAN will be launching a campaign 'CHILD FRIENDLY KOKRAJHAR', as to create a safe environment where by children can grow without fear and exploitation as responsible citizens towards the society and to the country. The values and disciplines learned as a child are responsible for the kind of adulthood one has. Thus childhood is special and it should be celebrated. Children's Day is to remind all young and adults about children's right to enjoy their childhood without any boundaries and to be educated adult in the future. Children's Day is to revise the right methods of raising children. The MGDs and India being the signatory on the UNCRC is also looking towards building better future of every child in the country.



NEDAN also promoted entrepreneurship development and higher education to the dropout girls, as to make them empowered with skills and techniques to make them self sufficient in the near future.

The invited chief Guest Mr. Derhasat Basumatary, Executive member, Dept. of Education has flagged off the events of the celebration with the 100m race. Also the invited Guest, Deputy Commissioner of Kokrajhar inaugurated the programme and launched the campaign by flying off 200 balloons along with the children.

The children day is being organized jointly by NEDAN, BTC and Kokrajhar Administration to lend our solidarity to make Child Friendly Kokrajhar, BTC and invited all the concern citizens of BTC to join hands and raise the voice to make Zero exploitation zone for Children in Bodoland.

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