



LIVELIHOOD & ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVES



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Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus:

The Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus was established in 2008 by NEDAN FOUNDATION (NEDAN) and today it's being recognized as an income generation programme for the vulnerable tribal women. Weaving Destination (WD), a weaving production unit, has been started as social enterprise in the Bodoland Territorial Council in the State of Assam, North East, India, which is a post-conflict area as well as prone to flooding. WD has been set up by involving vulnerable indigenous women including women living with HIV, survivors of human trafficking and female migrant returnees who are highly vulnerable to re-trafficking, social exclusion and impoverishment. WD capitalizes and enhances the inherent inborn skill of Bodo women in weaving, and is committed to convert traditional weaving skills into income-earning opportunity for women and girls.



Weaving Destination produces hand-woven silk and cotton products using traditional patterns. They include silk scarves, runners, handy crafts, cotton fabrics and garments for individual and industrial use. Additionally, Weaving Destination, using the profits from the sale of their products, plans to operate a vocational training centre for vulnerable indigenous young girls who are highly prone to trafficking.

WD currently employs 43 women and girls for weaving, stitching as well as tailoring and aims to establish itself within national and international markets for their weaved patterns and various products. Weaving Destination's business unit, while preserving the traditional Bodo motifs, colours and weaving techniques, is attempting to design products to suit the local, national and international market.



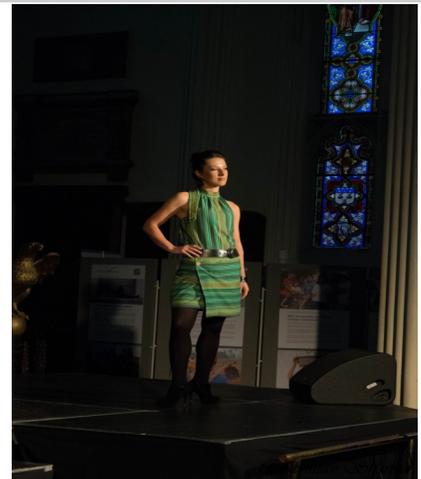
This initiative was appreciated by ‘The Melting Pot Social Innovation Incubator’ for reaching out the market accessibility in Scotland and UK Award, UK’ given to Weaving Destination Livelihood Model of NEDAN. The Melting Pot Award was one more step of reaching vulnerable tribal women economic development goal of NEDAN. The award has enhanced in starting of the online selling opportunity of the tribal women finished product produced in UK. This indigenous woman made exclusive products of hand-woven finest organic Eri silk and high chemical free cotton fabric are promoted online in a small way (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WeavingDestination) from Melting Pot WD UK online office amongst the larger international communities in Europe. Weaving destination has also tie up with govt. India, tribe shop, NETFI hut, Thailand gift shop, Edinburg.

The Social Fabric for Change



Weaving Destination

UK INDIA



Shruti Sharma

Tailoring:

In March 2014, **15 tailoring trained tribal potential girls (entrepreneurs)** were provided with 3 nos. of sewing machines and essential raw materials by NEDAN Foundation in order to run a tailoring center in their respective areas. In the beginning, capital money was given to the entrepreneurs for purchasing day to day needs. Besides the permanent center, the entrepreneurs used to take the sewing machines in the weekly local markets with the purpose of stitching and earning more money

The main purpose of setting up tailoring center is to make the 15 established entrepreneurs financially empower and independent through which they are capable of looking after their own family and making their future secured along with some amount of individual savings through their group earning. They are totally prevented from being trafficked to mainland metro cities as there are number of trafficking cases from these areas. NEDAN Foundation took initiation of making bag out of used flex banners



The identified **school dropouts and returnees domestic workers- 6 girls** hailing from the various villages namely Joypur, Gaurinagar, Runikhata and Srirampur (Kokrajhar district) are being enrolled at the convent for completing tailoring course. The girls were enrolled in the month of January, 2014. After the completion of 6 months course, they will be provided with sewing machines and necessary items to set up their own center for enabling them to become self-supportive individuals. Likewise this initiative will continue.

Beautician Course:

Nedan foundation has also taken the initiative of providing beautician course to the interested girls who are drop outs and are in high potential to be trafficked. It started from the month of December-2013, for 5 months beautician course. After the completion of course they will be provided their own parlour under the initiative of Nedan Foundation. This initiative is functional and some more identified girls will be enrolled in such income generating/ livelihood generating trainings.



IT Training for Adolescents Girl:

Nedan foundation also started providing free IT course for girls, from different backgrounds. It is basically a component of livelihood programme for those girls who are traffic survivors or potential to be trafficked, drop outs and former sex workers. Twenty girls are enrolled in IT programme offered by Nedan Foundation of different course according to the duration of the courses. After the completion of the course they are going to set up their own shop with the help of Nedan foundation at their respective place/locality



Self-Supportive Business Initiative:

Five vegetable vendor participants who attended the training were very much motivated with the concept of social enterprise of which they were not aware of it before. Seeing their keen interest Nedan foundation helped them to create this initiative.

In these model women vendors comprising of 6 members from Runikhata, BTC, Assam, has formed a group in which 20 thousand has been deposited in the joint account of their group as cash credit seed money.



From that money members of the vegetable vendors group access as cash credit with limited amount of money to carry out day to day business in the local market. The cash credit taken by vegetable vendors are returned after the selling of the vegetables in the daily market. The cash credit borrowed from the joint account is credited in account again and the profit made out of it is part of their benefit. The entire management is managed by the women of the group itself like record keeping, accounting etc. only mentorship, evaluation and assessment are done by the NEDAN.

Food Processing/ Pickle Making:

Training on food processing/pickle began from, 2013 at the Community Canning and Training Centre (CC&TC), Dept. of Agriculture, Kokrajhar, BTC, Assam. Till now 12 girls were trained, session including theoretical and practical session. At first they were given an orientation about the fruits and vegetables which are fine for the making of juice/squash, pickle, jam, sauce, jelly and chutney. The girls were skilled about the ingredients required for the particular products such as pickle, sauce etc. and also the use of the ingredients and chemicals with the measurement to balance all the other added ingredients in the product. About labeling of the products were also taught as it is one of the most crucial parts as it records the identity of the manufacturing company.



During practical the girls were trained to make five products such as olive pickle, mixed vegetable pickle, carambella juice, jelly and tomato sauce. The participants were taught to operate the juice extractor machines and they were also taught as how to extract the juice from the fruits manually without the help of juice extractor. Later on, all the finished products were filled in the empty bottles for preservation.

After the completion of three days training, the girls were provided with certificates issued by the Department of Agriculture as Nedan foundation has tie up with the Department of agriculture.

Training on Young Women Social Entrepreneurship Development Programme:

A training programme was conducted for the women of different community and background. A master trainer trained from IIMK trained 100 women on the basis of the cascade module prepared by the IIMK. They were trained on different important modules like– what is Social Enterprise, Need Identification, Generating Ideas & Assessing Viability of Social Enterprise, Challenges of Social Enterprise and Marketing & E-Marketing,

Accounting for Social Enterprise followed by Legal and Policy Issues, Project Management etc. This training proved to be very effective and Successful as the participants expressed their new learning and experiences from the training.



Mushroom Training and Resource Center:

Climatically Assam is best for mushroom cultivation. Assam is also famous for rice production and paddy straw is used for mushroom cultivation. NEDAN has already started and demonstrated the feasibility of the cultivating mushroom. In the ongoing training Nedan Foundation has also trained 50 women on mushroom cultivation. Out of which one group comprising of eighteen members has already set up a center for mushroom cultivation in Serfanguri under Kokrajhar District, Assam. They named their group RONJALI Self Help Group. This group has also set up a cluster weaving independently. This women group has created a very successful model in the area.



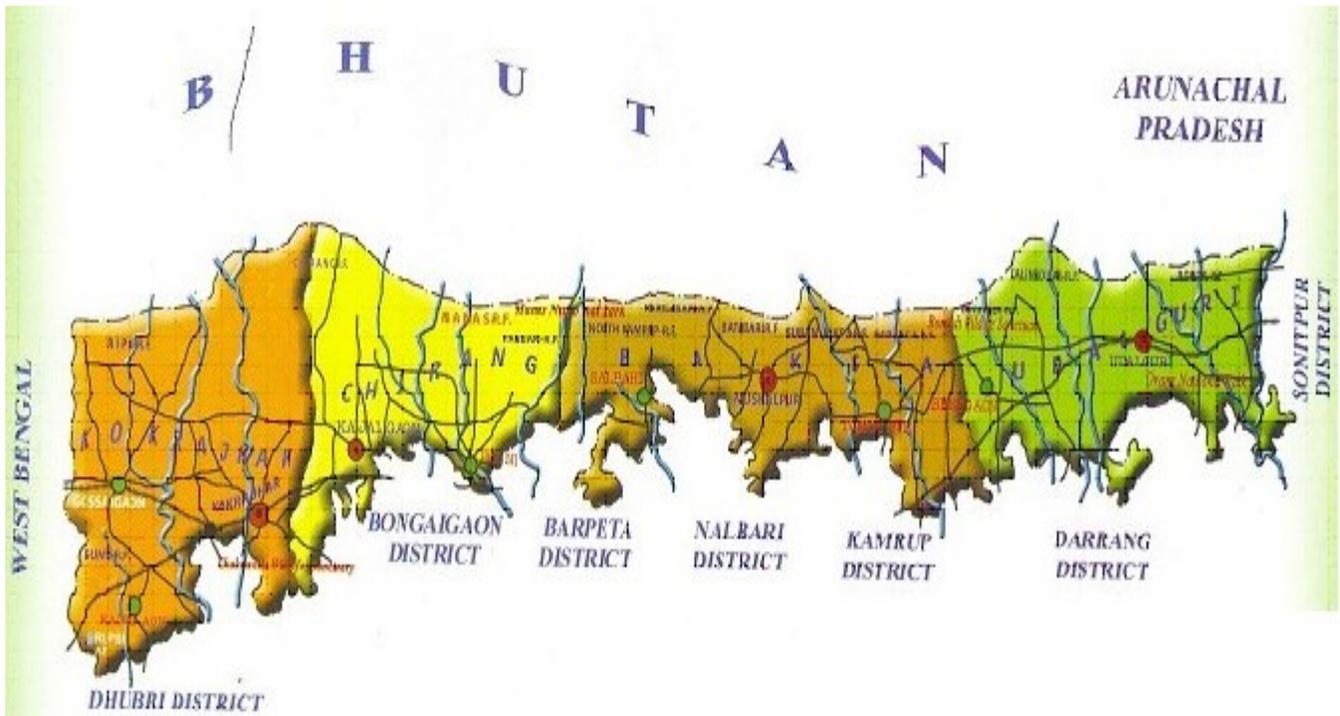
Piggery:

Besides, producing and selling traditional woven dress (Dokhona) in the local market, few women have taken the initiative of rearing pig and piglets at their respective homes. In the beginning, those women were supported by NEDAN Foundation to purchase piglets. In the later stage, they will be selling the pigs at a market rate in their weekly local markets. The entire North East region pork is a delicacy therefore market for the pork is assured. With the amount they earned after selling pigs, those women will be purchasing more numbers of pigs which will indeed help them to expand their business and increase their income.





BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL (BTC) ASSAM– MAP



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