



# May Peace Prevail On Earth



## NEDAN FOUNDATION

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**About NEDAN:** Nedan Foundation (NEDAN) registered under Public Charitable Trust Act. It has emerged through a common vision shared by trained Social Work Professionals to work with poorest and voiceless ethnic communities living in the far- flung un-reach villages of North East Region of India. Presently NEDAN directly works in the North East region particularly at Bodoland territorial council (BTC), Assam.

**NEDAN's thematic areas:**

- Combating cross border human trafficking between North East India with South Asia.
- Education for Peace with children, adolescents and youth.
- Creating Alternative Livelihood amongst the girls and women victims of ethnic conflict through social enterprises.
- Child Protection including RTE.

## **Background**

North East, India: **North-East India** is arguably one of the most fascinating places of India and of the world, located at the north-eastern region of India, and consisting of 8 states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam and Sikkim. These States cover a combined area of over 255,088 sq. km. (7.7 per cent of the country's territory) and, according to the 2001 Census of India, a population of 38,495,089 persons (3.74 per cent of national population). The states are officially recognised under the North Eastern Council (NEC), constituted in 1971 as the acting agency for the development of the eight states.

Assam: **Assam** is a region straddling in a transitional zone between South Asia and South East Asia and politically a state in India since 1947 which is in north-eastern part of India. Assam covers an area of about 78,438 sq km. Assam shares international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh and the international borders of China and Myanmar are within the range of 80 to 100 km.

Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC): **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** located in western part of Assam comprises four districts, covering an area of about 8,795 sq.kms. BTC consists of population about 26, 31,289. After a decade of long agitation, on 10 February 2003, the Bodos were granted the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), an autonomous administrative body that has within its jurisdiction the present district of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Udalguri and Baksa. BTC has a Unicameral legislative assembly and the strength of legislature is 40.

And our organization works in the BTC area of Assam. However NEDAN also work in other North East region with partner organisations.

**What has led us to undertake the peace building in the area is that –**

### ***Northeast India***

According to Ajai Sahni in his Survey of Conflicts & Resolution in India's Northeast stated that India's Northeast is the location of the earliest and longest lasting insurgency in the country, in Nagaland, where separatist violence commenced in 1952, as well as of a multiplicity of more recent conflicts that have proliferated, especially since the late 1970s. Every State in the region is currently affected by insurgent and terrorist violence, and four of these – Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura – witness scales of conflict that can be categorised as low intensity wars,

defined as conflicts in which fatalities are over 100 but less than 1000 per annum. While there have been several governmental peace initiatives, multi-track diplomacy and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) peace activities are at an incipient stage. Governmental policies do not encourage international interventions – direct or indirect – in any conflict resolution processes, though mediated developmental interventions are sanctioned.

Though the unrest in the region has a history of political causes, the regional conflicts is much related to multi-ethnicity. These conflicts are social, political and economic conflicts between groups who identify themselves and others in ethnic terms. They are distinguished as they tend to be asymmetrical ambiguous; tough to differentiate between associates and opponents; fought unconventionally using political and psychological means and methods; and these conflicts often develop into protracted wars of attrition. Besides, land encroachment, migration and fears of loss of identity have shaken the various groups in the region leading to escalation of conflicts. It's considered as an anthropologist's delight and an administrator's nightmare. A settlement in one district that satisfies one group will alienate some communities in another part of the same district and same in case of the states. There are special laws, constitutional provisions such as the Sixth Schedule and Article 371A, which seek to protect the traditions, lands and rights of various hill communities but as the practice of the system on the ground differs from what was perceived to bring regulations, eruptions of ethnic-conflicts became an obvious phenomenon.

Among the north-eastern states, when it comes to ethnic-conflicts Assam (southern part) is the worst effected state followed by Tripura, Nagaland and Manipur. The rest of the states that of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh has also Started witnessing ethnic violence in lower intensity which could be worst if not addressed by the authorities in time. Most of the states are facing tough time in handling the hazards of the ethnic clashes.

Ironically, conflict-induced internal displacement in India has been a great equaliser, affecting all communities, of all religions, and tribal groups in tragically similar ways. In the absence of any Central government monitoring agency or data, human rights groups and organisations like the IDMC (International Displacement Monitoring Centre) **conservatively estimate 6,00,000-plus conflict-induced internally-displaced people in India . In the North-East alone, 1,47,000 people displaced by Bodo-Muslim and Bodo-Santhal violence in 1993, 1996 and 1998 have been in camps in Kokrajhar, Chirang and Bongaigaon districts of Assam (of**

**those displaced in 1996 and 1998, 44,000 were estimated to be children); 125,000 people displaced by Bodo-Muslim violence in 2008 have been in camps in Darrang and Udalguri districts of Assam; 4,000 people were displaced by violence between Khasis and Nepali-speakers in 2010 in the Assam-Meghalaya border region; 31,703 Brus were displaced from Mizoram to Tripura in 1997 and 2009.**

### *Assam*

In Assam the consent for ethnic conflict got nourished in 1979 primarily when the middle class people headed by the All Assam Student Union (AASU) started protesting against the illegal migration from Bangladesh and was later joined by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), attacking the Bangladeshis settling in the state. The eruption of Bodo insurgents was also on the line for dispossession of their tribal land in the northern part of Brahmaputra River by the Bengali and Assamese settlers. When the Bodos were driving out the non-Bodos from the northern part of Brahmaputra River, the Bodos also faced the same fate where they are the minority and were targeted by the others. In the later half of the 1990s, there was mushrooming of militant organizations along tribal, religious and cultural split paving the way for numerous conflicts. During the last two decades, Assam has witnessed five ethnic conflicts; thrice between the Bodos and the Santhals in 1993, 1996 and in 1998; between Karbis and Kukis in 2003; and between the Karbis and Dimasas in 2005. The southern region of Assam, mainly the Karbi Anglong and the Cachar region has always remain high ethnic-conflict zone in the north-east. Karbi Anglong with a geographical area of 10,434-sq km territory is a miniature of Assam in terms of composition of ethnic diversity. The Cachar and North Cachar Hills districts of Assam located in the southern banks of river Brahmaputra witnessed the worst ethnic turmoil between the Dimasa and Hmar tribes. The March 2003 conflict between the two groups continues unabated with the torching of 60 villages displacing thousands of Dimasas in which the Hmars acted strategically by shifting their children and women folk to neighboring Manipur and Mizoram with the Hmar youths detaining in the villages to slaughter the Dimasas. Again in 2008 ethnic conflict between Bodos and Muslims brought a great disaster. Of late, on 4 October 2009, Binajuli Village in Sonitpur district was near to ethnic clashes between the Bodos and non-Bodos when the banned National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) killed 14 non-bodos in their attempt to reactive their demands.

**Proposed area: *Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)***

**Repeated History /Trends of Displaced :**

As the magnitude of the human tragedy in Assam unfolds, where is our healing touch and preventing women and girls being lured from situation like this IDP? Where are the big humanitarian aid agencies in intervening and protecting women and girls from exploitation and not having shelter? This is possibly the single largest conflict-induced human displacement to take place in India over such a short period of time since independence — over 4, 00,000 Bodos and Muslims uprooted, terrified, and running for their lives in under 60 days. In this hyper-connected age, news travels fast, graphically, and into our drawing rooms, yet it appears unmoved.

Assam is reeling under a natural disaster — the worst flooding in a decade — and various organisations are there to help for 20 lakhs population victims of flood. Will they turn their backs on the camps for the riot-affected in Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Chirang and Bongaigaon? And crucially, will the government block access to these camps as it sometimes does in conflict-induced displacement? Well, in so doing they will only deepen divides. Hunger in the belly of a displaced child in a relief camp will turn to hatred in the mother’s heart; wounds inflicted by vicious attackers need to be healed with care, not filled with the creeping gangrene born of neglect; fear should not be allowed to turn to fury. Why is it that natural disasters soften our hearts, and loosens our purse strings, but we recoil, turn wary, inhuman, and politically “cautious” when disasters are human-made or conflict induced? Perhaps we blame the victims for bringing this upon themselves. Or worse, perhaps we take sides.

**District Wise Relief camps Existences:**

Kokrajhar	Chirang	Dhubri	Bongaigaon
63	32	133	14
Total			242

**District Level Relief Inmates Population**

Kokrajhar	Chirang	Dhubri	Bongaigaon
1,26,218	57,189	2,21,901	14,700
Total			4,00,000

Over the last 40 years to the present set up Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam has also witness the worst situation of violent conflicts between one community to another and within its community. Right from the year 1980's, the early demand for the creation of the separate statehood, there has been a record of killing and bombings and destruction, displacement in BTC. The demand for the separate statehood is a long struggle for the people of Bodo tribal, which resulted in the brutal killings and bombings taking away the lives of many and leaving many injured. The Bodoland movement showed both integrationist and secessionist tendencies and had almost parallel strands of non violent activities. Due to the tactics adopted by the movement leaders, the violence is generated and strategic location of Bodo inhabited areas the movement attracted nationwide attention. The scale of violence escalated as the movement progressed. There were clashes between the activists' activities on the one hand and other protectionist workers on the other which latter developed into communal or intra-tribal violence. Attacks on school buildings, markets, public buildings and bridges paralysed normal life in the affected areas. Till the middle of April 1989, the militants had burnt down 73 school and college buildings and 53 government buildings and destroyed approximately 150 bridges. Many innocent lives were lost in bomb attacks on buses, markets and public places. The strategic location of the Bodo inhabited areas made it possible for the militants to cut off the road and rail links between the north eastern region and the rest of the country, using bombs and other means. By 1989 insurgent groups, especially in Kokrajhar District increased significantly. The most disturbing aspect of the political violence around the question of Bodo homeland is the pattern of violence. Moderate Bodo leaders publicly disassociate themselves from the acts of violence and Extremism. But the political culture around the Bodo demand for homeland to put it mildly has been rather tolerant of much of the violence.

There have been numerous major episodes of violence that took place in BTC. There were riots against Muslims of Bengali descent in October in 1993 and May 1994 in Kokrajhar. On October 9, 1995 militants killed 8 people in Kalaigaon under BTC. There were riots against Santhals in May 1996 where not less than 200,000 people were displaced. In June 1996 new cases of arson were reported against Santhals, at least 12 houses of Santhals were set on fire and in November 1996 there were more clashes between Bodos and Santhals. 125,000 people displaced by Bodo-Muslim violence in 2008 have been in camps in Darrang and Udalguri districts of Assam;

Again coming back to the present situation lakhs of people are displaced and one of its kind in history. The present clash which started on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 between the Bodo's and the minority left over 4, 30,960 people homeless and more then hundred death.

Conflict impacts on human well-being, reducing quality of life, private and public property, communication systems, food stocks, natural resources, the capabilities of people to live the kind of lives they value, and the real choice they have. It results in the loss of lives, livelihoods and opportunity, as well as human dignity and fundamental human rights.

All Ethnic and communal violence, intentionally or not in any region always have impacts on Children's rights, education, women, health, life and every spare of development. Conflicts have its greatest impact on the poorest voiceless communities in the poorest region the children and adolescents under age 18 are among the severely affected in these communities. The impacts of children may be direct apparent, as in the case of death, wounding, family separation or dislocation, they are frequently more obvious as with economic impoverishment, hazardous labour, early marriage or the less of opportunities for education and health in over all rights perspective.

The adolescents in displaced camps are under the influence of terror. They have suffered from physical and psychological disturbances. Historically, those concerned with the situation of children during armed conflict have focused primarily on their physical vulnerability. But the loss, grief and fear a child has experienced and invisible wound must also be taken into account. For increasing numbers of children living in war-torn situation adolescent age has become a nightmare. Armed conflict destroys homes, separates families, splinters communities, breaks down trust among people and disrupts health and education services, undermining the very foundation of children's lives leading to various kinds of emotional insecurities and psychological disturbances.

One of the most alarming trends relating to adolescent and armed conflicts is their participation as active members. Manipulated by adults, they have been drawn into violence that they are too young to resist and with consequences they cannot imagine. The adolescents most likely to become fighters/soldiers are from impoverished and marginalized tribal backgrounds in the region. Thus experiencing this nature of conflict NEDAN has been working towards building peace through history of co-existence and culture of tolerance and healthy dialogue with various sections of the communities.

# **WHITE RALLY FOR PEACE**

Peace in Lower Assam is like a stranger where people are running after peace. On other side violence is everyday head line news highlighted in block letters. Peace in Lower Assam has become a dream. People are facing various forms of violence, Witch hunting, Extortion, Rape, Murder, Trafficking, Fake encounters, Bomb blast. And if we talk about militancy people of Assam is under terror. According to The Hindu Report, Government figures show that in the last four years fake encounter cases registered in Assam were (52). These figures, however, do not give us the number of victims. It is often the case that more than one person is killed in an encounter, so the numbers involved are usually higher than the number of cases they have. It has made a deep negative impact on the society creating fear, tension from the violence all around.

One of the biggest disasters that recently broke out in lower Assam is the ethnic conflict among Bodo and Muslim in July 2012, left over 4, 30,960 people homeless and more then hundred death which led to post conflict impacts like rise in human trafficking and rise in crime rates. Again another case of witch hunting shook the entire lower Assam where death of three elderly people came into light from two villages on same night created a tensed situation in the area of Auguri and Milonpur. And the reason came out behind this killing is the suspect of witchcraft/black magic. According to the information collected some unidentified miscreants broke into the house of an elderly couple in Milonpur village, and slaughtered them. And with the differences of thirty minutes in a village named Auguri same incident took place where an elderly man was slaughtered. It has been reported by the villagers that this is the first case in both the areas. According to report of the sentinel number of cases of witch hunting registered across Assam in 2006 is 21cases, 2007, 7 cases, 2008, 10 cases, 2009, 4 cases, 2010, 11 cases, 2011, 29 cases, 2012, 14 cases. If we talk about witch hunting it is not a new phenomenon in Assam.

All these issues have led different organizations to take initiatives for spreading peace as well as for building peace. Peace rally, Peace Dialogue, Debate, Seminars etc are conducted in regard to that. Nedan has also played a greater role in taking initiatives for building peace among the people through peace dialogue, rally, campaign etc.

A white rally for peace was planned to conduct on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, to spread the message of peace among the people of kokrajhar. The rally was planned specially to trigger message against all forms of violence from kidnapping to witch hunting, extortion to rape, militancy, ethnic conflict etc.

As per plan on that auspicious day white rally for peace took place with a candle light vigil starting from the Higher Secondary Ground, marching till Police Point Near Assam Oil and Return to the Flyover. Stood there for a while holding candle and shouting slogans, “We want Peace”, “Stop Domestic Violence”, “Stop Extortion”, Stop Human Trafficking” etc.

It was a grant programme which was fruitful even though in the beginning there was a disturbance from nature because of heavy shower. But the crowd of about 400 to 450 people’s participation showed their keen interest and support of spreading message of peace looking forward in coming days. Many peace supporter and organizations took part in this programme, and people from communities like, Bengali, Muslim, Adivasi and Bodo

It was a great success and pleasure to see numbers of people wearing white from different community and organizations and institutions coming and joining hands together irrespective of caste, creed and religion to promote peace.



*White rally for peace on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. in kokrajhar*



*Women Vendors participating in peace rally*



*Common people participated in rally*



*Enthusiatic youths from Nedan Foundation taking part in rally*



*Common people taking part in rally*



*Candle light vigil for peace passing near by police station*



*Candle light vigil in the heart of kokrajhar*



*Infront of higher secondary school, kokrajh*



*“Give Peace a Chance” echoed in peace rally*



*On fly over shouting slogans- “we want peace”*

### **Positive and Peace initiative with the children & Adolescents 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.

Initially, the assistant coordinators and the volunteers were divided into 4 groups consisting of 3 members in each group. The selection of the group members was done through a game, they were asked to pick up a piece of paper where the names of the relief camps were mentioned. Accordingly, they made a plan for the day to day activities in the fields. There has been relocation of the camps within the month of Sept. in order to vacate the schools and collages premises used as relief camps.

Sl. No	Name of Relief Camps	Total Inmates	No. of adolescents 9-19 Yrs.		Total	No. Of Children 0-8 Yrs.		Total	Name of the totally burnt original villages
			Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		
	Dotma Agriculture	652	28	40	68	38	44	82	Jogdwi Mechpara
2	Dotma Bazar	235	15	38	53	36	23	59	Sengnala Narenguri
3	Daohliguri -I.T.I	452	42	63	105	63	31	94	Monakosha Korida Sandla Farougura Dologaoon
4	Sukanjora -1 Sukanjora - 2	450	17	32	49	45	52	97	Fakira Monakosha Farougura
5	D.T.O, Kokrajhar	539	21	39	60	47	51	98	Tintila Alurbhui Bharshi Dhubri
6	Nayekgaon Kangkrikola	907	121	131	252	52	62	114	Chakrasila Part- I Chakrasila Part-II Bangaldova Soybari Juliabosti
7	Nursing Training Centre	419	41	35	76	24	24	48	Gaurangthari Bakuabhangi Gunikhata
8	Nursing Hostel	390	55	12	67	16	28	44	Thakimari Bilasipara Bhangaldova Chapotgram
9	Cultural Complex-I Cultural Complex-II Cultural Complex-III	10,022	83	83	166	67	78	145	Bamungaon Malgaon Tintlanguri Diabari-1 Muthupara Anthabari
10	Kokrajhar District Sports Association (K.D.S.A) camp	244	27	21	48	19	9	28	Diabari
11	Gambaribil camp	2889	201	200	401	476	493	960	Tulsibil Kaseokhata Aminkhata
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,199</b>			<b>1,334</b>			<b>1,760</b>	

Note: The data mentioned above are the villages whose houses are totally burnt during riot.

The NEDAN team started the initiative after having the discussion with the parents, children and adolescents including the relief camp in-charge. The assistant coordinators had organized meetings with the parents, provided individual counseling and group counseling to the parents, children and adolescents. They had also carefully listened 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 and adolescents 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 and adolescents and accordingly given a responsibility to two adolescents of the camp who could look after the materials during off time. 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.



*Activities carried out with the children*



*Children in peace rally*

NEDAN today worked with 17 relief camps existing under Kokrajhar districts with children and adolescents. Besides, NEDAN has also initiated productive engagement of women through IGP in 17 existing camps of Kokrajhar districts. The entire program, with children and adolescents and women in the camps focus is on Psycho Social Support.

The psycho social support activities are also carried out with the children of Rajadabri relief camp, Chekadani relief camp, Boragari (Dotma) L. P School, Boragari (Dotma) M. E. School and Tharaibari relief camp. The psycho- social activities with the children and adolescents are carried out in the new location regularly. The adolescents' camp was organized in Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus with the adolescents of Dotma on 23rd September, 2012 and the adolescents of Sukanjhora camp on 25th September, 2012. Altogether 36 adolescents had participated from Dotma relief camp and 25 adolescents from Sukanjhora relief camp. However, more adolescent's participation is expected in the next adolescents programme.

The session was started with a quick round of introduction and accordingly they were asked to share their views and thinking before coming to the Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus. ***What came in your mind before reaching this place??*** Most of the adolescents were confused and had nothing to tell, however, few adolescents responded by saying that they were afraid as the place and the people were not known to them except the coordinator and assistant coordinators who have been visiting them frequently and carrying out the activities in the

camps. The groups were segregated into two amongst the children and the adolescents. The coordinator had taken the session with the adolescent girls group. The session was all about giving them a space to the adolescents and sharing their views and the challenges they are going through. While having the session, it was observed that they are afraid of the situation and their future as they are not been able to concentrate on their studies. They shared that most of the adolescents would be appearing board exams next year which is making them more tensed. They have started going to the nearby school close to their camps, few children and adolescents are going to the school without text books and other relevant materials. They were little worried as the exam days are coming much nearer and they are not able to prepare because of the non availability of the books and lack of proper places for study. They are not able to concentrate as the camps are overcrowded. The coordinator had suggested them to propose the camp in- charge to arrange for a separate hall where all the adolescents who would be appearing the board exams could study for at least 3-4 hours a day once they return from the school. This recent riot has largely impacted the children and adolescents mentally, physically and physically. Besides, a session on life skills was discussed. As an adolescent, they must be dealing with lots of emotional highs and lows. One minute they might feel great and the next they may feel sad and tearful.

**Meaning of Life Skill;** The abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individual to deal effectively with demands and challenges every days own life. It further encompasses thinking skill, social skill and negotiation skill. It also helps the young people to develop and grow into well behaved adults. Life skill education aims to provide students with strategies to make healthy choices that contribute to a meaningful life. Life skills are the abilities that help to promote mental well being and competence in young people as they face the realities of life. It helps the young people to take positive actions to protect themselves and to promote health and meaningful social relationship. Life skill facilitates a complete and integrated development of individuals to function effectively as social beings. Life skill education is a value addition programme for the youth to understand self and able to assess their skill, abilities and areas of developments, which also enable them to analyze their capacity to enhance the function in a most productive way. Life skill education allows the youth get along with other people, able to adjust with their environment and making responsible decision, which also incorporate to build up their values and to communicate effectively. In many circles, reproductive health education, population education and family welfare education are interchangeably used to convey the same meaning. The main objective of life skill education is to enable the learner to develop a concept

of oneself as a person of worth and dignity. It should help one to understand oneself and lead to growth in personal responsibility.



***Adolescents' camp at Weaving Destination Livelihood Campus***

Life skill education is a basic learning need for all young people. It will help the young people to empower in challenging situations. Various skills like leadership, responsibility, communication, intellectual capacity, self esteem, Interpersonal skill etc. extends its maximum level, if it is practicing effectively among the youth. We need to create life skill education as the cornerstone of various youth programmes. An effective implementation strategy will help the youth to practice it in their life. Specific activities like leadership training, communication, interaction, understanding self, making decisions, working with groups, socialization etc added the quality of youth.

Developing life skill helps the adolescents to translate knowledge, attitude and their health behaviour such as acquiring the ability to reduce specific risk behaviour and adopt healthy behaviour that improve their lives in general. Life skills have produced the following effects:

lessened violent behaviour; increased pro-social behaviour and decreased negative, self-destructive behaviour; increased the ability to plan ahead and choose effective solutions to problems; improved self-image, self-awareness, social and emotional adjustment; increased acquisition of knowledge; improved classroom behaviour; gains in self control and sociability; better handling of interpersonal problems and coping with anxiety; and improved constructive conflict resolution with peers, impulse control and popularity. Skill based approach in life skill education follows well established mentoring techniques to develop students innate quality and also motivating them to adopt socially acceptable pattern of life style's particularly, strategy consisting of a group of people combined together to help themselves by identifying their talents and directing them to choose an appropriate steps to enhance their skill and abilities as a part of development.

**Advocacy with Council of Ministers, BTC:**

A strong advocacy has been created by NEDAN during the crisis period with BTC administration. Our work on providing Psycho Social Support in relief camps was highlighted to Mr. Kampa Borgoyary, Deputy Chief, BTC and Mr. Sobharam Basumatary, Executive Member, Department of Social Welfare, BTC, on 10th Sept. Besides, regular meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Kokrajhar, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kokrajhar were done on children protection related issues in relief camps and returnees children population. The SP and Addl. SP of Kokrajhar was apprised of children situation and our experience on child trafficking intervention need amongst the displaced population living in the camps. NEDAN is constantly co-ordinating with CID and CBI on child trafficking issues amongst the displaced population and returnees population in the respective villages.

**List of the camps where Relief needs are provided for children and adolescents:**

NEDAN with community and individual support provided the most pressing need for children in the camps. To facilitate the class vii, class, ix and class, x adolescents, NEDAN with the support from Corporate Disasters Response Network provided tarpaulin in order to study separately from the camps inmate to all the 17 camps of our operational camps. Since most of the camps had light problem, NEDAN with support of Eco Solution Company, Mumbai provided solar lamps for the camp inmate as well as camps study centers of all the 17 camps.

Besides, NEDAN also collected many non food items such as tooth pastes, detergents powder, soaps, hair oil, face cream, clothes, blouse, dhokona (traditional dress) foot wear for children, children and adolescents dresses were distributed within 30 camps of Kokrajhar districts.

### **Multi-Sectoral Involvement with NEDAN Psycho Social Support Intervention in Relief camps.**

While NEDAN field staff and volunteers were carrying out the activities at relief camps uniform personals such as CRPF and BSF Company based at camps for guarding the inmates joint with our children and adolescents program in the camps. Most of the price distribution was done by the Officers from CRPF and BSF. They were very emotional and thank NEDAN for taking such a noble initiative in the crisis situation.

NEDAN also joints by Peace Gong who published the children and adolescents painting in national level magazines and peace messages. The Peace Gong has requested NEDAN to send all the good painting of children in the camps for Peace message publication for children in national level.

### **Conclusion:**

NEDAN envisage having a fruitful meeting with the BTC administration in presence of the Principal Secretary, BTC, in terms of advocating for children and adolescents' protection and security system in the relief camps existing after the riot. All the concerned departments are invited for the high level review meeting. Keeping in mind the present situation, the vigilance groups were formed immediately in order to prevent the children and adolescents from luring /trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN CONFLICT WITH ARMS

### Fake encounter

According to The Hindu Report, Government figures show that in the last four years, 555 fake encounter cases were registered across India, with majority being reported in Uttar Pradesh (138), followed by Manipur (62), Assam (52), West Bengal (35), Jharkhand (30), Chhattisgarh (29), Odisha (27), Jammu and Kashmir (26), Tamil Nadu (23) and Madhya Pradesh (20). Only 144 cases, out of 555, have been solved so far.

These figures, however, do not give us the number of victims. It is often the case that more than one person is killed in an encounter, so the numbers involved are usually higher than the number of cases they have.



“Whatever cases regarding alleged fake encounter are registered, they are mainly due to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)’s intervention. The State police always try and hide such cases and the Centre has no control over States or a mechanism to deal with such cases. While a decade back fake encounters were rampant in insurgency-affected States like Jammu and Kashmir and the north east, such cases are now growing in the Naxal-affected states,” said Asian Centre for Human Rights Director Suhas Chakma.

Sentinel on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013 has reported that according to sources 115 cases of fake encounter were registered by the AHRC in the last six years. The AHRC stated that many such fake encounter cases are not being reported by the family members of the victims due to several reasons. On the several occasions, security personals threaten the family members of the victims of severe consequences if they approach the police or any other concerned authorities for redressal. In this regard, the state Home Department has not also taken any visible measure so far to stop fake encounters in Assam.

Our team of two staffs from Nedan Foundation took the initiative to study the real story behind the iron curtain of the recent encounters. Total 10 cases were done in different place of kokrajhar in BTC, Assam. And the truth and fact which came into light was shocking and pathetic. The main motive of our study is to measure the height of exploitation of rights in the name of encounter which is totally fake and was decorated by the officials as encounter. And secondly it is our initiative to form a Bodoland widow Gun survival net work to stop such kind of act in future and to protect our young generations from exploitation. Here are the 10 cases in details below-

### **Case 1: Basbari Bazar, kokrajhar**

It was a day of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Raju Brahma alias Thepra had to face a tragic incident where he was shot death along with his friend, by the force. According to the police report he was a cadre of National democratic front of Bodoland (NDFB) and acquired arms from him. Raju had to lose his life at the very young age of 18.

The information/report that was flashed out was not enough for us to know the actual scenario of the incident. So on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in search of Raju's house we reached there and came to know the real story behind the iron curtain. Raju hails from a small village called Basbari under kokrajhar district. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Mr. Ranjit K. Brahma and Mrs. Brahma. He had five siblings, two brothers and three sisters who are all married and his elder brother was also married. Raju was a class 8 drop out student. He was bound to quit his studies due to financial crisis at home and went to work in a Hyderabad based company for five months, after that he returned and stayed at home for few months and he again worked in Guwahati as a security personal for six to seven months. According to Raju's mother after coming back from Guwahati he joined the group through his friends and was only 3-4 months hardly joining the group. He was not even trained and neither was given any arms to handle. After joining the group he hardly visits his house. It was several days his parents saw him but on that unfortunate day in morning his brother saw him in the market with his friend. He smiled back his brother and rode the cycle carrying his friend. Who knew that smile on Rajus face in morning would turn into darkness. We were told that from the market Raju and his companion headed towards the place called kajigaon to surrender as per plan. But they were shot to death on the midway by the armed forces. Raju's family members told us that one of their friends had surrendered so Raju was also asked by his companion to surrender. After a few days they went to OC with detail information to surrender but due to some reason it was rejected and asked to come some other day. And this other day brought darkness in the life of Raju.



From left Father, Youngest brother, Mother and Sister.

According to the villagers on the day of incident he was also seen by many villagers going somewhere riding cycle with his companion empty handed. Raju was also seen going in a simple dress, half pant and banyan. But it was flashed out that arms and ammunitions were found from him, which is quite illogical from the view of the villagers where the entire village was the witness of his innocence and the unfair game played by the officials.

It was very tragic and painful to mention that Raju's parents were not even informed by the police. They only came to know through news when the incident and names were flashed out in T.V. Then only they assured of the incident and collected the body from the Morgue.

### **Case: 2 phaglijora part 1, Basbari**

Mahesh alias Maa Brahman hailed from a most interior village called Phaglijora Part1 under Basbari. He lost his father in a very young age. He stayed with his mother and his three siblings. Academically he was good and completed his twelfth standard without any failure other than financial problem, as his mother earn very little to facilitate financially in their studies. So after twelfth exam his mother asked him to find some work for financial support to his family but he was allured by the friends and joined NDFB group before the result of the twelfth was declared.

It was almost two and a half year Maa joined the group. In these Two and a half years for One and a Half years he never visited home but later he started visiting home as love for his mother and his siblings pulled him towards home.

But all these love and care for his family died along with him when he had to face the so called encounter branded by the force. Maa was the companion of case 1 victim Raju Brahman shot death when they were heading toward IC riding cycle to surrender on **28<sup>th</sup> September 2013**. Similar with the case 1, flashed out that arms and ammunitions were found. While according to his mother's description he was at home from a few days and on the day of incident he asked his mother to prepare food early in the morning as he was in plane to go for surrender. But his mother delayed preparing food in order to stop him from going out as the area was under tense because of the killing of 2 police personals by the NDFB on previous day.

But Maa with a strong determination to surrender to finish off all these hide and seek game, which made him bound to say away from his family, set out without having food.

But all his hope to stay with his family and study again, died along with him leaving his mother in trauma. Maa's mother is again trapped in trauma losing his middle son while she was able to overcome her previous trauma of losing Maa's father, time when she needed support to raise her children.

He was also flashed out that arms and ammunitions were found from them but the villagers along his family members are the witness that during his stay at home he had no arms; neither did he carry any such kind while going to surrender.

Now the question arises at this point: from where the arms and ammunitions have come then?

If they are not having any arms then why are they shot to death without any enquiry?



Sister and Mother of Raju

Then what should we call this- **“a fake encounter!”**

Then where is justice and humanity killing someone without arms. Where is human rights we were granted.

### **Case 3: Bhutiapara, Dotma**

Rito alias Rafwt Brahma was born and brought up in village of Dotma called Bhutiapara no.3. He had five siblings, other than him and his youngest sister all of them got married. He left his studies when he failed class tenth and joined NDFB group at the very young age when he was not even eighteen. By then it was almost six to seven years approx. joining the group.

After joining the group he hardly visits his house. But before the incident few days back he visited home to provide financial help to his sister in her admission. He never takes shelter in his house as he was aware that forces might come in search of him. So he used to take shelter in his friend's house.

On that incident day of too he was in his friend's house. It was around 4 O'clock in the morning when some force broke into the house where he was sleeping; his friend was chased out of the room. And other members of the house were also kept outside the house. According to the villagers Rito was locked in the room along with force and the people outside could hear only four loud shooting sounds.

After that they opened the door and took some photographs and sent the body for postmortem. From the villagers we came to know that it was the most barbaric act where victim's hands were tied at back, he was blindfolded and let kneeled down. He was first of all hit with a big iron rod which the victim used to support the door to shut off his room. Then he was shot in his waist, chest, mouth and then forehead. Our team was told that the villagers could see his flesh, brain and blood shattered everywhere in the room and bullets hitting the walls and pillars of the house. He was tortured at the fullest and then killed.

It was very shocking for Rito's family members and quite painful to go and see the spot where he was so brutally killed while he was only 25 years. One of his brothers couldn't even have the guts to go and see his brother's so called encounter spot. Whole village is the witness of the incident and very much sure that he was not carrying any arms and ammunition with him but was flashed out to be found with arms and ammunition from him.

### **Case 4: East Badrampur, Bismuri**

Thungri Brahma, a 19 years old young boy hailed from a village called East Badrampur under Bismuri. He belong to a poor family had five siblings altogether two of them his own and three of them were step. They live separately, his step mother live separately with the step brothers and Thungri and his two siblings were looked after by their mother. Whereas Thungri's father died long time back when they were small, he was also shot by the militants.

Thungri was academically good and completed his class 9<sup>th</sup> standard but due to poor financial support he discontinued his studies. It was almost two years he was completely out of touch with studies till the tragic incident of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and had to lose life at a very productive stage of 19. After he discontinued his studies he worked in Hyderabad based company for seven months and then he returned to his native place and stayed in his brother in-law's house for a few months.

According to his family as per their knowledge Thungri was in NDFB group from last two three months only. But later they heard from others that he was involved in the group from last three years. Whatever

he was engaged only as a helper and messenger, was never engaged in any big activities nor ever handled any arms and ammunition.

On that tragic day of 14<sup>th</sup> January Thungri and a wanted NDFB set out with a bike to hand over money to someone. But they were surrounded by the army on the way to Runikhata, Gelaishree and were shot to death at around 9:30am. He was flashed out to be found with arms and ammunition. But according to his mother and brother, Thungri was empty handed; he didn't have any arms and ammunition when he was encountered.



### **Case5: Mainaonagar, Bismuri**

Arun Basumatary alias Laopani Basumatary hailed from a remote village called Mainaonagar, under Bismuri. Arun and his three siblings were looked after by his mother. As he was from a poor family he had to discontinue his studies after class seven. He had no scope for studies and as an eldest son he felt the need of financial support to his family.

Finding no other choice, he chose to join the NDFB group. And it was almost ten years his joining into the group. After joining the group he supported his family. Arun also looked after his brother's and sister's study expenditures and all other household expenses. He hardly used to visit his house as because he knows that he was wanted. Still everything was doing well.

But on that unfortunate day of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013 Arun (27 years) was said to be encountered by the force by 9 am in the morning. According to the family members Arun on 15<sup>th</sup> august went to drop his friend midway and took shelter in one of the house at night. But unfortunately early in the morning he was surrounded by the force and while trying to escape he was shot death. He was shot 10 bullets, at thigh, leg, head and body. Apart from that he was also stepped several times with the pointed split end bamboo at his chest. This has torn his chest in a very brutal shape and all his rib bones were visible.

This was the most inhuman and cruel manner of killing someone leaving his family in trauma and snatching only support of the family.



### Case 6: Mohanpur, Bismuri

Bilifang alias Bilwma Basumatary was from a village called Mohanpur of Bismuri. He was very active served in different sectors like village development council and also in youth Bodo people's front. Bilifang also cleared his 10<sup>th</sup> board exam. But unfortunately at the very young age he joined the NDFB group through his friend. But it was only four to five months joining the group and had to face a tragic death.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013 he was caught from Chirang and on 15 September 2013 he Bilifang was taken to the reserve forest of Bismuri and was shot death there. According to his brother he was shot 3 bullets – in his naval, chest and thigh. It was very unfortunate to mention that Bilifang had to lose his life at the very young age of 21, the developmental stage where youths are to be called the backbone of the Nation and future of the country



### Case7: Pholodabri, Kochugaon

Uttam alias Urailang Mushahary was the only son of his parents from Pholodabri, Kochugaon. He had four sisters and was much pampered son of his mother. He belonged to a very good family background where his all cousins and uncles are academically excellent. Every facility he was provided in his studies and all needs were also fulfilled.

Urailang did his schooling from Kokrajhar town only. As they had house in kokrajhar so he used to stay in Kokrajhar and studied till class ten but after that he did not appear for the board exam and discontinued his studies and used to stay with his parents in the village Pholodabri. Urailang's father also mentioned with grief that his son also had a dream to become a Doctor and for that reason he also chose adv. Maths as an elective subject.

Mr. Pradip Mushahary father of Urailang Mushahary told us that his son had to face an unfortunate incident on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and died at a very young age of 25. According to him Urailang only once in a blue moon used to visit his house so on that incident day also he was at someone else house staying for some programme of Bodo National conference (BNC). His father also mentioned that Urailang was not willing to attend the meeting but as he was requested again and again he agreed to attend the meeting. But unfortunately on the way to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 he met an unfortunate death. He was surrounded by the force on the midway and was shot to death before reaching the meeting venue.



Late Uttam Mushahary

Our team being a social worker it was very difficult to control our emotions, all of us were moved by seeing the condition of Urailang's father and mother. By just looking at them any one can say they are in trauma. His mother expressed her grief of losing her only son and their support of old age. While expressing all these tears rolled down from her eyes uncontrollably saying she can't forget losing his son. From the time she lost her son she is in trauma and her health is also degrading day by day.

### **Case 8: Holtugaon, Tinali**

Rahul Boro was a young and enthusiastic boy from Holtugaon, Tinali. He was from a good family background. His father Mr. Daneswar Boro is an employee of Forest department and had two brothers. Rahul was excellent in his academic level, after passing out HSLC he took admission in 10+3 for higher studies. But before class began he joined the NDFB group through his friends and also because of losing his brother in an encounter in 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Encounter of his brother triggered the anger and grief of Rahul to take revenge and joined the group right after seven months of his eldest brother's death. And this is also another factor which has led Rahul to join the Group.

It was almost four year since then joining the group. Rahul hardly visits his house as he was in wanted list. But unfortunately on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013 he had to lose his life at the very young age of 2013 in an encounter by the force, where he was flashed out to be recovered with arms and ammunitions.

The real story behind the iron curtain was told to our team by the family members to us that Rahul was caught from Kochugaon at around 3 am, from one of the residence of that place and was brought to Audang bazaar. He was tortured like hell for at least 4-5 hours and then was shot to death shooting three bullets. His brother told us that his skins were also burnt with match stick and rubbed with salt and lime. They didn't stop



Rahul Boro

at this; his private part was also not spared. After this height of torture he was then awarded with three bullets at his chest, thigh and naval.

The grief of that family was immeasurable, Rahul's mother cried out of emotion and told us, those memories of her eldest son was just started fading but at the mean time she again lost her youngest son. Apart from that her middle son who is alive was also not spared from the harassment of the police. He was already picked up from his house thrice in suspect of the connection with the underground and charged him with fake charges.

This time Rahul was not the only victim but his whole family suffered. It put an immense effect on his whole family. His whole family is in trauma to face all deadly incidents and harassments. Rahul's mother expressed that it would have been good only if he was put into jail then at least he would have been alive rather than shot so brutally and killed.



From left Father, Brother and Mother



Late Brother of Rahul

### **Case 9: Sowraidakha, Serfanguri**

Gwmbra brahma alias Khokha was from a village called Sowraidakha in Serfanguri. He had two siblings one brother and one sister. He studied till class tenth but didn't succeed in the board exam, later he didn't appear for the exam due to financial crisis at home. Gwmbra joined the group NDFB five years back. But before joining the group he worked with Gytry Company to support his family.

According to his family report he was trapped in an unfortunate incident. On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 he was caught by the force but on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 he was taken to Takampur, Kochugaon and was tortured in the fullest. He was hit on his head first of all and then shot 6 bullets, which clearly states that he was tortured in full height and then killed in the name of so called encounter as he was branded by the force.

He was found in a very bad shape with damaged head and deformed jaw which was very sad for his family member to see and perform the last ritual of his death. And it was also mentioned to our team that he didn't have any arms or ammunitions when he was caught but it was flashed out to be recovered with arms and ammunitions.

## Case 10: Labainopur, Bismuri

Anjalu alias Maru Brahma was a very young boy, who was only 18 years hailed from a village called Labainopur. Labainopur is one of the most interior places without any essential infrastructures. Maru used stay with his father, mother and two brothers and sister in-laws and a sister. Academically Anjalu completed his class nine. But he doesn't want to continue his studies and he quit his studies and stayed at home helping his brothers in farming. But after a year he quit his studies he joined the NDFB group and since then it was almost a year Anjalu's joining the group.

But on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013 Anjalu had to face a tragic death in an encounter which was flashed out. But the real story behind this so called encounter came into light when our team went to the house of Anjalu and interacted with his family members.

According to anjalu's mother her son would have been alive but he was killed intentionally. It was early in the morning she got a call from her relative saying that her son is caught by the force and he could be saved if she lodges an FIR in the police station of Bismuri but she couldn't meet IC. While she was trying hard to save his son she got a call at around 10 am saying that his son is no more. The news of his son's death had broken her heart into pieces.

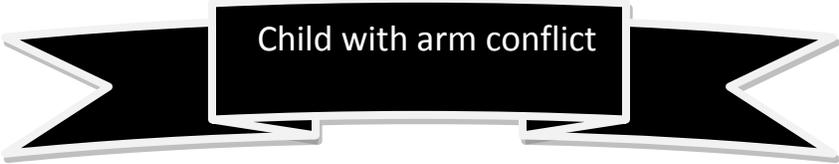


On that day Anjalu and his companion was taking shelter in one of the house at Audang Bazzar. It was around 3 am they were at deep sleep and suddenly they woke up with the light torch with was lit to their room. Anjalu and his companion had a fishy smell on this so Anjalu went out looking for it but he didn't return. Then his companion was sure that they were surrounded by the forces so tried to escape and hide in the backyard garden.

Anjalu and his companion both of them were caught by the forces and they roamed around the village along with them and then they were taken to the nearby bush in the village and tortured them like hell. Both of them were kept separate. According to anjalu's mother her son's hands were tied and dragged and then his skins were burnt were cigarette. It was such a barbaric inhuman acyivity that they even rubbed lemon on his burnt and then he was hit at the back of head that it was totally damaged. All this torture had killed him and then only he was shot in his shoulder. It was then decorated as killed in an encounter.

Anjalu's mother and father claims that their son has died in a very pathetic way and who have gave the forces that right to do such insane act which is totally not acceptable.





## Child with arm conflict

Because of different factors children are with arm conflict. There are no. of cases some of them came into light and some remain in dark.

According to Asian center for Human Rights, 2013 report states that the recruitment of child soldiers is rampant and hundreds of children remain involved in the conflicts. Both the government and the armed opposition groups have recruited children including for combat purposes since India signed the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 5 Nov 2004 and further ratified it on 30 November 2005.

Many of the child soldiers have surrendered before the highest authorities of the Government of India. These include surrender of about 568 cadres of the *United People's Democratic Solidarity* in front of Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam Shankar Barua, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 4 Corps of the Indian Army, Lt Gen Shakti Gurung and other officials on 14 December 2011 and about 1,695 members of various armed opposition groups surrendered before India's then Home Minister P Chidambaram and Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi in Guwahati, Assam on 24 January 2012. The photographs taken during the surrender ceremony as shown in this report establish the recruitment of children by the AOGs beyond any reasonable doubt.

Article 7 of the optional Protocol requires the States Parties to provide "rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons who are victims of acts contrary to this Protocol". In India, surrender-cum-rehabilitation policies are in place in disturbed areas of Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and Naxal affected states. These State governments have their own surrender and rehabilitation policies. The surrender and rehabilitation policies aimed at providing gainful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to the surrendered militants/extremists/Naxalites so that they are encouraged to join the mainstream and do not return to the fold of militant/extremist/Naxal activities. The surrender and rehabilitation policies *inter alia* provides for an immediate grant of Rs.1.5 lakh, a stipend of Rs. 2000 for three years, vocational training and incentives for surrender of weapons. However, none of the surrender policies is focused on the children recruited by the armed opposition groups.

The surrender and rehabilitation policies are adult-centric. This is despite the fact that minors have been recruited by armed opposition groups including the Naxals. These policies are not framed from the perspective of child rights. It is well-documented that many of the AOG cadres who surrendered were minors at the time when they joined/or forcibly recruited by the armed opposition groups. As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, if a person who has committed an offence is below the age of 18 years on the date of commission of offence is given protection or treatment under the Juvenile Justice Act. There are no special provisions for the minors who joined/forcibly recruited by AOGs but subsequently become adults.

Although govt. took the initiative to bring them in the mainstream but they are lacking behind in providing psychological support. In this context Nedan Foundation has put an effort to provide them psychological support along with skill building programmes and imparting them education for peace through games, drawing and discussions.



*UPDS cadres surrendering at Diphu Assam on 11 December 2011 (Photo: Gitika Talukdar)*



*An armed cadre recruited as child soldier surrenders before Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and India's then Home Minister P Chidambarm (Not seen in the picture) during mass surrender on 24 January 2012 (Photo: Gitika Talukdar)*



*An armed cadre recruited as child soldier surrenders before Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi (l) and India's then Home Minister P Chidambarm (R) during mass surrender on 24 January 2012 (Photo: Gitika Talukdar)*



*An armed cadre recruited as child soldier surrenders before Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and India's then Home Minister P Chidambarm (not seen in the picture) during mass surrender on 24 January 2012 (Photo: Gitika Talukdar)*

*Games conducted with the adolescent boys and girls club in Siharpur, Kokrajhar district, BTC, Assam*





## **OBSERVING - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

### **Theme of 2013: 'EDUCATION for PEACE'**

*'Peace cannot be achieved at the levels of politics and economics alone. It is shaped by the consciousness, values and actions of each one of us. How can we create a world in which all differences of ethnicity, religion, tradition and individual qualities are respected—a world in which humanity and all life on earth can live together in harmony and interdependence? This year's vision will explore the ways of living that will foster such a Culture of Peace'.*

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981, the United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution 36/67 establishing the International Day of Peace (IDP) which stated in part, "...to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways." The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982 on the opening day of the General Assembly.

In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

In 2002 the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent annual date for the International Day of Peace.

**Theme for 2013:** This year's International Day of Peace is decided "**Education for Peace**"

*"It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."* - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Peace in Assam is like a stranger where people are running after peace. On other side violence is everyday's head line news highlighted in block letters. Peace in Assam has become a dream. People are facing various forms of violence, Witch hunting, Extortion, Rape, Murder, Trafficking, Fake encounters, Bomb blast and communal violence. And if we talk about civil strife people of Assam is under terror. So on this auspicious day of International Day Of Peace **NEDAN FOUNDATION** has taken the initiative of bringing young generation and all walks of communities in *building peace*, creating peace ambassadors, advocating for Peace Education, intellectual debates on peace and also *inaugurating peace pole as symbol of peace message 'May Peace Prevail on Earth'*.



A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer '*May Peace Prevail on Earth*' in English two on each sides and two Bodo on each sides. This initiative is first of its kind in the entire North East Region of India. There are tens of thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace. NEDAN's will also be putting the peace pole in every area where communal violence has erupted and created mistrust to each other and living with fears. Rebuilding social cohesion and co-existence has to be created for just peaceful society.

The Bodo belt has suffered tremendously in unending civil strife and today young generation are urging for peaceful co-existence and full development to live in the society without fear and freedom. This noble initiative of civil society organization –NEDAN FOUNDATION will put maximum efforts in educating young generation on Peace and development in the region with the motto of the –'**Society We Want to See and Live**'

### **WE SHALL PRACTICE:-**

**We shall put these principles into practice:**

#### **As individuals:**

We must move beyond an era in which authority and responsibility rest in nation states, ethnic groups and religions to one in which the individual is paramount. We envision an "Age of the Individual" - not in the sense of egoism, but an age in which every individual is ready to accept responsibility and to carry out his or her mission as an independent member of the human race.

Each of us shall carry out our greatest mission to bring love, harmony and gratitude into our own heart, and in so doing, bring harmony to the world at large.

#### **In our specialized fields:**

We shall build a system of cooperation in which wisdom is gathered together to derive the most from technical knowledge, skills and ability in various fields, such as education, science, culture and the arts, as well as religion, philosophy, politics and economics.

## **As the young generation:**

In the 20th century, parents, teachers and society were the educators of children, and the children were always in the position of being taught. In the 21st century, adults shall learn from the wonderful qualities of children, such as their purity, innocence, radiance, wisdom and intuition, to inspire and uplift one another. The young generation shall play a leading role in the creation of peace for a bright future.

## **‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’**

On the event of international day of peace the programme started at 6pm with a special guest D.C of Kokrajhar district Mr. Nitin Khade. The programme started with the welcome of the other guests Mrs Pratibha from Bibunthi magazine, media personals, other NGO members and also students from different colleges. Then followed by the briefing of the event and the motive of the celebration of the event by Digambar Narzary chair person of Nedan. After that DC delivered a speech on peace and then inaugurated the peace pole.

Speech by DC: Dc expressed his gladness to be part of the programme which is very important and necessary for the region where people are in fear and trauma of now and then violence that frequently takes place in the region/area. According to him peace is the only solution to remove fear from the people and come out of their house and enjoy life without any risk or fear. Apart from that he also mentioned that peace is important for all as it is also the medium of development without which peace cannot be expected. He also thanked Nedan foundation for inviting him and also assured to take part in any peace activity conducted by Nedan in coming days.

He also replied to the question of the students regarding strikes and bandhs that is hampering their classes.



*Peace pole with the message written on different languages*



*DC of Kokrajhar district delivering message on peace to the crowd*



*Students of different colleges took part*



**Peace Marathon**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> oct.**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 marathon. 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 special 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 DIC centers Baganpara, Sikharpur and Kachugaon bazaar also took part in the marathon.

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.

### **Photographs of the on and before the programme**



*Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> sept. in Dc office with various district administration department officers , Nedan Foundation and other organizations*



*At the venue: Higher secondary play ground, kokrajhar, BTC*



*Homage to the Mahatma Gandhi by the MLA Mrs Pramila Rani and Mr S K Sahu principal secretary, BTC*



*Homage to the Mahatma Gandhi by Deputy commissioner of Kokrajhar Mr Nitin K. Khade and Sp of Kokrajhar*



*Participants ready for the Peace Marathon and flag off by the guests*



*Participants of peace marathon competing each other after flag off to finish 6km distance marathon route*



*Somaina winner of children's group (5-10yrs), Baganpara  
DIC center.*



*Jwngsar Narzary( 11-15), Vidyapith high school, kokrajhar.*



*Marathon winner male*



*Marathon winner female*



*DC, ADC, SP and other senior participants received the prize of senior citizen category*

## 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.



*Mr. Digambar Narzary Chairperson of Nedan foundation in front of Media*



*Students from different schools and colleges taking part in peace rally*



*Students with play cards in the ground after rally*



*300 plus students took part in the rally*



*Mr. Digambar Narzary delivering speech to the students in the ground*



*Nedan Staffs with the students*



*Nedan staffs with the students*

### **Education for Peace- Way forward:-**

- Imparting Education for Peace amongst the children and adolescents living in the displaced camps due to conflict in 2012.
- Interfaith Peace dialogue
- Putting up Peace Pole in institutions and sensitive conflict areas.
- Exposure for the children affected by conflict and half orphaned.