

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

1. The year 2016-17 can be termed as the year of tears and mourning for the Trust, because, in the year we lost three of our inmates, all because of Cancer. The deaths of Sadhana, Ruma and Manju, in a span of a year, casted a pall of gloom over the otherwise vibrant atmosphere of Seneh and robbed the smiles off the lips of all the inmates, employees and Trustees and other well-wishers. We put all our efforts, treaded all avenues, provided all the love and care, but like 99% of those who fought and lost their struggle for survival against the same ailment, all three also lost the war against the deadly disease. Hence unlike earlier years, last year, we decided to skip the Annual jamboree that was the custom for the four previous years. I am proud to inform you, post death we cremated them with the honour they deserved. In the first two cases the funeral pyre was lit by the two nurses. No words of praise can describe the commitment and dedication of these two young girls. They tended them in a way that one's own children would normally not be ready to do. I salute them for their sacrifice. As per a decision taken by Board Of Trustees, for all three departed, we organized all religion prayer meetings on the fourth day of their demise. All these meetings were well attended.

2. I intend to tell you all a brief history about the three departed.

a. **Sadhana Bora** was brought to Seneh by the SHO of Chandmari Police Station. She was homeless and suffered from some psychological disorders which was taken care of by us. A very fashionable lady, with a somewhat affluent back ground, fate brought her to us after she lost her husband first, then her home and ultimately her son whom she brought up with a lot of struggle. She was a very talented woman, she used to dance like a sixteen-year-old with all the grace and pomp. She was diagnosed suffering from cancer of the throat a bit late. We immediately organized her operation. But by that time the disease has already spread to other areas. She could not withstand chemo and died a peaceful death on 12/07/2016



b. **Ruma Guha** was brought to Seneh by an elegantly dressed lady who pretended she was moved by her plight since she found her on the street in front of her house, lying sick and uncared for. Later we discovered Ruma was stone deaf. Her body was lacerated with marks of torture. She could hardly see. First, we organized her cataractomy. Once she could see we discovered she could read the English daily fluently. We started communicating with her in writing. She informed she is a MA in history and was a professor in Biswanath College. She lost her job when she turned stone deaf. Later she lost her husband, was robbed of all her wealth by her relations and thrown into a home for old women at Kolkota. The home closed and she was brought to Guwahati by her niece who after maltreating her including physical abuse dumped her to us. One day she had a not a serious fall and she broke her hip bone. She was operated, recovered and brought back. But within days the other leg broke. Actually, she probably had bone cancer. She was operated second time but within days she broke her leg bone again. This time the doctors gave up. She died on 4/11/2016.



c.Manju Biswas hails from a very affluent family with her brothers having palatial bungalows. She was a spinster. She used to live with her elder brother a retired central excise. Till she earned her own livelihood the brother tolerated her. But once because of an accident she got incapacitated and was not able to perform her job as a tailor. She lived on her savings, but when that got exhausted the sister in law drove her out. She lived at Seneh thereafter. She was diagnosed suffering from cancer of the bladder, operated upon but although the operation went up well, the surgeon informed that the disease has spread much and it was not possible for him to remove all the diseased cells. She died on 14/02/2016



3. In spite of the setbacks mentioned above, in the year, we did progress a lot and caught the imaginations of people of Guwahati, and the print and electronic media. I intend to cover briefly these activities under the following headings:

- a. Induction of new Inmates and their brief backgrounds
- b. Induction/ Exclusion in the Board of Trustees.
- c. Opening of a New Home at North Lakhimpur
- d. Welfare measures taken under shelter, food and medical support.
- e. Induction of new employees and rationalizing their remunerations.
- f. Visits and celebrations.
- g. Other welfare measures taken, away from our core aim of running the destitute home originally not mandated in our Trust Deed but subsequently added by resolutions in Board Meetings.
- h. Finances
- i. Expansions of facilities/ new construction works undertaken.
- j. Challenges
- k. Future Plans.
- l. Conclusions

a. **Induction of new Inmates:** We brought in three destitute in the year. Namely a. Manju Biswas who came on 24/04/2016 and unfortunately died of cancer on 14/02/2017, Sushanti Namasudra, who was handed over to us by the police and Nilima Roy who was brought in by a social worker. She was paralysed on one side.

b. Induction of new Trustees:

In the year, we appointed the well known and acclaimed innovator Sri Udhav Bharali as a Trustee. In addition, we co-opted the following young and enthusiastic persons as Trustees to assist us in our day today affairs. The present composition of the Trustis as follows

Trustees

- i. Gp capt A C Barua (Retd) : Chairman
- ii. Dr N C Rabha: Managing Trustee
- iii. Er Paresh Dev Choudhary : Member I/C Finance
- iv. Dr Shila Bora: Trustee
- v. Mrs Minoti Barthakur : Trustee
- vi. Mrs Mina Barua: Trustee
- vii. Mrs Anjana Barooah: Trustee
- viii. Mrs Dipali Barua: Trustee
- ix. Dr Padmapani: Trustee
- x. Dr M K Baruah : Trustee
- xi. Mrs Purabi Kakoty : Member I/C Welfare
- xii. Mrs Mitra Phukan: Trustee
- xiii. Dr Bikash Saikia : Member I/C Medical
- xiv. Wg Cdr Uma Mahanta : Trustee
- xv. Mr Udhav Bharali : Trustee I/C Lakhimpur
- xvi. Mrs Rashmi Bansal : Trustee
- xvii. Mr Rabhijit Barooah : Trustee

Co- Opted Trustees

- Miss Urmees Sultana
- Mrs Sangita Dutta
- Mrs Rina Bhattacharjee
- Mr M Sarma

c. Opening of a New Home

I am extremely happy to inform all, that buoyed by our success of last five years and the tremendous support we have been receiving from the public in general, we opened a new home for Destitute Old Women at a rented accommodation in the heart of North

Lakhimpur. The Home was Inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of North Lakhimpur in presence of a large appreciative gathering. This was possible because of the unflinching support, dedication and commitment of Sri Udhav Bharali who earned many a laurel as an outstanding innovator nationally and internationally. The inauguration was done on the 4th of October.

d. Welfare Measures Taken

Food: We have been able to improve on the quality of food in the year gone by. This has been possible because of help received by a host of donors who give us regular food materials. Some of them who donate regularly deserves our heartfelt gratitude. I will be mentioning a few names shortly. In addition, very frequently a host of kind hearted persons come to “Seneh” to celebrate different occasions of their families like death anniversary, birth days etc and bear the cost of a sumptuous meal. We thank them all for their gesture.

Shelter: Under shelter, we club clothing, house hold items including white goods, sanitary items, expenses for water and electricity, municipality charges, conservation charges, office expenses and furniture etc. I am overwhelmed to inform the house that here also, the enthusiasm of the public in general has literally put us in a spot. There are so much of donated items like blankets, mekhela chadar, saris, bed sheets and pillow covers etc, we are facing paucity of storage space since these items are much more than what we need. But requests pour in for more such donations which we politely refuse. We now normally request the donors to donate daily use items like soap, detergents, cleaning materials, hair oils, powder etc in lieu of clothing items.

Medical Needs: Our biggest challenge is looking after the medical needs of the inmates. Rarely a day passes when a visit to the hospital is not needed. GMC had been giving us tremendous

support in this regard. Without this support, we would have been on the sea. I also thank Ashadeep for providing us free consultation for the mental problems of the inmates. Unfortunately, half of the inmates suffer from different mental conditions that require regular psychiatric consultations and medication. In an average, we spend more than Rs 7000/ per month on psychiatric drug alone.

I will be failing in my duties if I fail to mention the dedication and hard work put up by the two nurses that we have employed. The way they nursed the sick who breathed their last as mentioned at the very outset, specially the terminal palliative care rendered can never be expressed in letters. What all they did is beyond comprehension. Even own children will not do half of what they did for somebody else's mothers. I salute their compassion, dedication and humanitarian service.

e. Induction of new employees and rationalization of their remunerations:

- i. We have inducted the three additional employees to augment our human resources. This augmentation is mainly to cater to the needs of our new unit at North Lakhimpur. One of these employees is a deaf and dumb girl of twenty-two years old.
- ii. Recently, we have hiked their pay across the board by Rs 1000/ . We have also with the help of our Trustee Sri Rabhijit Barooah, included them in the Employees provident Fund and Medical schemes. Here we pay double the amount of what they pay.
- iii. With this the present pay structure is made much attractive.

e. Visits and celebrations.

1. Celebration of Rangali Bihu on 14-04-2016. The highlight of the day was Bagurumba Dance by the residence of Nizora path and a

Bihu Dance sponsored by Topcem Cement Pvt. Limited.



2.Yoga Day was celebrated on 11-05-2016. Celebration was organised by Art of living.

3.World Environment Day was celebrated on 05-06-2016. Pratyasha a NGO working for conservation of Environment was the sponsored.

4.World Mother's Day was organised on 08-06-2016.

5.LIC women organisation and the NGO stop human traffic were the co-sponsored.

6.Raksha Bandhan celebrated on 06-08-2017. Co-sponsored by Lions club of Guwahati and Prajapati Brahmakumari Samaz.

7. Independent day was celebrated by unfurling the national flag by DR N. C . Rabha in presence of a large students.



8. Republic Day was celebrated on 26-01-2017 with funfair.

9. A cultural function was organised on 29-01-2017 by “ARADHANA”, a premiere cultural organisation. Shree Pulak Banarjee one of the doyens of vocal music of Assam also performed on the occasion.



10. In addition Doctors from GMC, GNRC Hospital and Pratiksha Hospital and Guwahati Dental conducted Health Camps in the year.



f. Other welfare measures taken away from our core aim as mandated by the original trust deed that had been added subsequently by the Board Of Trustees.

i. Scholarship to Meritorious and economically extremely poor students. We have taken the responsibility of looking after the educational needs of one a very intelligent student of the extreme poor background studying in the local Government school, for the year. He has since passed his high school. In lieu, we are helping another extremely poor bright girl child of the same school. In addition in collaboration with Assam Foundation of North America we have adopted a girl school in Pathsala. We pay Rs 40,000 per year to the school to honour their best performing students.

ii. We have undertaken another project to rehabilitate two differently abled mature girls from rural areas of Dhemaji. We brought them to Guwahati got them medically examined and undertook to mend their physical conditions. One, a deaf and dumb is the one who is being employed at North Lakhimpur. Her condition is unfortunately irreparable. The other a cripple waist downward needs a series of operations to mend one of her legs so that she is able to stand with the help of a crutch on the other leg. Unfortunately her operation

had to be postponed because the doctor who undertook to perform the complicated operations was transferred from Guwahati Medical College. We have plans to get her back again in the current year (ie 2017-18). In this connection I profoundly thank Dr Ajaya Mahanta the well known neurologist who went out of her way to help these two unfortunates. I also thank Wg Cdr S K Baruah (Retd) and Mrs Minoti Barthakur for sponsoring the expenses for their rehabilitation

iii.I am very happy to inform you that we could rehabilitate the children of Arti, the erstwhile schizophrenic, her one son is now a resident of Snehalaya, an orphanage and pursuing his studies very diligently. The elder one is under training in a motor vehicle repair shop. And few others

g. Finances:

We had a very satisfying year as regards financial management. The details will be presented by the Member i/c Finance in his presentation that will follow. The audited balance sheets are displayed

h. Expansion of Facilities and work undertaken:

i.The following construction works were undertaken and completed in the year. The Finance member will present the financials for this.

ii.Construction of a permanent structure to be used as a room for the male employee, a sick room for housing the loom and the pounding device (Dheki) at a cost of more than one lakh. Half of this amount was paid by Sri Mahendra Katakya.

iii.Construction of a store room adjacent to the kitchen at a cost of Rs 32000/.

i. Challenges

i.The biggest challenge we have in future is the deteriorating age related health conditions of the inmates. We need to firm up a strategy to meet this challenge. Our strategies formulated as per

your advice of last year have given positive results . We could weather the storm of three deaths after prolonged sickness that rendered them bed ridden for periods ranging from six to eight months are the living example of the success of the strategies adopted. The basic structure of the strategies adopted are

i.Keep them in hospital till we are convinced no amount of hospitalization will help. Keeping them in hospital required planning and motivation of the employees. It was mandatory to keep an attendant 24 hours when they were admitted. In days some employees remained in the hospital for more than 24 hours without a wink of sleep.

ii.Prepare and keep handy a list of voluntary blood donors. I am very happy to you all the enthusiasm and commitment of some young men and girls who were always ready to donate blood for their loving Aitas (Grand Mothers). In the year 14 donors donated blood for this purpose



iv.Frequent visits by some of the Trustees to the hospital where the sick inmate is admitted.

v.Planned the cremations in a sustainable manner. In this connection I have an observation to make. The response of the Trustees were not very encouraging. However I will be failing in my duties if I donot mention the names of a few who braved all odds to be present. They are Dr Shila Bora, Mr Nilomoni Baruaand his spouse, Mrs Purabi Kakaty, Mrs Sangita Dutta, Miss Urmees Sultana, Sri Paresh Devchoudhary and a host of young men like Sri Arup Das, Sri Biren Khaglari and others. The contribution of Sri Chandra Chetry the male housekeeper also requires applause. Another Trustee, Sri Rabhijit Barooah was always the biggest help.

vi.Another problem area is provision of water mainly in lean season that is in the months of November to April when the only source of water the well dries up. We had been spending a handsome money every year to purchase water from the. The local MLA Sri Sidharth Bhattacharjee in his visit to the complex has promised sanctioning of an amount of Rs 3 lakh for digging a bore well from his MLALAD fund. We are waiting for his promise to fruitify.

j. FUTURE PLANS

- Extend the financial help to other needy and deserving students.
- Start a geriatric first aid care unit in the premises and also extend this to remote areas with an outreach programme. (This was planned last year but shelved because of paucity of volunteers.)
- To start a similar homes elsewhere.
- Tap CSR resources more vigorously for funding.
- Approach State Government for help.
- Apply to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for grants from Integrated Programme for older persons
- Approach foreign sources for Financial help.

k.Conclusion

What we have been doing is a tip of the iceberg. There are thousands who require succour and dignity to live. We are committed to embrace more and more destitute who really

requires a comforting place to live a life of comfort and dignity in the sunset years of their lives. We have two constrains vij Adequate Resources and Humane selfless workers. Honestly the former can be managed if we put our heads together, but the later is a unsurmountable hindrance. We have not given up hope. Together we will try.

Attchments

- 1. Audited Financials for 2016-17**
- 2. Budget for 2017-18**
- 3.**