

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

1. The year started with gaiety and merriment since it almost coincided with the Assamese New Year after thirteen days of the new financial year. The Assamese people embark on a month long celebrations of advent of spring with merriment and gaiety with cultural activities and delicious food items galore to usher in the New Year and prepare for the new harvest season that starts immediately after, that embodies toil and hard work. The festival is known as the Rongali Bihu, literally meaning the festival of merriment. The year went off smoothly with all round developments in all fields of our activities and we were able to wear a few feathers on our caps with new programmes of philanthropy and goodwill. We progressed steadily but firmly forward. In all fields of activities we could carve out a name for ourselves. Our finances also looked good thanks to the participation of a large number of well wishers and their contributions. Our ranks of volunteers swelled. But alas! Tragedy struck us like lightning at the fag end of the year when we lost one of our inmates, Late Tarani Basumatary, 70, after prolonged illness. She was admitted to Sun Valley hospital for feeling uneasy and physical and mental instability. It turned out to be a case of complete renal failure. She was a chronic diabetic for forty five years. All efforts to revive her kidney function including daily dialysis under intensive care failed. She was in ICU for more than 15 days. Our staff and a few lady volunteers kept 24x7 hours vigil on her in hospital disregarding the discomfort they faced. Scores of well wishers thronged the hospital complex every day to enquire about her. But all the prayers remained unanswered. She breathed her last on the 5th of February 2019. She was given a decent funeral attended by a large gathering of sympathisers. The honour to perform her last rite was given jointly to the two nurses who attended to her till her last breath. As is the practice, in all cases of death of our inmates, as a mark of respect to the departed soul, on the fourth day of her death, we assemble for an all religion prayer meeting on the 8th of Feb 2019. A large number of mourners attended. Priests from the Church, a few Kazis of the local mosque and a Hindu priest participated in the prayers and delivered discourse

about inevitability of death and how to face death and life after death, as per each ones beliefs.

But for this tragedy it was a year of fulfilment, hope and cheers for the jobs well done, and things falling into proper places for a sustained growth. This is because of the following broad reasons.

a. We could get a lot of help and encouragements from the general public and a plenty of accolades for our humanitarian services to the deprived and the neglected.

b. The Assamese Diaspora living in America under the banner of AFNA were overwhelmed by our efforts and they decided to contribute handsomely to our cause. The foundation had already released a sum of Rs. 4,25,695.25 to specially for the purpose of meeting the medical expenses of the inmates who suffer from a plethora of diseases because of old age and previously acquired illnesses, both physical and mental.

- i. Barring the critical illness and sad demise of Smti Tarani Basumatary, there had been marked improvements in the quality of life of the inmates. Daily morning and evening prayers ,regular evening walks , engagement in daily sores(cooking, cleaning, gardening etc), practice of yoga and pranayama, hearing religious discourses, attending training programme of Art of Living foundation, Sathya Sai Santha and Cinnmoy Misssion and sermons by the Christian priests brought solace in the minds of the inmates and helped them in living peacefully in a stress free environment.
- ii. The inmates engaged in a lot of productive activities like stitching, looming, embroidery, flower making, knitting and pickle making earning handsome profit. We keep a separate account of this profit which is then used for taking them out to different places of interest.
- iii. Sun Valley Hospital of Guwahati voluntarily decided to look after completely the health of the inmates through OPD and indoor services free for the whole year. As per the Managing Director of the hospital, Sri Abhoy Hazarika, this decision was taken after they were overwhelmed by our humanitarian efforts when he casually visited us.

- iv. The local MLA, Sri Siddharta Bhattacharyee decided to help us to increase the capacity in the year 2017-18 by sanctioning an amount of Rs 3 lakh from his MPLAD fund. With this we increased the capacity by four. The work could be completed in the FY, 2018 -19 and the full amount utilized chipping in some money from our own resources, an office room and a room to house 4 more inmates were constructed. With this the present capacity for inmates has been raised to 24.
 - v. With very efficient financial management, our financial health has improved tremendously.
 - vi. We are gradually in the process of handing over the management to the next generation. They have shown tremendous potential.
 - vii. Although not on expected pace, the North Lakhimpur chapter is taking its roots firmly.
 - viii. Give India has been relentlessly supporting our cause with largess.
 - ix. **It is a matter of great pride for the trust that one of our trustees, Dr Uddhab Bharali, a innovator of International repute, has been awarded the prestigious PADMASREE by the president of India in this financial year. He manages our North Lakhimpur branch.**
 - x. **We have started “ENAJORI”, a project to feed the extremely poor attendants of general ward of Dr B Baruah Cancer hospital at least once a day. Started on 02/10/2018, the project is taking shape nicely.**
2. We had multifarious activities in the year, some of which were added to bolster our image and extend our reach. I intend to deal with each of our activities under the following headings
- a. Induction of new Inmates and their brief backgrounds
 - b. Induction/ Exclusion of Trustees in the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Welfare measures taken under shelter, food and medical support.
 - d. Gradually rationalizing their remunerations.

- e. Visits and celebrations.
- f. 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.
- g. Finances
- h. Expansions of facilities/ new construction works undertaken.
- i. Challenges
- j. Future Plans.
- k. Conclusions

Induction of new Inmates and their brief backgrounds.

1.Smt Rajbanti, admitted on 21.4.18

Brief Background: Her background is sketchy since she is suffering from dementia and unable to recall her past except that fifty years back she was brought to Assam by her husband who worked in Assam from Bihar. One day he went back to Bihar leaving her alone for ever to fend for herself. She worked as a housemaid in an influential man, house hold. She does not remember how long she lived with the family. What we have been told when she was incapable of working hard the family employed her as the caretaker in a club where the lady was the President. She lived alone in a small room of the club. When with dementia she was found to be a liability, the lady brought her to us. She was ready to pay a donation which we flatly refused.

2.Smti Vivianna, admitted on 27.4.18

Brief Background: Even in her case also Viviana, who is from Jharkhand, does not remember how she landed up at Guwahati. She was found loitering aimlessly on the streets, famished and disoriented, when some kind hearted boys took pity on her. They with the help of the police brought her to Seneh. Viviana after a few days of nourishment and care turned out to a very amiable and hard working woman, who although alien to the language, jelled very well

with the other inmates. When we found out she is a Christian, whenever possible we take her to the Church. She is happy and a darling of all.

3.Smti Tulumai Bora, admitted on 30.6.18

Brief Background. Fate had played havoc on this extremely modest and amiable woman around seventy. She eloped at the age of eighteen with a man who later turned out to be a murderer at large. He was arrested and was put in jail. She came back to her mother. Her father was a landless farm labourer. The land lord whose land he used to toil gave him a small piece of land adjacent to his house to construct his abode and live there. When her father died the landlord allowed her to stay back. But when the mother died he literally drove her out. Her plight was focussed in a tv channel. A local famous NGO took charge of her. But for reasons unknown, she was forced to leave the NGO's old age home. She came to us and we provided her shelter. Later we found her to be an asset to our organization.

INDUCTION AND EXCLUSION OF TRUSTEES

a. Dr. Rashmi Barua resigned from the Trustees ranks because of her inability to be present at Guwahati since she was teaching in JNU.

b.Sri Arup Talukdar has expressed his inability to attend to day to day affairs of the Trust. So we decided to delete him from the list of co-opted trustee. He however continues to be an unattached member and volunteer.

c. The following were co- opted as Trustees once they proved their commitment to our cause.

1.Smti Minakshi Mahanta

2.Mr. Noor Ali

3.Smt Runjun Bora.

WELFARE MEASURES UNDER SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

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. 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 sumptuous meals. Some others come just to visit the inmates with short eats and fruits. We thank them all for their gesture.

Shelter: Under shelter, we club clothing, house hold items including white goods, sanitary items, clothing, expenses for water and electricity, municipality charges, conservancy charges, office expenses, furnishers, repairs and celebrations. I am happy to inform the house that here also, the enthusiasm of the public in general has been extremely encouraging. We hardly spend anything for clothing items since scores of donors want donate them. Overall the quality of life of the inmates has improved tremendously. Railings have been put in every bathroom for ease of using them, there is a music and PA system handy for celebrations. Additional fans have been put in the veranda. We have sufficient chairs and tables to use in small gatherings that happen quite often.

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. I have already mentioned about the most gratifying support given by Sun Valley hospital. But for their support, we would have been in the sea. Demands on our finances for provision of medicines and other related expenditure is no longer a headache for us. Assam Foundation of North America, under their “Adopt a grand ma” scheme started providing us financial support from this year onward for their medical needs. “Ashadeep” has been providing free consultancy for the mental health 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 8000/ per month on psychiatric drugs alone. Similarly we spend a considerable amount for medical expenses in North Lakhimpur where no hospital has come forward to help us cause.

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

While there is no fresh induction we increased the remuneration of all employees by almost twenty percent in the year. Honestly we had been paying pittance to them mainly because of not so healthy financial position.

e. Visits and celebrations.

1.The Students and teachers of Down town University, Ghy, All Assam Mahila Karmachari Parisad, Japorigog, Jyotirupa Sangha , all from Guwahati, celebrated the pre- Rangali Bihu in fun fare with complete participation of the inmates during the period from 1.4 18 to 14.4 18. Like earlier years as a part of their CSR activities the employees of Topcem Cement also celebrated Rongali Bihu at our premises on the 10/04/2018. The highlight of the programme was a bihu dance presented by the employees.





2.The most enthralling evening for one and all was the Bihu celebration organized by us on the 13.4 18 in a splendid manner. The following famous artists of Assamese Cultural arena performed musical items enthralling the audience. A huge crowd assembled.

- a. Smti Jina Rajkumari, Termed as the doyen of folk music and dance of the different ethnic groups of Assam and the North East
- b. Sri Prasanta Rajkhowa, A renowned singer of Assam
- c. Sri Polas Shivam , The rising star of Assamese music and some others..



3. Mother's day was celebrated on 13-05-2017 by the Triveni Sangha , an women doctors group. In addition to doing health check up of the inmates and deliverance of health awareness talk, they played games with the inmate and provided food items.





4. Another famous cultural figure of Assam, Smti Manish Hazarika and another lady who was crowned as the best singer of Cotton College, Smt Madhusmita Rabha, Guwahati, performed a heart touching musical event On 20.5 18.



5. The 1990 batch Cotton Alumni association visited Seneh and arranged a programmes of fun and frolics for the inmates and provided refreshment.



6. The international Yoga day was celebrated on 21.6.18 by the Vivekananda Kendra (Kanyakumari), Lachitnagar branch ,GHY There was demonstration of asanas and methods of pranayama to the inmates and the trustee members present.





7 The annual general meeting of the trust was held on 5.7.18. Sri Ram Goswami , a poet , and Mr Nuruddin Ahmed, a renowned theatrical and cinematographic artist respectively were felicitated in the function.





8. Mr SanjoyKrisna , Addl. Secretay Government of Assam, visited on 27.4.18 and interacted with the inmates. He donated a sum of Rs .20,000/-.

9. The independence day was celebrated jointly with the GIC Pensioner,s association, Ulubari and Manab Kalyan Kendra , Guwahatiat the premises of Seneh. The National Flag was hoisted by honourable trustee, Smt Anjana Barua. This was followed by a short cultural event.






10. The Marowari Yuva Manch , Kamakhya branch , celebrated the Shrawan Sanjara utsav on 21.8.18 and donated some food and house keeping materials.




8. Raksha Bandhan and Janmastami were celebrated on 20-08-2018 and 03.09.18 respectively by the staff and inmates of Seneh.



9. Our social outreach programme ANAJORI was launched at B. Barua Cancer Hospital, Guwahati, on 1.10.18 in the presence of doctors, patients and staff of the hospital. It was a heartening experience when the inaugural day's requirement of money was provided by one of our inmates, Smti Tulu Bora out of her savings of hard earned money in the past before coming to stay at Seneh. This is considered a shot in the arm for us. It was the gesture that enthused us.






Dr. Bhabaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute
 A Grant-in-Aid Institute of Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India
 and a Unit of Tata Memorial Centre (Mumbai), Guwahati, Assam, India



Enajori

*A Scheme for Free Morning Tea & Snacks
 for
 Attendants of General Indoor Ward Patients of
Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute
 was launched by NGO
Bhavada Devi Memorial Philanthropic Trust "SENEH"
 from 1st of October, 2018
 with its objectives
 of
"Touching Lives, Giving hope."*

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10. Our inmates participated in the exhibition on 3.11.18 arranged by The North East Regional Institute of Mgt at Beltola, GHY to showcase the handicraft products made by themselves. Their quality products earned appreciation from the visitor in the stall.



11. Dewali was celebrated at Seneh premises 5.11.18 by the following organisations, namely, Lion's club, GHY Care , NERIM, Down Town University and NPS School, all from Guwahati with great funfair.



12. Christmas was celebrated by the inmates and staff of SENEH.



13.The inmates were taken for a picnic on 3.12.18 to Panikhaitil, a beautiful place on the bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra with memorable scenic beauty. Accompanying persons were the trustee members and many other people with philanthropic mind. It was a day full of joy and cheers.



14.Magh bihu was celebrated on 15.1.19



15. Republic day was celebrated on 26th January , 2019 jointly with GIC Pensioners Association, Guwahati. The National flag was unfurled by the senior most inmate, Smti Devi Bhuzang



16. Women's Day was celebrated on 08/03/2019 at our premises jointly by Barnali Sangha, Akash Hyundai, Sankhdhwani Samajik Sanskriti Mancha and lady employees of Airport Authority of India, all from Guwahati with varieties of cultural programmes mainly performed by our inmates.



16. The Cinmoy Mission organised a GITA recitation and bhajan programme on 30.3 19 showering great solace in the minds of the inmates.



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 adopted a girl student from the local Government school who despite of being the daughter of a housemaid made a mark as a brilliant student. In addition, like last year, in collaboration with Assam Foundation of North America, we have distributed one time scholarship to the meritorious students of Pathsala Government School. The total value of scholarship distributed was Rs 40,000/-.



ii. We have conducted a day long medical camp for the benefit of the students, parents and the teaching staff at the above school on the 05/05/2018. All the three volunteer doctors including the lady doctor are all our associates. Free medicines were distributed to the needy as prescribed by the doctors. The lady Doctor was entrusted with the task of finding and advising to the young girls about menstrual hygiene and if they have access to sanitary pads.



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 and available at www.seneh.in.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not make a mention of the contribution made by Sri Amar Gupta of Hyderabad who had contributed a sum of Rs. 1,02,000. to the Trust. Other than our Chairman and his son who had been contributing regularly an amount of Rs 8,00,000/ annually, Dr. Guptas contribution is the largest single individual contribution to our cause. I salute him for his large heartedness.

h. Expansion of Facilities and work undertaken:

The following construction works as were undertaken have since been completed. The Finance member will present the financials for this.

- i) Extension of the building to increase capacity from present 19 to 25.
- ii) Remodelling the outside of the kitchen room to make a hygienic utensil wash facility. Our trustee Mrs Dipali Barua deserves mention for her efforts in this regard
- iii) Completion of works to make a comfortable office for the managing trustee at the first floor with power back up.

i. Challenges

- i. The biggest challenge of 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. The single most challenge however remains the mental health of the inmates since 40% of the inmates are on psychiatric drugs for different mental condition. More than the money involved it is the unavailability of a credible psychiatrist who can devote some time with the patient. We are on the look out to find one. Unfortunately in this part of the country the concept of psychiatric counselling is almost non existent
- ii.) The next challenge is; in case of death, how do we organize a decent funeral. I must confess my last appeal in the Annual report

for your participation has bore some fruits as was seen in the funeral of Late Tarini Basumatary. Specially our appeal to the local residents for help gave dividend. This, however in no way will supplement your cooperation. I appeal to all of you to spare some of your valuable times as and when need arises. The departed deserves all of our respect.

iii) The third challenge is to find out young blood to carry the mantle forward is also showing sunshine. I am very happy to inform more and more young blood is coming forward to associate and help. We the older generation are hopeful gradually they will take over some of our responsibilities.

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 handsome money every year to purchase water from water vendors. As per News Paper report the Guwahati water supply scheme will be operational in this area by the end of the year. I pray to God it is true.

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 and fund.)
- 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. Our efforts in this regards so far has not proved productive.
- Approach foreign sources for Financial help.
- Procure and distribute sanitary pads in schools located in rural areas.
- Expand the facility in North Lakhimpur. I request Padmashree Bharali to make a blue print for expansion of the facility there.
- Extend Enajori's activities by providing at least a full meal a day

Conclusion

I want to conclude by repeating the same words I used last year.

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 viz. Adequate resources in terms of space, financial and Human resources. For this to succeed we will require adequate planning and hard work. I am hopeful the new generation will take it as a challenge and together we will scale new heights.

Attachments

- 1. Audited Financials for 2018-19**
- 2. Budget for 2019-20**
- 3. Status of Corpus Fund**

(Dr. N C Rabha)

Managing Trustee, Bhabada Devi Memorial Philanthropic Trust,
“SENEH”