

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AWARENESS, WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT, CLOTH DIST, HANDICAPP (WHEEL
CHAIR), CULTURAL,

Activity Report of Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi

Registered under the Societies Act of 1961

Registration Number: S/1L/59707

Bongaon, North 24 Parganas

Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi began its journey from the year of 2009. Since then, the organization has been involved in various philanthropic initiatives and social welfare programmes. Over the years the organization has also expanded its scope of work as well as its areas of engagement. Below is provided a detailed year-wise listing of the activities and the programmes in which the organization was involved since its inception.

Year: 2009-2010

Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi got registered under the Societies Act XXVI of 1961 on April 2, 2009. The registration number of the organization is S/1L/59707. The first step of the organization into the arena of social development was through a tree planting programme organized at Bongaon J R Dhar Sub-divisional Hospital, Bongaon Dinabandhu College and Bongaon cemetery. After the disastrous impact of tornado in that year, the Goshthi had also come forward spontaneously and helped the affected people of Malipota Gram Panchayat of Bagda Block with its limited resources and capacity by providing rice, water and other dry foods, etc. Gradually the organization started to leave a mark among the people of the Bongaon district with their initiatives in various social welfare programmes and other concerns.

The first birth anniversary of the organization was decided celebrate by organizing a blood donation camp and secondly by distributing text books to the poor and yet meritorious students of the area. A cultural programme was also arranged to mark the ceremony. It was attended by some eminent personalities: the then MLA of Bongaon – Sri Gopal Seth, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Bongaon – Sri Binoy Singha and the famous playwright Late Kanai Laal Nath. The warmth and the encouragement of the people received at this programme played a huge in strengthening the determination of the members of this organization to continue their struggle for establishing the rights of the people residing in the border areas to good health,

education and other basic necessities. With such optimism Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi stepped into the second year of its functioning in this area.

Year: 2010-2011

In the first year the organization had been involved in certain charitable activities and disaster relief works. However, the dream of the organization to provide the people access to good health and hygiene slowly took shape when the organization involved itself in constructing household toilets. In the month of November, 2010 the organization got the recognition of a Sanitary Mart from the Water and Sanitation Department of North 24 Pargana Zilla Parishad. The Block Development Officer of Bongaon helped them in this entire process. Eventually from the month of December, work under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) got started in full force. In the mean time, besides household toilets they also started constructing toilets in government schools, Anganwadi centres. As the work got expanded, necessity of more human resources was felt. Three persons were appointed with monthly remuneration for this purpose. Also for the purpose of building toilets in Schools and Anganwadi, centres a team of 15 masons were engaged. In this year the organization had built toilets in two schools and ten Anganwadi Centres.

Moreover, in this year with assistance from the District Magistrate of Bongaon, a team for Disaster Control and Management was also formed by the organization. The team worked with the poor and needy families of the area and gave all kinds of financial and other necessary assistance to those people. Also they continued to provide dry foods, fruits, medicines, and other necessary relief materials to the patients admitted at Bongaon J R Dhar Hospital.

Like the previous years, this year-end was also marked by arrangement of a blood donation camp and distributing text books to the students. A sports competition was also arranged in this regard. Apart from the District Magistrate of Bongaon, other eminent personalities were also present in this programme and gave much encouragement which has always been the primary motivation for Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi to continue their struggle for establishing equity through sheer determination and grit.

Year: 2011-2012

The good work of the organization came into notice of the district authorities and it expanded its work of building toilets to all corners of the block. Additionally, it also helped in creating and spreading awareness among people through various Information Education and Communication (IEC) programmes of State Government about different social schemes, educational opportunities, entitlements, etc for the rural people. Through its tremendous hard work the organization gradually built a repute of its own among the local people of the area. Soon it got permission to spread its work in other blocks of the district too, namely; Gaighata, Deganga and Barasat II. In this year the organization built toilets in 78 schools and 1160 households apart from doing the same in the Madhyamik Sikhsha Kendra (MSKs), Sishu Sikhsha Kendra (SSKs) and Anganwadi Centres. This work required the involvement of 160. With expansion of activity locations, need for more human resource was increasingly felt and there in this year, the organization appointed four persons on monthly remuneration basis for office administration.

This year too, the third year-ending celebration was done in the month of August by arranging a blood donation camp and distributing text book to the students. Also financial assistance was given to few poor people to meet their health crises, in this year. A sports competition was also arranged in this regard. The famous athlete Pinky Pramanik was present in this programme. Apart from the District Magistrate of Bongaon, other eminent personalities were also present to encourage the good work of the organization and to prove their solidarity with the members of the organization.

Year: 2012-2013

With passage of time, Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi slowly spread its wings in different arena of social development. The organization had already been successful in proving its commitment to the society. Its quality and timely completion of work and the emphasis it placed on developing toilets in rural households had also been successful in winning the trust of the district authorities. The members of the organization had been able to make the government understand their approach towards development of a society where the marginalized people will not be left deprived and denied of basic opportunities in life. Thereby, the organization was awarded the affiliation to work with four Gram Panchayats for the purpose of spreading the

message on the importance of access to Universal Health Coverage. Underneath this project, the organization conducted large-scale demonstration and awareness generation programmes among the rural folks. The organization also developed a team of its own who performed magic shows and folk songs (Baul gaan) in different locality through which they demonstrated the evil effects of open defecation, benefits of using toilets and usage of water in the daily lives to wash hands and on various other issues pertaining to maternal, child and adolescent girls' health. The team actually went from door to door of the households and tried to make people conscious about practicing proper hygiene and sanitation practices. Also the team went to every school of the area to make the students aware about the benefits of hand washing with soap before and after having their meals. In this year toilets were constructed almost in 63 schools and 7500 households.

In this year the organization got linked with the Department of Consumer Forum, Barasat. The motto was to make people aware about their rights and prevent them from being cheated from fraud encounters. Also the organization arranged a knowledge camp to reduce the usage of polythene bags and made people understand about the concept of Global Warming and its ill-effect.

In this year also the annual programme was celebrated by blood donation camps, distributing text books to the students and assisting financially some poor people for their medical purposes. Every year almost 50-60 people attended the blood donation camp which gave an inspiration to organize the same every year. This year's programme also included distribution of clothes to hundred poor and helpless people.

Year: 2013-2014

Within few years of its inception Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi had been able to draw the attention of the Government officials through the sheer nature of its work for social welfare purposes. Its extraordinary performance as a sanitary mart helped them to expand their work outside the district of north 24 parganas for the first time. In this year it got permission to work in the sanitation project in areas of the district of South 24 Parganas in the blocks of Thakurpukur-Maheshtala area. Together with UNICEF and Government of West Bengal the organization also celebrated the National Safe Drinking water and Health Coverage week across the entire district of North 24 Pargana through extensive campaigning and meetings. In this regard it worked in 60

Gram Panchayats of 22 Blocks of the district where they demonstrated the positive effects of having access to safe drinking water round the year together with the detrimental impacts it has on the health of the individual and the community at large, once the same source of water gets contaminated. Thus it helped in spreading the message of health and hygiene, one of the primary objectives of the organization, to the people across the district.

In this year the organization built toilets in 99 schools (Higher secondary, MSK, SSK, etc) and 4500 households.

In this year also the annual programme had been marked by blood donation camps, distributing text books to the students and assisting financially some poor people for their medical purposes. A cultural programme was also arranged in this regard.

And the Journey Continues...

The present year is not yet complete and Bongaon Dishari Swarojgar Goshthi has been working in full force spreading the message of good health and hygiene to the people across the districts. It has been extensively involved as a sanitary mart and has been dedicated in building toilets in households, schools, anganwadi centres in a number of villages. It has also involved itself in spreading awareness on the importance of access to safe and clean drinking water. It also helped the school children understand the importance of hand-washing with soap before and after taking meals and distributed free soaps in schools. The organization has also remained associated with various other philanthropic ventures and provided support to the community through its limited resource and strength. Bongaon Dishari Swarojagar Goshthi has a lot of dreams and its journey will continue till the time it is able to fulfill the promises it made to the people. The organization expects the good wishes, support and cooperation of every noble-hearted person in this regard.