



BAL SURAKSHA ABHIYAN TRUST (BSA)

AN INITIATIVE OF SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY, NORTH EAST INDIA & NEPAL

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4 & 5

APRIL & MAY, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- World Day Against Child Labour
- World Environment Day
- Mass Sensitisation Programme at Mongpong

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Feedback box:

We would highly appreciate your valuable feedbacks & creative suggestions for our newsletter & campaign.

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1098

BSA'S CHILDREN'S REMOTE MICRO LIBRARY PROGRAMME

On the occasion of International Children's Book Day, April 2, 2019, BSA's Children's Remote Micro Library was inaugurated. The representatives from 17 different Children's Club were in attendance. The value of books was discussed and children were encouraged to develop a love for books and the habit of reading which helps them to improve their vocabulary, to use words correctly and appropriately, to be able to express their feelings through language. There is limited or no access to books and reading materials for the children living in the rural villages in the district of Kalimpong.

Children's Remote Micro Library provides and promotes quality reading materials to develop and inculcate in children the habit of reading to enrich their intellectual, aesthetic, cultural and emotional growth. The library is managed and maintained by Children's Club at their respective villages and BSA Team drives to different villages to shuffle the selection of books in the library.



Book distribution at different Children Clubs (CCs)



New Future Star CC,
Lower Dalapchand
Date: 2/05/2019



Bich Kagey CC,
Kagey GP
Date: 20/04/2019



Maria CC,
Kagey GP
Date: 20/04/2019



Gyendong CC,
Kagey GP
Date: 20/04/2019

UNCRC 30 YEARS - COORDINATION MEETING

Ms. Anjali Rai from BSA Child Care Institution and Ms. Manju Rai, Child Protection Worker participated in the UNCRC 30 years - Coordination Meeting on Child Reporting on 11th & 12th April 2019 in Kolkata organised by TDH-Suisse. The youth of Northern Region Youth Network were present in the meeting



RECONSTITUTION OF MARIA CHILDREN'S CLUB, KAGEY GP

On 20th April 2019, Maria children's club was reconstituted. The outgoing members of the Club completed their tenure and the new members were welcomed in the Executive body. Details of the newly elected members:

- President: Sridat Rai
- Vice President: Suraksha Rai
- Secretary: Deepa Rai
- Vice Secretary: Prerna Rai
- Treasurer: Prava Rai

SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME AT PAGANG GUMPA HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

On 30th April, 2019 school sensitisation programme on Child Rights, Child Protection and against Human Trafficking was organised at Pagang Gumpa Higher Secondary School where 80 students along with teachers took part. The programme ended with open interactive sessions and also information on children's helpline No. 1098.



SCHOOL SESSIONS ON CHILD RIGHTS

During the month of April, as per the planning, the Child Protection Workers (CPWs) conducted ten school sessions (Kalimpong:06/ Siliguri:03 /Bundapani GP: 01) on POCSO covering 285 Students in Kalimpong, Siliguri and Bundapani GP respectively. The main objectives of these sessions were to learn to recognise and identify abuse as well as to prevent oneself from any type of abuses in the school, in the family and society at large and thus creating child friendly environment.



SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME AT SCHOOL LEVEL

School Sessions conducted on Child Rights, Child Protection and against Human Trafficking in 7 Schools under Kumai Gram Panchayat and one school at Munsong during the month of May, 2019.

SR. NO.	SCHOOL	AREA	DATE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1.	Love Buds English School	Munsong, Sangsay Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	13/05/2019	26
2.	Kumai Forest Village Primary School	Maurey, Kumai Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	17/05/2019	58
3.	Kumai High School	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	17/05/2019	188
4.	Lower Kumai No. 2 Line Pry School	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	17/05/2019	32
5.	Kopish Madhyamik Siksha Kendra	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	16/05/2019	274
6.	Kumai Tea Garden Primary School	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	7/05/2019	25
7.	Kumai Factory Line Primary School	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	7/05/2019	157
8.	Kopish Forest Primary School	Kumai, Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong	7/05/2019	40
TOTAL				800



Kopish MSK



Kumai Factory Line Primary School



Kopish Forest Primary School



Kumai Tea Garden Primary School



Kumai Forest Village Primary School

SESSIONS ON CHILD RIGHTS

Three sessions on child rights were conducted in schools of Kalimpong. The main topic of the sessions was on child rights and POCSO. The basic steps to prevention of oneself (good touch & bad touch) is being taught to the children. Total 187 children were the beneficiary of these sessions (Girls:111/Boys:77).



CHILDREN'S CLUB MEETINGS IN THE TARGETED GRAM PANCHAYAT

SR. NO.	GRAM PANCHAYAT	NO. OF MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN APRIL	NO. OF MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN MAY
1.	Bundapani	1	4
2.	Kalimpong	3	3
3.	Siliguri	2	4



EARTH DAY OBSERVATION



CPWs along with the community-based committees (VCs), observed the Earth Day on 22nd April 2019 in Kalimpong, Siliguri and Bundapani GP. Awareness sessions with the students and children's club members on the protection of earth was conducted by child protection workers. The objective of these programs was:

- To Educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.
- Encourage individual actions such as adopting plant-based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.

The Child Protection Workers of each gram panchayats took the initiative to make the programs more effective and useful for the children and the people in the community. In Kalimpong, the awareness session was conducted in Chandramaya High School followed by cleaning up of the compound. In order to save the earth, Miss Ruth Mukhia, one of the Children's Club members

herself prepared banner with charts. In Birpara, an awareness session with the students followed by street play on protection of earth by the Children's club members of Bundapani Gram Panchayats was conducted. In Siliguri Municipality, the Child Protection Workers along with the Children Club members conducted plantation of trees, awareness session on saving environment by Child Protection Workers and conducted rally by the children club members. Total 285 children were the participants during this program in these three working areas.

FOURTH TIME SHARING OF CATS PROGRAM

The Child Protection Worker along with two participants of CATS program carried out the tasks of sharing points discussed in the conference of Pune. The team shared that each child is responsible for creating and promoting a dream village/ dream society, a best place wherein all children's well-being, safety and rights are protected. The team also talked on the topic of "Counter Culture". The cultures which are not in our favour have to be countered. The evil practices that exists in our society in the name of caste, religion etc. impede for the holistic

development of the children in our society. During the sharing, the children participants shared good & bad practices existing in their society and how they are affected. The sharing was conducted with the children in Sindebong, Pudung, Bong Busty & BSA's Children's Home. Total 100 children were part of this sharing.



CHILDREN'S CLUB TRAINING PROGRAMME 25TH- 26TH MAY 2019

On 25th - 26th May 2019 Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (BSA) organized a Training Programme for the Children Club members at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalimpong. Mr. Navin Pradhan, Senior Coordinator Development Facilitation of AP Himalaya, World Vision India remained the resource person for the Training On Leadership For Life and Mr. Vikash Pradhan, Project Manager BSA for the Sustainable Development Goals. Matters of the programme:

1. LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE

✓ Lead Yourself: Amazing potential, Poverty Thinking, 7 Mindsets of a leader and 5 stages of writing the story.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

✓ 17 SGDs are a part of Transforming our world - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Around 68 representatives of Children Clubs from Teesta, Jholung, Kagey, Dalapchand, Bidyang, Chandralok, Lower Echhay, Mirik, Pudung and Sindebong were in attendance.



EXPOSURE VISIT TO BSA BY THE TEAM WORKING FOR COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ASSAM & ARUNACHAL PRADESH

North East Caritas India Team along with its five partners made their exposure visit to Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (BSA), From 9th to 11th May 2019. The team consisted of nineteen members. They visited all the targeted gram panchayats and met children's club and ICDS centres under working areas of Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (BSA). On the first day the group was given orientation on Child Rights about the organisation and the works being carried out in the districts of Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Alipurduar. On the following day, the team members were divided into two groups and were taken to Pudung, Sindebong and Teesta Bazar.



The members met vigilance committees and children's clubs in the respective areas. The members were enriched by the sharing of the committees and children clubs in protecting child rights in the community level. Meeting with the local Gram Panchayats Members and School Heads in the community, the team learned the spirit of collaboration and networking in establishing a child friendly community. Thanks to all the Partners.

Nedan Foundation, Seva Kendra Silchar, Purranchal Pragati Samaj, Anti Human Trafficking Unit of East Zonal.

ORIENTATION ON CHILD RIGHTS

On 22nd May 2019, the Child Protection Workers of Bundapani Gram Panchayat conducted an orientation program on Child Rights and Protection to the gram panchayat members and the community people of Mujnai Tea Garden under Madharihat GP & Block. The main purpose of the program was to orient on Child Rights and Protection. There were twenty members present in the program. The outcome of the program was Rapport building with the community people and one missing case related to a minor girl child was also discussed by the community people during the discussion and intervened immediately by the Child Protection Worker of Bundapani GP. The gained the knowledge about the organization and Child Rights program in Bundapani GP. The community people resolved to contact the Child Protection Workers for further orientation on Child Rights in the community.



PLANNING & REVIEW MEETING

From 28th to 29th May 2019, eight partners of Caritas India under West Bengal had the planning and review meeting of the new project. The title of the project was “United for Child Protection - Protecting and Reclaiming Childhood in West Bengal”. During these two days, the partners were made aware on the changes that had been brought by the donor in the project. The outcome and the outputs of the project was also explained in detail. The state finance officer in the second half of the meeting explained about the budget and the bills along with the report of each activity. The thematic officer from HoD, Ms. Lee shared about the Child Protection Policy of Caritas India and informed all the partners to share about the policy with the staff working under Caritas project. The action plan/DIP for next three months were explained to all the partners. Each partner decided to send it back to the zonal officer after reworking on it. West Bengal partners under Caritas India would be working under the umbrella of Caritas India on Child Rights. The old partners of Child Rights decided to accompany the new partners on implementing the project in the new areas.

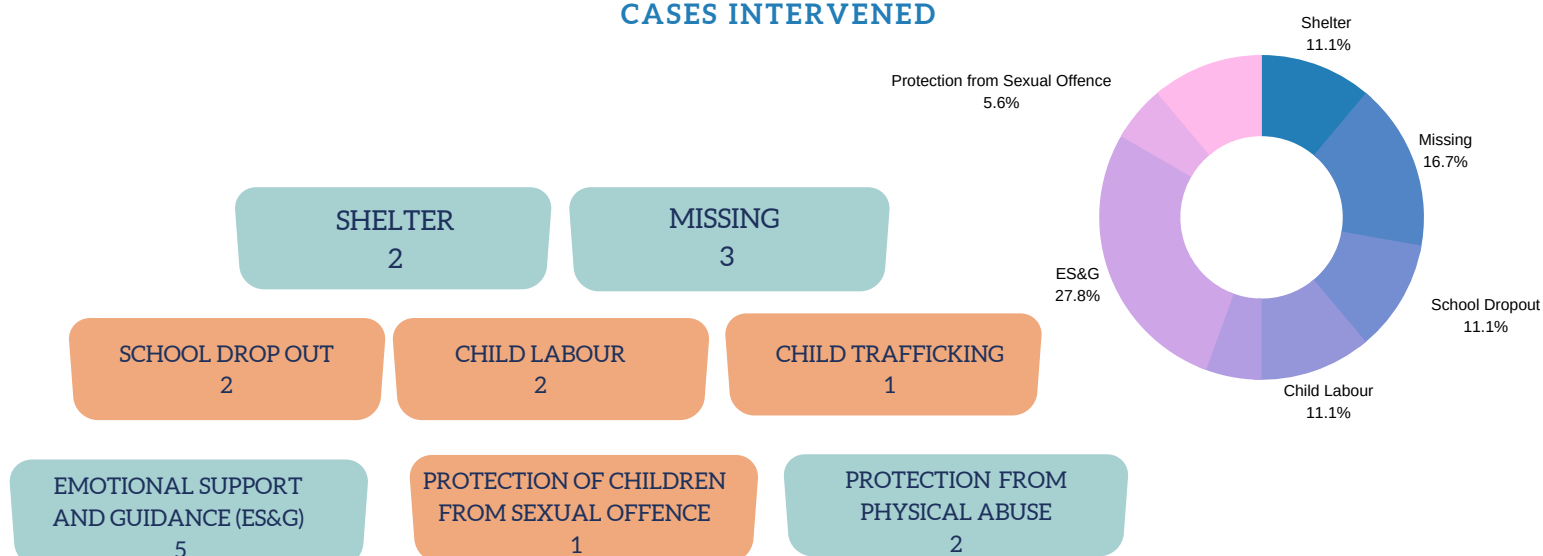


MEETING WITH SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Child Protection Worker along with the school head & teachers of one of the government high school at Sindebong GP had the meeting regarding the enrolment of drop out children and Cases related to POCSO. Through this meeting, two drop out children were enrolled back to school



CASES INTERVENED





CHILDLINE DESK

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN THE APRIL, 2019

The CHILDLINE Team conducted outreach programmes at 4 different schools, 2 ICDS Centres and 10 doors to door households and covered 1232 people at 285 hours.



Angel Academy



Samphu High School, Loley



14th Mile, Kalimpong



Sherpa Gaon, 15th Mile, Kalimpong



Tari Gaon, Kalimpong



Dungra Busty, Kalimpong

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN MAY, 2019

In the month of May, 2019 the CHILDLINE Team conducted 14 Outreach Programmes In Kalimpong District and was able to reach out to 925 personnell.



OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMME

1. Date: 28/04/2019

Venue: 4th Mile, Tanek Busty, Kalimpong

No. of Participants: 28 children and 20 Stakeholders

Issues raised by the children:

Drinking water

Community Hall

Collective decision: After Open House Programme, Team conducted short meeting with samaj members and decided to give letter to the District Magistrate, Kalimpong District regarding the above mentioned issues affecting them.



2. Date: 16/05/2019

Venue: Indo Tibetan High Secondary School, Kalimpong

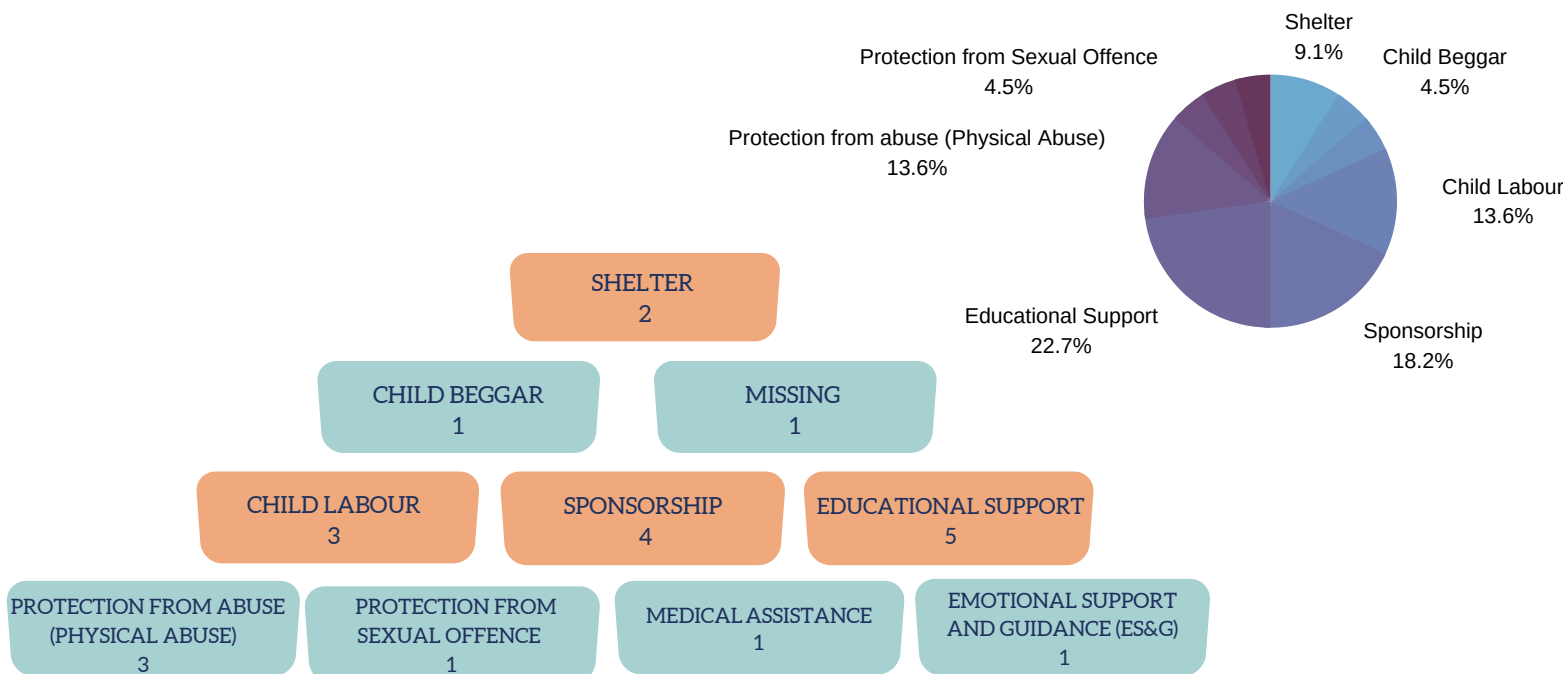
No. of Participants: 90 Children and 5 Stakeholders

Issues raised by the children:

- No access of drinking water
- Lack of proper playground in School



CASES INTERVENED by the CHIDLINe Team (April & May, 2019)



NEWS FROM BSA CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS (BOYS & GIRLS)

Three BSA Girls: Puja Roy, Puja Gajmer & Shristy Thapa have been selected in the Football Team of St. Philomena's H.S. School



Reena Lama & Pramil Bhujel are due to receive the award of Brown Belt & Black Belt respectively in Karate.



VISIT FROM AMTM FRANCE, 2019

THE BOARD EXAMS ARE FINALLY OVER, P H E W!!!

To make our world less boring and rid any remnants of examination stress, personnel from the Focolare movement, the Jesuit brothers and BSA staff organised an event at BSA Boys Campus on 19th May, 2019. We called it "CONVERGENCE" to spread the idea of "universal brotherhood" and followed the 'Golden Rule' in sportsmanship - "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you."

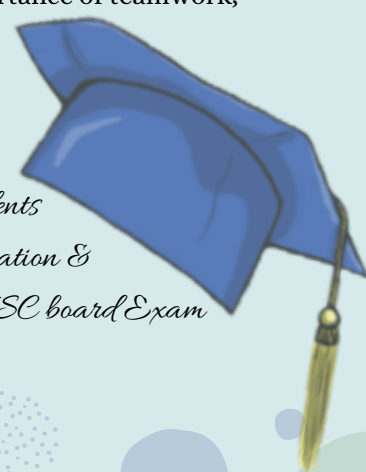
Participants were divided into 6 groups and were given colored shirts to distinguish the teams. Cool rules of the games:

- Let us make the game a means to love everyone.
- Let us play well to make others happy
- Be as happy with the points of the other team as with the points of your own
- Let us never turn the game into a little war
- When we are playing, let us transform every obstacle into a springboard, just as we can do in real life.
- Whoever sees us playing should see the Golden Rule in every action.

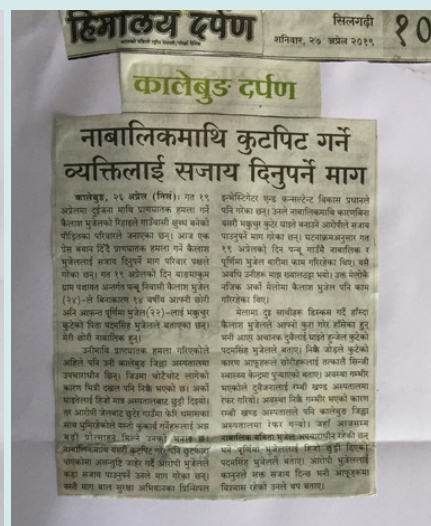
At the end, they had fun and everyone enjoyed the whole time building new bridges of relationship among themselves. They learned about the importance of teamwork, consideration, tolerance and understanding.



This year, 2019, 16 BSA children have fared very well in the board examination. 6 students appeared in the Madhyamik Pariksha (X) of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education & 10 students in the West Bengal Board of Higher Secondary Examination (XII) and ISC board Exam and secured good marks.



MEDIA COVERAGE



*In Darjeeling, children work in tourism as dishwashers or cleaning staff. They are often exposed to sexual violence, food is inadequate, there is no health care. On tea plantations, toxic pesticides and carrying heavy baskets are harmful to health. Without a completed school education there is no chance for a better life. The team of Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (BSA) prevents exploitative child labour, provides care and training, and takes measures against family poverty. Please support the children and their families in securing a better life away from violence and exploitation!
Thank you very much.*

FREE ME

*It's been sometime since I last met my friend Maya!
Or my friendly neighbourhood brother
How quickly have these days gone by?
The question arise in mind.
When will that day come again?
When I will be standing in my front yard?*

*It was on this very day, this very heartless day,
that my mother biding her face towards the hearth,
sobbed relentlessly with a heavy heart,
silenced by the admonishment of my father.
Gave me away
to toil in some stranger's house,
leaving the warmth of my own.*

*I clearly remember one day
when my father after getting his wages
bought sweets for my younger brother
but said that I would get my share
only if I fetched another load of fodder
Clearly an undisguised discrimination
And therefore here I am today
treading upon unfamiliar roads
with unpleasant feelings of strange places.
I am here in this place, a slave!*

*Been counting days and weeks
and realise it's been almost a year
I keep staring out longing to see my mother come
to nurse my cracked and bleeding feet, rough
hands
and matted hair.*

*Behold my state!
Come and free me from this cage.
I want to be free.
I want to fly, free from the shackles.
Of a society which only values hollow
heights.*

Ankita Pradhan
Class XII
Little Blooming Flower Children's Club
Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (BSA)

"SAY 'NO' TO CHILD LABOUR"