

## INTRODUCTION

**Informative Society For Development Initiatives - ISDI** is a Non Government Organization working for professional developments amongst the artisans & other classes of people of the society in the region.

**ISDI** was formed under the Societies Registration Act 1860 to strive & come up with some development perspectives from needs to rights. Started off with working from providing educational support to the orphanages in the region to coming up with projects for the weavers community for social enhancement, making the different governmental schemes & projects accessible to the economically backward class of the society , to engagement of unemployed people in various projects. **ISDI** is striving to provide capacity, opportunity, security and dignity to the rural poor communities by adopting its development rules in all its initiatives. **ISDI** gave priority to building communities prior to building projects.

**ISDI** aims to become a platform to uplift the traditional handicrafts in the region. **ISDI** believes in uplifting the under privileged people, women empowerment to have better control of their lives & resources to enable them to establish themselves both on personal & professional fronts bringing about positive & visible changes in the society.

The aforesaid activities encourages **ISDI** to carry on with more & more such workshops & projects to bring quality changes in the society at large.

**ISDI** initially started off with Bihu exhibition in the Guwahati city .



## **PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFT SECTOR, 2011**

### **Introduction**

Handicrafts are manual skills for making usable products graced with intentional visual appeal. These are not simply some articles of utility or decor created by deft hands with the help of tools or without. Handicraft is one of the most important cottage industry as well as small scale industry in the state of Assam. Handicraft were originally based in home production for home needs but further the surplus items were traded and more elaborate production and distribution process influenced the goods made. In Assam 80% of the population live in villages and depends mainly on agriculture. In agriculture people cannot get employment throughout the year. Percentage of landless laborer and marginal formers are very high in the state. Hence in the rural sector, development of handicrafts can be a major step in solving the problems of unemployment and under employment. The important handicraft of Assam and the problems which are facing by the Industry have been assessed by **ISDI** and will attempt to sort out some productive solution for the better productivity in collaboration with the Ministry of Textile, Government of India.

A craftsman put his mind and heart into it and finds an emotion of joy in his creation. The skill handed down from generation to generation of the artisans find expression in the shape, design and motif of the handicrafts. Embellishing the useful is one of the oldest human activities throughout thousand of year until the Industrial Revolution. Handicrafts along with more strictly utilitarian manual skills supply the whole human productivity. Handicrafts were originally based in home production for home needs. Further the surplus items were traded and more elaborate production and distribution process influenced the goods made. Over the centuries formidable traditions were built up in the crafts. These items are used for day to day life for various purposes of the people throughout the state. Handicrafts supply model for many industries. Handicrafts are also used for self expression and occupational therapy. The handicrafts products have provided us with the glow of local and national pride and at the same time have ensure employment opportunities to innumerable persons. Also handicrafts play a very important role in moulding the rural economy of Assam. If handicrafts can be developed, self employment potential can be rise to a higher level.

Keeping in view **ISDI** conducted base line survey at Bahona village, Jorhat District, Assam in the year 2011, to get the actual position of the people. The survey was headed by one of the co-ordinator of Jorhat Mr. Agni Borah among 65 households. It was found that a majority of the artisans are economically backward and they have been sustaining their lives with whatever is locally available. The primary

occupation of the families in the region is agriculture. Only a small number of families let out their land on lease as contract cropping. While the rest cultivate to see themselves through the year. Men in the families also supplement the incomes of the women by working in others fields or as daily wage labourers. Villages are yet to see electricity and during the monsoons they have a harrowing time traveling on the slippery roads. However in contrast there are a few areas at Bahona where infrastructural activities have been undertaken on a selected basis for the development of the region and its people. The concept of SELF - HELP has arrived in the village but however is at a very nascent stage. Self help groups have been identified by the local authorities like block development office and gaon panchayat. Transportation bottlenecks in the region - most of the families belong to BPL category. Many of the families do not possess agriculture land. They earn their daily bread by working in others fields. Weaving is a common activity however limited to home use. They have never made textiles for the market. As almost every household are doing the cane & bamboo handicraft as their main income source, the organization initiated to form SHGs, so that the area can be focused as a well professional quality area in craft sector. To sustain the livelihood of artisan's family the organization started working with the approach of cluster development. **ISDI** initiated to provide exhibition, mela for artisans and also gradually they have been linked with Development Commissioner (handicraft) and provided the Artisans Identity Card respectively.



## AWARNNESS & MOBILISATION CAMP AT BAHONA VILLAGE, DIST- JORHAT, ASSAM

**ISDI** motivated and guided the educated youth & women who already involved in handicraft sector to become more competitive with better confidence and **ISDI** conducted an Awarnness & Mobilisation Camp at Village Bahona , Dist Jorhat on 20<sup>th</sup> January”11 among the artisans of the village. The chief guest of the camp was Sri Baleswar Mili, Sr. Asst. Director (NER), O/o the D.C. (Handicrafts), NER, Guwahati. He apprised the artisans about the large number of handicraft artisans in the area who do not have Artisan Identity cards. The craft that they practice has been passed from generation to generation. Every girl in every family learns how to weave cloth from a very early age. Hence, the organization has initiated a process wherein these artisans are identified and in recognition for their work they are issued Artisan Identity cards so that they can also avail insurance facilities under the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana in the future.

The Chairperson of the organization (ISDI), Ms. Sanskriti Saikia apprised the artisans about the significance of the Awarnness & Mobilisation Camp to produce new innovative products as per the market demand. The chairperson also assured the artisans to facilitate their participation in Exhibitions so that they can sell their products both in and outside the state at regular intervals.





## A TRAINING ON LIVE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMME ON HAND BLOCK PRINTING & CRAFT AWARENESS CAMP ON CANE AND BAMBOO , 2012:

ISDI organized a training on **Live Demonstration On Hand Block Printing & Craft Awareness Camp On Cane and Bamboo** for 10 days at Bahona, Jorhat from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 sponsored by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi-110066. MasterCraftmen Sri Rajen Kalita and Shri K.K. Baishya was invited from Guwahati to conduct the training was invited from DC(H), Guwahati to conduct the training and 20 artisans were benefitted from the training programme.



**MASTERCRAFTMAN IMPARTING TRAINING ON BLOCK PRINTING TO THE ARTISANS DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD**



**MASTERCRAFTMAN IMPARTING TRAINING ON CANE & BAMBOO TO THE ARTISANS DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD**

## CANE & BAMBOO

Bamboo and cane contribute a lot to the economy and lifestyle of the north-eastern states. This is mainly because of the fact that the hills and forests of the region have vast expanses of bamboos and canes and the natives, being excellent craftsmen that they are, have learnt to use them for a wide range of purpose in their everyday life. The bamboo and cane crafts of Assam are popular in other parts of the country as well. As such, there is tremendous potential for this industry to flourish and occupy an important place in national and international markets.

On 15th May, 2012 a **Craft Awareness Camp & Live Demonstration On Cane & Bamboo Craft at Patgaon Village, Rani, Assam** was inaugurated from 19<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 . The training was sponsored by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi-110066. 20 artisans participated in the training programme and mastercraftman Shri K.K. Baishya was invited from Guwahati to conduct the training .



## SUPPORTING ORPHAN CHILDRENS AND INCULCATING A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY , 2012

Having no parents, these children are often left alone to fend for themselves and often end up as beggars and child labourers. The Education of Orphan Children program has two objectives: supporting education of orphan children; nurturing the spirit of Solidarity and social responsibility among the rural women and the society at large. Generally, the rural and poor women, seeing the sad reality of orphan children in their villages, respond with motherly love to such children.

ISDI initiated the process of understanding and analyzing The situation of orphans, at group meetings and leaders Training gatherings. After many discussions and deliberations on the subject, women decided to help the orphan children in their respective villages and send them to schools. All the SHG members willingly came forward to support this initiative And accepted it as their own social responsibility. Now, the women together with the coordinators in each program Area plan and



All women of the Group attend and show motherly sentiments and concern for the children. Each member generously donates 1 to 3 day's wages to help the children and support their education.

The Organisation has been performing its faithful service for orphans since its establishment. During this year, the organization provided educational help to the orphans by conducting Programmes on Basic knowledge of Computer and motivate the children on health by conducting Yoga Programmes. Competitions were organized in schools, on health, environment and personality development, as well as in singing and drawing, and prizes were awarded.

On 20th August, 2012, ISDI organized 3 Days Training On Yoga And Basic Knowledge Of Computer At Indian Red Cross Children Home, Lankesw Jalukbari & Snehalaya Orphant Home, Beltola from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2012. The Yoga Training was under the supervision of Yoga Expert Aphaba Singh and the Basic knowledge of Computer organised in association with the Vintage Academy, Ganeshguri, Guwahati.



The Chairperson of ISDI, Ms. Sanskriti Saikia, two executive members Mrs. Zina Changkakoty and Ms. Jamuna Pegu were also present in the Yoga training programme. According to the Chairperson the main objective of the training programme was to promote child care (issues like street children etc.), to promote orphans and protection of child right. More than 25 students participated in all the Yoga training programme at Indian Red Cross Children Home, Lankeswar, Jalukbari & Snehhalaya Orphant Home, Beltola. According to Yoga expert, Aphaba Singh children derive enormous benefits from yoga. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. In addition, their concentration and sense of calmness and relaxation improves. Doing yoga, children exercise, play, connect more deeply with the inner self, and develop an intimate relationship with the natural world that surrounds them. Yoga brings that marvelous inner light that all children have to the surface.

The Computer training programme was inaugurated by the Chairperson Ms. Sanskriti Saikia along with Mr. Dhrubajyoti Borah Computer Faculty from Vintage Academy, Ganesguri, Guwahati & executive member Mrs. Zina Changkakoty. The

Chairperson appraised the participants about the significance of computers in our day to day life and also the fact that they have become so important that nothing can replace them. During the 3 days training programme the students were given the knowledge of basics of computer, parts of computer, its uses etc



### **Child Labour**

Another most important objective of the organization is to perform activities for development and welfare of children. It has been performing its faithful service for welfare child since its establishment. It has already performed a lot of activities relating to destitute child labour, education etc. As past during this year all organization provided educational help to poor children like uniform, un readmission in school etc. and did welfare activities for destitute child volunt

Awareness is being continued that engaging Child as labour is a crime, to aware the society at large on this important factor our organization did again remarkable works during the year also. Our staff visited many institutions like as past to search whether any person appointing child as a labour? Our organization has been able to give relief some children from such kind of cruel owners and admitted them in a school with the cost of its end up to class X, and also gathered all such children who are roistering in the street and also admitted them in school and provide them the real platform of happiness with the education with the help of which everybody can enrich their life. Most of the women covered by ISDI Women Development Program are from below poverty line section of the society and earn less than Rs.50 a day. Majority of these women are illiterate and are ignorant about the benefits of education. Therefore, many of them tend to send their children to work for their own survival rather than send them to schools for education. ISDI field coordinators identified a number of children involved in child labour and

motivated and encouraged the mothers during monthly meetings to send their children to school. They explained the importance of education and even helped some children with financial support.

## **TREE PLANTATION**

We are proud of the thousands of trees we have been responsible for planting through donations to trees for the future. Here's a look at why we think that trees are important at clean air gardening, and why we will continue planting more of them. Planting trees in our neighborhood really is one of the best things we can do for the local environment and for the planet. It's no secret that trees help the environment, but we may be surprised by all the benefits that planting trees can provide. Besides producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide and contaminants from the air, trees have many other social, economic and environmental benefits.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF PLANTING TREES**

Trees are like the lungs of the planet. They breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. Additionally, they provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. But that's not all trees do for us! To see just how much trees are essential to the planet and to humans, let's look at the following statistics:

CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the major contributing elements to the greenhouse effect. Trees trap CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and make carbohydrates that are used for plant growth. They give us oxygen in return. Mature trees can absorb roughly 48 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. The trees in turn release enough oxygen to sustain human beings. Trees also help to reduce ozone level in urban areas. Trees reduce urban runoff and erosion by storing water and breaking the force of rain as it falls. 100 mature trees can reduce runoff caused by rainfall by up to 100,000 gallons. Trees also absorb sound and reduce noise pollution. This is especially important for people who live near freeways. In some cases, a well planted group of trees can reduce noise pollution by up to 10 decibels.

Trees and plants in general, affect the water cycle significantly:-

- Their canopies intercept a proportion of precipitation, which is then evaporated back to the atmosphere
- Their litter, stems and trunks slow down surface runoff
- Their roots create macro pores – large conduits – in the soil that increase infiltration of water
- They contribute to terrestrial evaporation and reduce soil moisture via Transpiration



- Their litter and other organic residue change soil properties that affect the capacity of soil to store water

- Their leaves control the humidity of the atmosphere by transpiring 99% of the water absorbed by the roots moves up to the leaves and is transpired.

As a result, the presence or absence of trees can change the quality of water on the surface, in the soil or groundwater, or in the atmosphere. This in turn changes erosion rates and the availability of water for either ecosystem functions or human services.

## **DEFORESTATION**

Deforestation is the removal of a forest or stand of trees where the land is thereafter converted to a non-forest use. Deforestation includes conversion of forestland to farms, ranches, or urban use. Deforestation occurs for many reasons: - trees derived charcoal are used as, or sold, for fuel or as timber, while cleared land is used as pasture for livestock, plantations of commodities, and settlements. The removal of trees without sufficient reforestation has resulted in damage to habitat, biodiversity loss and aridity. It has adverse impacts on bio sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide.



The water cycle is also affected by deforestation. Trees extract groundwater through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer evaporate away this water, resulting in a much drier climate. Deforestation reduces the content of water in the soil and groundwater as well as atmospheric moisture. The dry soil leads to lower water intake for the tree to extract. Deforestation reduces soil cohesion, so that erosion, flooding and landslides ensue, which are really facing by the people. Thus it realized the condition and started initiating to save the world and life from those entire dreaded situation created by the people themselves. It is another initiative of the organization to motivate and aware the people about the different activities done by themselves, which causes becoming as dreaded for the upcoming days and the generation. This is absolutely our responsibility to create an eco friendly environment and we must know the fact because of which impact often on changing environment.

### **Our world population is rapidly growing:**

Today: Over 6 billion people and on the rise

- Increased immigration / lack of migration



(urbanization)

- Lack of education and contraceptive use
- Medical advancements

### **Leads to environmental and social impacts**

- Deforestation
- Global Warming – Natural disasters, sea level rising
- Lack of natural resources
- Lack of freshwater
- Pollution
- Diseases



### **Growing population will cause**

- Higher rate of deforestation
- Greater loss of freshwater resources
- More pollution
- Increased global warming
- Strains of natural resources
- Social issues

### **Environmental impact**

- Pollution – increase in vehicles and emission of greenhouse gases into atmosphere
- Deforestation – increase in paved areas to house increasing population
- Freshwater Availability – increase in waste production and contamination of water
- Natural Resources – increase burning of fossil fuels, excessive use of coal
- Global Warming – overall increase in temperature and chances of natural disasters
- Habitat Loss – change in ecosystems affecting trophic levels

### **Implication**

- If we increase the number of people educated, then the birth rate would go down, resulting in a lower deforestation rate.
- Decreasing the forest area will prevent natural processes from occurring (photosynthesis, nitrogen cycle) and increase global warming, natural disasters, damage to ecosystems, loss of animal life.
- Decreasing water resources may in fact bring down the population due to decreasing food sources.
- Increase education programs
- Later marriages
- Contraceptive use



- Less of a need for urbanization (jobs)

### Solution

- Be energy efficient (wind/ solar)
- Organic farming
- Sustainable development (build vertically)
- Plant more trees!
- Have better governmental regulations for an improved economy

### Our Motto on environment

- Because this is an inevitable problem we must raise people's awareness and environmental stewardship to lessen the effects of overpopulation.
- Focus on the present, but have in mind the future, thus we must start changing our actions now to foresee the future we want!

Keeping in view to aware the people about the need of trees as well as plantation and the impact to the earth from deforestation and responding to the effort in World environment day, 5<sup>th</sup> June,2013 ISDI conducted **three awareness camps on tree plantation versus deforestation** in Three different development block under **Jorhat** district of Assam by targeting the villagers from the surrounding locality and simultaneously in cooperation with the people **planted** 800 trees in each block area i.e. altogether 2400 trees have been planted in roadside area, school, public places, etc. ISDI in its maiden venture endeavours to promote the environment with special focus on forest in the perspective of North East India, particularly the state of Assam also conducted **an inter district Art Competition** in association with **Ellora Art School Centre, Smriti Kala Sanskriti Kendra and NEADS, Dhekiakhowa**. More than 200 children from different schools of Jorhat, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh District participated in the competition.



ISDI's youth development has involved approximately 500 rural youth. They are continuously motivated, capacitated and guided in their involvement in village development. Their active participation and performance has been remarkable. There is a significant change in their attitudes too. They are more positive towards themselves and to the society and are actively taking up development initiatives in their villages. They are also monitoring the village level government sponsored activities. Their role is well recognized and appreciated by all the villagers. Our Founders are a big asset to ISDI. Their commitment to the cause, wisdom in their thoughts and professionalism in actions at ISDI is a big inspiration to the masses. We are pleased that most of ISDI initiatives are setting new trends in community development. The effectiveness of ISDI community development has measurable indicators which are not only satisfactory to ISDI but also inspiration to many. This annual report is an exposition of the transformation among the target communities through our integrated development activities.

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Empowering women program aims at empowering the rural poor, illiterate and marginalized women, in social, economic, intellectual, psychological, moral and ethical spheres of life. To bring about lasting and sustainable change among the disadvantaged women, who are socially and economically backward, it involves a step process. ISDI understands that the best way to lead these women forward is to assist them in building their capacities and enabling them in building their capacities and enabling them to think for themselves, plan and implement their own development. This is done through motivation and training sessions. ISDI also empowers the partner institutions that join hands to reach out to a greater number of women in disadvantage situations. ISDI started working for women through promotion of resource base income generating activities and forming SHGs and nurturing them with professional inputs for the sustainability. The organization trained a number of women workers for looking after women activities and organizing them long run in a sustainable manner.





## **LEGAL AWARENESS CAMPS**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, ISDI organized two Legal Awareness camps at Lahapara and Belguri, Chandrapur villages of Kamrup District under the aegis of District State Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Kamrup, Assam on issues relating to the status, rights and problems on women.

Resource person Adv. Amal Dutta from the office of District State Legal Service Authority (DLSA) has been invited for the sessions on Empowerment of Women, Dowry, Child Marriage, Provisions of Termination of Medical Pregnancy Act 1971 & section 312 of IPC and Importance of Education. The sessions were attended by various women organization, civil body, panchayat members, School teachers participate and a total of 200 women artisans participated in the camps.

### **1. EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:**

The Resource person discussed about the importance of women's participation in the development of family and the nation as a whole. Within the framework of our democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. The principles of gender equality are enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, fundamental rights and directive principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. A women is not to be treated as housewife only. In reality, they are the maker of the family. We should empower them and encourage them to come forward and to work for the betterment of the family. For this our resource person cited an example suppose, if after the death of the only bread earner of the family .i.e. husband the wife can work then why she can't work during the life time of her husband. That's why a women should not be kept between the four corners of the wall.

In the recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognised as the central issue in determining the status of women. The national commission on women was set up by an Act of parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservations of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in the decision making at the local levels.

India has also ratified various conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of

the convention on Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.

## **2. CHILD MARRIAGE:**

Child marriage is an evil practice which is still prevailing in our society. The child marriage in India according to the Indian Law, is a marriage where either the woman is below the age of 18 years or the man is below the age of 21 years. Most of the child marriage involves underage women, many of whom are in poor socio-economic conditions. Our resource person made an appeal to the villagers not to encourage and practise the performance of child marriage. He also cited some important draw backs of child marriage like when the child marriage is solemnised the girl is neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers, these girls are at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, becoming infected with HIV/AIDS and suffering from domestic violence. With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live poverty.

### **DEMERITS OF CHILD MARRIAGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **Poverty:** Child brides do not receive the educational and economic opportunities that help lift them and their family out of poverty. They are more likely to be poor and remain poor.
2. **Inequality:** Child brides normally have little say in when or whom they will marry. Marriage often ends girls opportunities for education, better paid work outside the home and decision making roles in their communities.
3. **HIV/AIDS:** Child brides lack the knowledge or power to abstain from sex or negotiate safe sexual practices, leaving them at increased risk of HIV/ AIDS and other sexually Transmitted diseases.
4. **Education:** Child brides are likely to drop out of school, hindering their personal development, preparation for adulthood and their ability to contribute to their family and community.
5. **Health:** child brides face high risk of death or injury, girls who give birth before the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than girls in their early 20s. Their children are less likely to live beyond their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.



**6. Violence:** child marriage puts women and girls at increased their first sexual experience as forced.

### **PUNISHMENT FOR CHILD MARRIAGE UNDER PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT 2006**

Whoever being a male adult above eighteen years of age, contracts a child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

Whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage.

### **3. DOWRY:**

Dowry death is another main problem in our Indian society. Most of the women's suffer a lot, due to the demand of dowry by their husband and the family members of the husband. Our resource person taught them about the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. Dowry means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly-

**a.)** By one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage, or

**b.)** By the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other

person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person, at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of said parties.

### **PENALTY FOR GIVING OR TAKING DOWRY**

If any person, after the commencement of this Ac, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years, and with the fine which shall not less than fifteen thousand rupees or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more.

### **PENALTY FOR DEMANDING DOWRY**



If any person demands either directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride or bridegroom as the case may be, any dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six

month but which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

### **The provision of section 304B of the INDIAN PENAL CODE: Dowry Death.**

Where the death of a woman is caused by any burn or bodily injury or occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage and it is shown that soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her husband or any relative of her husband for or in connection with any demand for dowry, Such death shall be called "Dowry Death" and such husband or relative shall be deemed to have caused her death.

Whoever commits dowry death shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.

### **5. GENDER IDENTIFICATION**

The gender identification practiced by the persons who made distinction between the girl and a boy before being born while in the womb of mother is a matter of great concern for us. He advised the villagers not to carry on this practice and asked them to treat both gender with care and affection. Gender disparity manifests in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades.

### **6. PROVISIONS OF TERMINATION OF MEDICAL PREGNANCY ACT 1971 AND SECTION 312 OF INDIAN PENAL CODE**

#### **WHEN A CHILD MAY BE ABORTED?**

Regarding this topic our resource person told them that a child may be aborted where the length of the pregnancy exceeds 12 weeks but does not exceeds 20 weeks if the continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or of grave injury to her mental or physical health.

No pregnancy shall be terminated except with the consent of the pregnant woman.

### **7. SECTION 312 OF IPC: CAUSING MISCARRIAGE**

Whoever causes a woman with child to miscarry, shall, if such miscarriage be not caused in good faith for he purpose of saving the life of the women, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may be extend to three

years, or with fine, or with both and if the woman quick with the child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

## **8. IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION**

He also emphasised on the importance of education for improving the condition of women. Educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. It not only helps in the development of the country but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rateand growth

of the population. Education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of women in the society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To bring more girls especially from the marginalized families of concession in the form of providing a package of providing free books, uniforms, boarding and lodging, clothing, midday meals, scholarships and so on.

Our resource person also presented a quote made by our first prime minister of India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru that, “If you educate a man you educate an individual; however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered”.







## CANE & BAMBOO AND ARTISTIC TRIBAL TEXTILE CUM WOMEN ARTISANS

### CANE & BAMBOO

Bamboo and cane contribute a lot to the economy and lifestyle of the north-eastern states. This is mainly because of the fact that the hills and forests of the region have vast expanses of bamboos and canes and the natives, being excellent craftsmen that they are, have learnt to use them for a wide range of purpose in their everyday life. The bamboo and cane crafts of Assam are popular in other parts of the country as well. As such, there is tremendous potential for this industry to flourish and occupy an important place in national and international markets.

Assam is rich in sylvan resources and most of its forests are richly stocked with bamboos and canes of various species. Bamboo is a raw material of great versatility and forms an integral part of the lifestyle and economy of Assam. Special mention may however be made of the forests of Mizo Hills, Cachar, Mikir and North Cachar Hills, Nagaon and Lakhimpur districts. While touring in the hill districts, one sometimes wonders at the vast expanses of bamboos and canes. The important species of bamboos of economic value are the **Muli** (*Melocanna bambusoides*), **Dalu** (*Teinostachyum dalloa*), **Khang** (*Dendrocalmus longispatus*), Kaligoda (*Oxytenanthera nigrociliata*) and **Pecha** (*Dendrocalamus Hamiltonii*). The **Muli** and the **Dalu** have great commercial importance, the former for pulping, constructional and fencing purposes, and the latter for the mat and basket industry.

The making of bamboo and cane products is perhaps the most universal of all the crafts practiced by a large number of artisans scattered throughout the State. It is practiced as a household industry and no mechanical device is used. Cane and bamboo products are used for a wide range of purposes and extensively used in every household. A majority of the items used by the Assamese people in their day-to-day life are made of bamboo and cane. Right from furniture and roof tiles to common household articles like baskets, beer mugs and sieves, a large number of items are made out of them. One of the most important products of bamboo is Japi, a traditional sunshade of Assam. It is made from strips of bamboo and tokow paat (dried palm leaves). Used mainly by the open-air workers, like the farmers, nowadays the japis are also used as decorative items in the drawing rooms of the natives as well as souvenirs by the tourists. Another important Assamese handicraft made of bamboo is the basket. Available in a variety of patterns and shapes, bamboo baskets are used for storing and carrying different items, like rice,

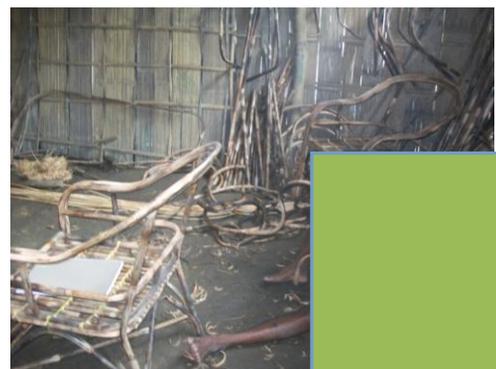
paddy, and betel nuts. Depending on the size of the baskets, names have been assigned to them. The bigger ones are called Duli or Tali, while the small ones are called Khorahi. There is another variety of baskets called Tukuri, which is much

smaller than the Duli and mainly used to carry rice, paddy etc. These bamboo baskets are generally made by the men of the family. Besides these, other objects that are made from bamboo and cane are fishing traps and other fishing apparatus, like jakoi, khaloi, pollo and juluki, apart from a variety of musical instruments, domestic furniture, walking sticks, hand fans, floor mats, toys, umbrella handles and even tea trays. In rural areas, bamboo is also used to treat various illnesses like hypertension, diabetes and ulcers as folk medicine. In other words, we can say that bamboo and cane are used in almost every aspect of the Assamese life.

Keeping in view ISDI conducted base line survey to get the actual position of the people and conducted many numbers of awareness programs on handicraft sector for rural artisans to motivate and guide the educated youth & women who are already involved in this sector to become more competitive with better confidence. As almost every household are doing the cane & bamboo handicraft as their main income source, the organization initiated to form SHGs, so that the area can be focused as a well professional quality area in craft sector. Although ISDI basically focuses women group but then based on the demand it has nurtured some male groups also, where out of all groups the male groups basically maintain the cane & bamboo sector as it is a tough job for female but simultaneously some easier job also there, which are doing by the female. Also the organization produces the decorative item and utilities as well and supplies it to different market sources, send to different exhibition, sales mela, etc.

During the period ISDI identified 24 MSME units on Cane & Bamboo Craft from Jorhat and Dibrugarh District, Assam to implement the **“Design Clinic Scheme”** for Design Expertise by the **O/o Development Commissioner of Micro Small Medium Enterprise, Govt. of India**. The MSME units are already into business having core manufacturing strengths and wishes to design new product in the line of their business.

### DIBRUGARH SURVEY



## JORHAT SURVEY





## **AWARENESS CAMP FOR THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULE CASTE**

Informative Society for Development Initiatives, ISDI , Head Office:- House No: 29, P.B. Road, Rehabari, Assam, Guwahati-781009, has been working for the development of SC rural artisans and marginalized population in Assam and has performed various programmes like Awareness, publicity of different Welfare Activities/Schemes under Govt. of India for the development of the poor people. The voluntary organisation identified the people belonging to SC community at Mirza, Kamrup district and on 30<sup>th</sup> August'2017, the Awareness programme for the Welfare of SC was inaugurated. Total 250 members participated in the programme. Besides, 3 Officials were engaged as resource persons in the awareness programme.

The Chairperson of ISDI, Mrs. Sanskriti Saikia explained the role of Directorate of Welfare of S.C and the objective which is to accelerate all round development of S.C people. She also delivered the large number of initiatives the Govt. has undertaken in this regard with a thrust on educational and economic development, particularly self-employment programme through Vocational training in various trades, family Oriented Income Generating scheme (FOIG), poverty alleviation programme, infrastructure development in S.C pre-dominant areas and other basic needs of S.C people through certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The inputs delivered by the resource persons are the following :-

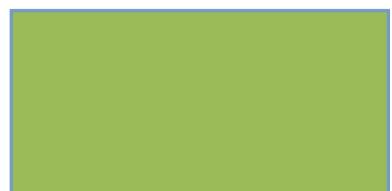
- Pre- Matric Scholarship
  - Grants to Non- Govt. Educational Institutions
  - Stipend for craftsman Training in ITI's
  - Grants to Cultural activities including Educational tours
  - Financial incentive for Inter-Caste marriage
  - Computer Training of SC youth
- 

- Self-Help scheme for self employment of unemployed SC youth
- Self Help scheme for SC women
- Construction of Community Hall/School building
- Grants to patients suffering from TB/Cancer and other malignant diseases
- Financial incentive to poor meritorious Girls' students
- Assam Bikash Yojana and Chief Minister special Employment Generation Programme
- Computer to SC trainees

During the programme, the basic objective of the Awareness Programme was explained to all the participants which is to perform humanitarian and social works with a view to improve the quality lives of the SC people. Some of the problems for underdevelopment of the community were also highlighted such as :

- Unequal distribution of land
- Larger family with less productive units
- Division of land ownership
- Unable to protect land ownership
- Traditional land tenure systems - mortgage, tenancy, share cropping
- Lack of investment and productive assets
- Irregular employment opportunity
- Low wages
- Borrowing, money lending and higher rate of interest
- Repayment procedures
- Expenses on unnecessary needs (social and customary habits, merry making etc.)

Leaflets were printed in local languages and distributed during the programme for better understanding and thereby to create awareness. We believe that creating awareness through an educational process will



make the people break the barriers of development created by caste, religion, cultural, traditions, and economic exploitation.

## PHOTOGRAPH



