

Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha

Registration No. S/56375 of 1987-88

Vill. Ghosaldanga, P.O.Sattore 731 236

Dist. Birbhum, W.B., India

phone 03463 - 228 291, -228 338

Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha

Registration No. S/88087 of 1997-98

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ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2005 to 31st MARCH 2006

1. Introduction

The Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha (GASS) works in two Santal villages, viz. Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, situated about 10 km away from the town Bolpur and the University of Santiniketan. Nine years ago, Bishnubati has founded the registered society Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha (BAMS). Hence, the activities at Bishnubati assume their separate identity. However, the two villages continue to cooperate closely. The funding continues to be entirely routed through GASS.

The aim of the Sanghas is the all-round development of the tribal population in these two villages. Its main thrust, however, has been educational. The Supplement gives an overview of the results GASS has achieved in the last 20 years. Other areas of work have been: medical aid, family health and hygiene, afforestation, fishery, agriculture, vocational training centre, social forestry and bio-orchard and Santal culture.

The Sangha has been enlisted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. 1961, by which anybody donating an amount to the organisation, **can receive exemption from income tax in India.**

2. Managing Committee

The Managing Committee has been constituted on 4th July 2003.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| President | Mohan Hembrom |
| Vice-President | Dudu Murmu |
| Secretary | Sona Murmu |
| Assistant Secretary | Bijoy Tudu |
| Treasurer | Lakshmiram Tudu |
| General Members | Nilu Mumu |
| | Narayan Hansda |
| | Dasarath Murmu |
| | Balui Murmu |

The Managing Committee meets whenever the need arises to take decisions.

3. The Sangha Team

The Managing Committee is supported by the Sangha Council which meets once a month and discusses vital development problems and future projects of GASS and BAMS. It consists of the "Sangha Team"; they are the educated members of the Sangha who assume leadership in the process of decision-making and the execution of these decisions. **Here are** the Sangha Team members and the other educated co-workers:

- > Sona Murmu, Ghosaldanga, Secretary GASS.
- > Boro Baski, Bishnubati, Secretary BAMS and Founding Teacher of RSV; also in charge of correspondence.
- > Gokul Hansda, Dhanyasara, Founding Teacher and teacher-in-charge of RSV, also in charge of cultural programmes and excursions.
- > Sanyasi Lohar, Bishnubati, artist and former part-time art teacher of RSV.
- > Monotosh Das, Bolpur, full-time social worker of GASS, presently field-in-charge of the Bio-orchard Project.
- > Snehadri Sekhar Chakravarti, overseer at the Engineering Department, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan; in charge of construction and repair work as well as of the financial management of GASS and BAMS.
- > Leena Murmu, Ghosaldanga, in-charge of mothers' and family health programmes.
- > Swapan Ghosh, Bandhnabagram, full-time teacher at the Secondary Coaching Centre.
- > Bimol Baski, Bishnubati, kindergarten teacher, Treasurer of BAMS and in-charge of Dairy Project at Bishnubati.
- > Pintu Ghosh, Bishnubati, teacher of the Secondary Coaching Centre and co-ordinator, BAMS.
- > Lakhiram Tudu, treasurer of GASS and teacher of the evening school (primary section).
- > Martin Kämpchen, Santiniketan, advisor to GASS and BAMS; link to the "Friends of Ghosaldanga", Aachen/Germany.

4. Education

Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati run a Kindergarten (with lunch), a Primary Coaching Centre (for students of class 1 to 4) and a Secondary Coaching Centre (for students of class 5 to 10) in their respective villages. The Kindergarten Centres operate in the mornings, the Coaching Centres work in the early mornings and in the evenings. In addition, the Sanghas run a day school, i.e. a non-formal Santal school called the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV).

| Participation: | <u>Ghosaldanga</u> | <u>Bishnubati</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Kindergarten | 20 (m 10 / f 10) | 51 (m 21 / f 30) |
| Primary Coaching Centre | 30 (m 16 / f 14) | 35 (m 23 / f 12) |
| Secondary Coaching Centre | 17 (m 9 / f 8) | 44 (m 17 / f 27) |

* Lunch was given to all kindergarten children for six days a week.

* Two students appeared in the Madhyamik examination (School Final after class 10) last year, in which one has passed.

* Gopal Murmu of Ghosaldanga, after passing the higher secondary examination from Ramakrishna Vidyamandir Residential College at Belur, Dist. Howrah. **He** now studies for his B. A. in History (Honours) at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.

* Ramjit Mardi, Mona Murmu, Dasarath Murmu and Lakhmi Murmu are also studying for their B. A. Degree.

* The teachers are: Parbati Murmu, Bimol Baski (Kindergarten); Lakshmiram Tudu, Narayan Hasnda and Suno Mardi (Primary Coaching Centres); Swapan Ghosh, Pintu Ghosh, Bimol Patra, Mangal Tudu, Dasarath Murmu, Ashutosh Ghosh and Kishor Kumar Saha (Secondary Coaching Centres).

5. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes

(a) VILLAGE EVENTS

* On 9th April 2005, Martin Kämpchen's 32 years-stay in India was celebrated in Bishnubati. On that occasion a 'Bansher Thonga' (Bamboo pipe) was given to the students in Bishnubati to save money. Last year's 'Bansher Thongas' were opened and an interest was given to the 'Bansher Thonga'-holders as per the amount they deposited.

* On 30th June, Gokul Hansda and Snehadri Chakravarti held a meeting with Sriram Ojha at Prantik on starting a Mushroom Project at RSV campus.

* On 19th July, a 'Nabinbaran Utsav' programme was held at Bishnubati. The new high school students were welcomed in the Sangha in a special ceremony, organised by the senior students.

* From 27th July to 17th August, Kathrin Klein, a student of social education from Germany stayed at Bishnubati. She came to write her diploma thesis on the socialization of Santal children in the village. Apart from her work, she taught English to our high school students and spent a lot of time with the children of RSV school.

* On 15th August, Independence Day was celebrated in both the villages of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

* On 22nd August, a computer was installed at VTC, Bishnubati. Boro Baski is in charge of operating it.

* On 5th September, 'Teachers' Day' was celebrated in Ghosaldanga by organising a football match in the afternoon and a special discussion on education.

* 16th, 17th and 23rd September, a three-day football tournament was organized at Ghosaldanga.

* On 26th September, Boro Baski and Gokul Hansda went to Writers' Buildings to meet the minister of Backward Class Welfare of Govt. of West Bengal, Upen Kisku. They submitted a proposal to him for celebrating 150 years of Santal Rebellion, the 'Hul'.

* On 2nd October, 'Gandhi Jayanti' was celebrated. On this occasion a football match was organized between the teachers and the students in the afternoon and a cultural programme was held in the evening. Rathin Kisku presented 'Baul songs' at the Kobi Kuthir.

* On 17th November, 27th November and 12th December, a seminar of the Farmers Group was held at Ghosaldanga on 'vegetable cultivation'. The main speaker of the seminar was Srikanta Mondal of 'Manab Jamin' Bolpur.

* From 17th November to 4th April, Susanne Oertel, a trained nurse from Germany stayed at Ghosaldanga. Apart from treating children with Leena Hembrom in the villages and RSV school, she also took a lot of interest in Santal and Baul music and dance.

* On 27th November, Boro Baski and Asha Baski presented a paper in an international seminar on '150 years of Santal Hul', organized at Visva-Bharati and Sussex University at Santiniketan.

* On 9th December, Martin Kämpchen's birthday was celebrated on the RSV campus at noon. Apart from the well-wishers of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya,

* On 19th December and 6th January, the High School students' picnic was held at Kankalitala and the Kindergarten children's picnic at the riverside of Ghosaldanga.

* From 5th to 11th January 2006, a Theatre Workshop was organized at Bishnubati.

Fifteen boys and girls from five different villages attended the workshop for 5 days.

Martin Kämpchen was the instructor of the workshop.

* On 23rd January, Saraswati Puja was celebrated at Ghosaldanga. On this occasion the whole village had a meal together at the Puja mandap.

* From 27th February to 1st January, the second phase of the Theatre Workshop was held at RSV Campus. 20 boys and girls from 7 different villages attended the workshop. This workshop conducted by Kalyan Ghosh and Sumit Ghosh of Kolkata. Both of them are professional theatre persons, working with the famous theatre personality Badal Sarkar.

* On 11th March, the 16th Adibasi Baha Parab was celebrated at Ghosaldanga. This year also there were several programmes like folk dance and tribal sports, Santal songs and dramas at night and the 'Baha Award' ceremony. Hundreds of people from the neighbouring villages and districts attended the festival. This year's 'Baha Award' was given to the well-known social worker and activist Dr. Dominique Mardi of New Delhi. He is the General Secretary of the All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society (AIWACS) and the International Confederation of Indigenous Tribal People (ICITP). Manasa Hansda, a social worker and the Savadhipati of Birbhum District, presided over the award-giving ceremony.

* On 12th March, a seminar on 'The Socio-Cultural Empowerment of the Santals' was organized at the RSV Campus, in remembrance of '150 years of Santal Hul'. The main speaker of the seminar was Dr. Dominique Mardi of New Delhi. Other prominent invited guests were Arun Chowdhury, an educationist, Manasa Hansda, Savadhipati of Birbhum District, Prof. Ranjit Bhattacharya, retired Director of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kumar Rana, Pratichi (India) Trust. About 200 persons attended the seminar.

* On 16th March, 'Karam Binti' recitation of Santal mythology was organized at Bishnubati. A Karam Guru (traditional Santal guru) was invited from the neighbouring state, Jharkhand.

* From 3rd to 22nd March, Dr. Monika Golembiewski from Germany was in the villages. She has been visiting the village since many years, treating the patients of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and the neighbouring villages. This year, too, she conducted a training programme on Herbal Medicine from 17th to 18th March. She also regularly checked the health of the children of the two villages and of RSV.

(b) EXCURSIONS – EVENTS – TRAINING outside the villages

* On 24th April, Sona Murmu went to attend a meeting on '150 years of Hul' at Kolkata organized by the All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society (AIWACS), New Delhi.

* From 22nd June to 20th July, a Santal Cultural Group visited Germany for one month. The group consisted of Sona and Leena Murmu, Boro and Asha Baski, Gokul and Dipali Hansda and Martin Kämpchen as guide. The tour was sponsored by Kindermissionswerk, Aachen. An old friend of the villages, Peter Adams steered the mini bus and guided the team during the tour. During their stay in Germany they performed Santal music and dance in eighteen different schools and kindergarten centres. They performed two theatre sketches depicting typical Santal life, participated in question-answer-sessions and had a numerous informal contacts with German well-wishers. They also showed several slide-shows and a film based on their life in the two villages. Sanyasi showed his pictures on Santal village life. They gave a three-day seminar on 'Alternative Village Development' at the "Bischoefliche Akademie", Aachen. Handicrafts prepared in the villages were sold.

Martin Kämpchen was the communicator between the German audiences and the Santal group.

* From 23rd to 27th April, Boro Baski, Gobindo Baski and Bimol Baski went to St. Xavier's School, Sahibjang, Jharkhand to attend a meeting of AICUF students. Boro Baski spoke on 'Santal Cultural Strength and Development' at the Seminar organized by the AICUF students. Fr. Solomon SJ, a Jesuit priest from Santiniketan, organized the whole trip for them. In the last two days of the trip they also visited various mission stations of the Jesuit order, starting from Kodma to Dharampur and from there to Mariam Pahar, Barharwa. They also visited the family of 'Sidu and Kanu', the leaders of the famous Santal Hul of 1855-56 at Bhagnadihi, and spent a night at Paharpur village close to Bhagnadihi.

* From 15th to 31st January, 15 boys and girls of our village cultural team have gone to participate in the 'National Folk Festival 2006' at New Delhi. The team was invited by the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Government of India. About 1,000 folk artists from all over India took part the festival. Gokul Hansda was the leader of our team.

* On 9th February, the annual picnic of the organization was held at Masangjore Dam, Jharkhand. 150 children, teachers and staffs of the organization took part. One bus and two big jeeps were hired for the transport.

6. The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV)

The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (phone 03463-235 258) is a non-formal Santal School situated half a kilometre from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. The school founded by Boro Baski and Gokul Hansda in 1996, who remain its full-time teachers. The three part-time teachers are Hiralal Khan, Ranjit Khan and Mona Murmu. This year 500 calendars with the photographs of the clay model of the children have been published from RSV and most of them have been sold and given as gifts to the friends in Europe and India. Gokul Hansda is presently in charge of RSV. Boro Baski who had been in-charge previously, now has increased responsibilities at Bishnubati.

Apart from celebrating the Foundation Day of the school, other red-letter days of the year were 15th August (Independence Day) and 25th Baishak (Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday).

7. Vocational Training Centre (VTC)

In 2000, we started the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Bishnubati with the help of AGAPE, an organisation run by Mrs. Christine Weitmann, Heidelberg, Germany. We started with the purpose that uneducated and semi-educated young men and women of Bishnubati and of surrounding villages get some employment through practical training. Many of them are unable to attend the government-sponsored training programmes because of their lack of formal education. The training they receive at the VTC is aimed directly at improving their living standards. For example they are trained in Weaving, Batik, Leatherwork, Fishery (making use of the small ponds which already exist in most of the families) and in the use of a kitchen-garden. Presently, we have a building of three rooms situated in the area of 30 satak land (office room, store room and class room including a verandah). A submersible pump has been installed for drinking water and for cultivation of vegetables in the campus. There is also a separate house in the corner accommodating a kitchen, a bathroom and two toilets. In front of the building there is a vegetable garden, herbal garden, the Bio-orchard project and flower garden. There is also a small tank for fishery. In May 2005, a dairy farm also has been started at VTC, initially starting with three cows.

The following activities were held this year :

* From February the construction of a new project Dairy Farm had been started. Presently three milking cows are producing milk regularly. Milk is being sold at Bolpur town.

* On 31st March, a small Museum of Santal Art and Crafts has been put up on the second floor of VTC building. The crafts materials have been collected by the organization during the last year.

* On 18th August, a meeting of the self-help groups was held. Various schemes on income generation programme were discussed. About 35 women attended the meeting.

* On 22nd September, a vaccination programme of domestic animals was held in the village. Dr. Kausik from the Veterinary Department of the Government supervised the programme. 150 chicken, 90 cows and goats were immunized.

* On 18th February, Boro Baski and Asha Baski went to Kolkata to meet Christine Weitmann for discussion on the future of VTC.

* On 3rd March, Christine Weitmann and Prof. Sunil Das visited VTC. They met the women who do weaving and discussed with the persons in-charge of the Centre.

8. Hospitality and Partnerships

Dr. D. Mardi, Mr. and Mrs. Khan, Sebastian Soren, Manu Emanuel, AIWACS, New Delhi; four teachers from TSRD, Rajnagar, Birbhum; Christine Weitmann and Prof. Sunil Das, Agape, Germany; 29 Santal teachers from CTC, Pakur, Jharkhand; Fr. Christostom Hembrom, St. Xavier's Sahebganj, Jharkhand; Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Flein, Germany. Anna Kapsner and Laura Ruprecht, Germany; Fr. Solomon SJ, Elizabeth Dordal and her friend, Norway; Hildgard Brand, Germany; Mala Al-Faroque and her students, Heidelberg, Germany; Sharmila Pal Chowdhury and her friends, Frankfurt, Germany; Kathrin Klein, Wiebelsheim Germany, Susanne Oertel, Germany; Allen Rousham and Liz Rousham. Erna Bendl, Tübingen, Germany; Biplab Kumar Ghosh of Sambhu Nath Dey & Co.(Chartered Accountant), Kolkata. Deboprasad Pal Chowdhury and Marianne Pal Chowdhury, Frankfurt, Germany.

9. "Friends of Ghosaldanga", Germany

As in the past, the informal group „Friends of Ghosaldanga" in Germany, headed by Dr.-Ing. Mandaresh Mitra and Roswitha Mitra (Wildbachstrasse 28, 52074 Aachen/Germany, (eMail: mandaresh.mitra@t-online.de), has been instrumental in collecting donations for our Sanghas. We are very grateful to them. Only through their help, we can continue to function. They also disseminate **informations** about our work and awareness about the Indian village situation in Germany. We continue to work closely with the **Kindermisissionswerk (Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / "Sternsinger** Aachen, and receive help from them. We also put on record our indebtedness to Dr. Monika Golembiewski who has given lectures on our work especially to school groups and collected substantial donations. Further, AGAPE e.V., Heidelberg / Germany, headed by Christine Weitmann, has continued to support the VTC at Bishnubati.

10. Patients

Dr. Monika Golembiewski, who visits the villages once in a year from Germany also collect regular fund for the medical purpose. Leena Murmu who is a fulltime health worker, along with a homoeopath, Satyaban Ray, keep direct and regular contact with the patients. The following were serious medical cases, which were looked after last year.

At Ghosaldanga:

* Lakhi Murmu (18) who was suffering from severe tuberculosis for last two years is recovering slowly.

At Bishnubati.

* On 5th October, Jithu Baski (17) broke his leg while playing football. He was under medication for nearly about six months.

* Budi Baski (17) was under medication for a genital problem. He has completed his third and last operation in January.

11. Births and Deaths**BIRTHS****At Ghosaldanga:**

04.6.2005 Puja Murmu, **daughter of Robi Murmu**
 16.7.2005 Sonia Hembrom, **daughter of Budhan Hembrom**
 15.3.2006 Bijon Mardi, **daughter of Kalo Mardi**
 30.5.2005 Parboti Murmu, **daughter of Sunil Murmu**

At Bishnubarti

27.05.2005 Sunami Baski, **son of Bimol Baski**
 17.04.2005 Son of Kalicharan Murmu
 22.05.2005 Daughter of Kadan Murmu
 05.06.2005 Subod Baski, **son of Jitan Baski**
 03.09.2005 Mira Hansda, **daughter of Dataram Hansda**

DEATHS**At Ghosaldanga:**

07.09.2005 Maino Hembrom, **wife of Kalo Hembrom**

At Bishnubati:

07.08.2005 Dhuku Kisku (Latartola, near Manjhithan)
 17.07.2005 Lakhiram Kisku (Latartola, Charan's brother)
 28.09.2005 Shibu Murmu (Khaspara, Buri's father)

