

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

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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. Eleven years ago, Bishnubati 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.

In 1996, the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV) was founded, a non-formal tribal day school (see chapter 6), situated between Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

The aim of the Sanghas is the all-round development of the tribal population in these two villages. Its main thrust, however, has been education. The last page presents an overview of the results GASS has achieved in the last 24 years. Other areas of work have been: medical aid, family health and hygiene, fishery, vocational training, museum of Santal culture, bio-farming and, last but not least, the maintenance and dissemination of Santal culture.

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

In 2002, the Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) has been founded at Kolkata. The primary intention of the Trust is to provide continuity to the work and security to the employees of GASS and BAMS, and also to give occasional assistance to various Non-Governmental Organisations working with the needy, poor, destitute, downtrodden people, primarily of rural India (for details see Deed of the Trust). The Trust members are the senior members of GASS and BAMS and some prominent and like-minded personalities from Kolkata. The Trust continues to support these two tribal organizations ideally and financially.

2. Managing Committees

The Managing Committee of **Ghosaldanga** has been constituted on 4th July 2003. Given below are their name, designation and profession:

Mohan Hembrom	President	Farmer
Dudu Murmu	Vice-President	Farmer
Sona Murmu	Secretary	Social Worker
Bijoy Tudu	Assistant Secretary	Farmer
Lakshmiram Tudu	Treasurer	Social Worker
Nilu Mumu	Member	Farmer
Narayan Hansda	Member	Farmer
Dasarath Murmu	Member	Teacher
Balui Murmu	Member	Tailor

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

The Managing Committee of **Bishnubati** is given below with their names, designation and profession:

1. Dhona Soren	President	Farmer
2. Sanyasi Ch.Rana Lohar	Vice-President	Artist
3. Boro Baski	Secretary	Teacher
4. Ramjit Mardi	Assistant Secretary	Student
5. Bimol Baski	Treasurer	Social Worker
6. Suno Mardi	Member	Farmer
7. Mongla Mardi	Member	Farmer
8. Budon Kisku	Member	Farmer
9. Sigen Baski	Member	Farmer

3. The Sangha Council

The Managing Committees are supported by the Sangha Council which meets once a month and discusses all vital development problems and future projects of GASS, BAMS and RSV. It consists of the educated members of the Sangha who assume leadership in the process of decision-making and the execution of these decisions.

- > Sona Murmu, Ghosaldanga, Secretary GASS, in charge of all activities at Ghosaldanga, overall in charge of the RSV Bio-Orchard.
- > Boro Baski, Bishnubati, Secretary BAMS and Founding Teacher of RSV; also in charge of RSV Hostel and of correspondence.
- > Gokul Hansda, Dhanyasara, Founding Teacher and teacher-in-charge of RSV, also in charge of Santal cultural programmes and excursions.
- > Monotosh Das, Bolpur, full-time worker of the RSV Bio-Orchard and marketing.
- > Snehadri Sekhar Chakravarti, Asst. Engineer, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan; in charge of construction and repair work as well as of the financial management of GASS and BAMS.
- > Sanyasi Lohar, Bishnubati, artist and art teacher, social worker.

- > Swapan Ghosh, Bandhnabagram, full-time teacher of 'Hihiri Pipiri' students' home.
- > Bimol Baski, Bishnubati, kindergarten teacher, Treasurer of BAMS and in charge of Vocational training Centre, 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 and Bishnubati" (Germany).

4. Education

Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati each run a Kindergarten (with lunch), a Primary Coaching Centre (for students of class I to IV) and a Secondary Coaching Centre (for students of class V to X) in their respective villages. The Kindergartens 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:	Ghosaldanga	Bishnubati
Kindergarten	22 (male 12, female 10)	24 (male 13, female 11)
Primary Coaching Centre	28 (male 15, female 13)	30 (male 11, female 19)
Secondary Coaching Centre	17 (male 11, female 6)	41 (male 20, female 21)

- * Lunch was given to all kindergarten children for six days a week.
- * Four students appeared in the Madhyamik examination from Bishnubati (School Final after class X) last year, in which two have passed.
- * Asha Murmu (Ghosaldanga) is studying in B.A degree in first year.
- * Ramjit Mardi (Bishnubati) is persuing his second B.A degree, now in history, through correspondence, his earlier B.A degree was in physical education from Visva Bharati University.
- * Gobinda Baski, and Uttom Baski (Bishnubati), Mona Murmu and Dasarath Murmu (Ghosaldanga) are studying for their B.A Degree in the second year.
- * Gopal Murmu (Ghosaldanga) is now studying for his M. A. in History (1st year) at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.
- * The teachers are: Parbati Murmu, Bimol Baski (Kindergarten); Lakshmiram Tudu, Narayan Hansda and Suno Mardi (Primary Coaching Centres); Swapan Ghosh, Pintu Ghosh, Bimol Patra, Ramjit Mardi, Mangal Tudu, Dasarath Murmu and Kishor Kumar Saha (Secondary Coaching Centres).

5. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes

(a) VILLAGE EVENTS

- * On 25th April 2008, the 'Museum of Santal Culture' was inaugurated at Bishnubati village. The museum displays 145 items in five categories, covering the socio-cultural

lives of Santals. The Indian Museum, Kolkata funded the establishment of the museum and 'Agape' a German organisation, helped us to construct the building used for the museum.

Prof. Rajat Kanta Roy, Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University was the chief guest and Mrs. Shila Kundu Poddar of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, was the Special Guest of the programme. About four hundred people from neighbouring Santal villages, Santiniketan and Kolkata were present in the day-and-night function. At night, two Santali dramas, 'Midun' and 'Chando Likhon', were staged. At late night, the Santali Folk group 'Kulhi Dhuri' performed Santali traditional and modern songs till 5 o' clock in the morning.

* On 1th June, the High school students of Ghosaldanga celebrated the 'Environment Day' at Pranik campus. Dozen of saplings were planted in and around the village.

* On 12th September, Teachers' Day was celebrated with a football competition between the students and teachers on the Ghosaldanga playground.

* On 15th September, Gokul Hansda, Rathin Kisku, Sanyasi Lohar and Martin Kämpchen organized a slide show on their cultural tour to Germany, Austria and Italy which they completed in last month.

* Between 26th October and 31st January, a three phase vocational training programme was organised for the members of 'Self Help Group' of Ghosaldanga, Ashadullapur and neighbouring villages. The topic was: how to rear goats, ducks and fish by the family. The programmes were funded by the Department of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan.

* On 9th December, Martin Kämpchen's birthday was celebrated at RSV school with joy and enthusiasm. Students and teachers from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati performed a cultural programme.

* From 21st to 24th January 2009, a team of ten delegates from the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati', Frankfurt (Germany) ' visited. This was the team's first visit after the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' received Government registration in Germany in 2008. The team's last visit was in the beginning of 2007. They visited all project areas like RSV, RSV hostel, bio-orchard, the Ghosaldanga school, the Museum of Santal Culture and the school at Bishnubati. They also discussed about various issues related to the organisation, including its finances and its future plans.

* On 8th March, 20th Adibasi Baha Parab (Spring festival) was organised at Ghosaldanga. This year's festival was marked by a maximum number of Santal folk groups's participation. A total of 26 dancing groups including men and women from different part of the district participated in the festival. The 'Baha Award 2009' was given to a well-known Santal social worker and Tagore-singer in Santali, Barka Soren of Kalitola, Dist. Birbhum. Barka Soren is a well-known Santali educationist. He, along with his wife Manjushree Soren, run the 'Bina Pani Ashram', a residential school for Santal girl

students near Sriniketan. The day-and-night programme was full of activities with tribal sports for children, men and women. A Santali drama competition was held during whole night. The chief guest of the festival was the well-known educationist Mr. Mihir Sen of Kishore Bharati school, Kolkata. About three thousand people gathered for the festival.

(b) EXCURSIONS – EVENTS – TRAINING outside the villages

* On 9th April 2008, Boro Baski and Jithu Baski went to Jhantipahari of Bankura district to collect Santal traditional hunting and musical items for the Museum of Santal Culture at Bishnubati. They toured several Santal villages around Sushunia hill and collected and bought dozens of items from tribal families. The items include fox traps, bird traps, big drums, flutes etc. Local friends, especially Baidyanath Murmu, Mamata Mardi, Rajendra Soren, helped them to identify the families who possessed these items. They spent the night in a Catholic mission school at Jhantipahari.

* On 21st May, Kulhi Dhuri, a Santal cultural group which includes many singers from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, performed a Santali musical programme at Baripada in Orissa. The programme was organised by 'RASKA' the Pandit Raghunath Murmu Memorial Committee. Raghunath Murmu was the founder of the Santali script 'Al-chiki'. Surya Singh Besra, a former Member of the Legislature of Jharkhand, was the chief guest.

* From 8th to 11th July, Boro Baski attended a seminar at the 'Developing Child Resource Centre' at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at New Delhi.

* On 2nd September, Rathin Kisku received the best Santali Folk Singer of the Year Award at Sisir Mancha Auditorium, Kolkata. Santali drama 'Midun' in which Gokul Hansda and Deepali Kisku acted, also received the best Santali drama of the year. Every year the Department of Information and Culture, Government of West Bengal, felicitate the individual or group artists from different cultural fields. Asim Dasgupta, finance minister of West-Bengal, was the chief guest.

* On 17th November, Finance Committee had a one-day seminar at a forest bungalow 'Bonochaya' near Illambazar. The seminar was conducted on the policies and future plans of GASS, BAMS and RSV.

* From 23rd to 26th December, during at Poush Mela at Santiniketan, the senior students of Bishnubati put up a stall on the activities of the organisation and the Museum of Santal Culture.

* On 14th February 2009, Boro Baski and Alan Rousham, a friend from Britain, went to Dumka to participate in the Annual Conference of 'All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society' (AISWACS), an organisation working for the welfare of tribals in India.

* On 27th March, a high level committee discussion was held between Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) and AIWACS at the Green Cup conference hall at Santiniketan. The main agenda of the discussion was to develop a strategic partnership between the two organisations.

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 was 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. Barhan Hansda, a Santal artist and ex student of Kala Bhavana, paints, draws and models with the children.

The school organises several regular programmes throughout the year. They include the celebration of Teachers Day (on 5th September), of Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday (beginning of May), and of Independence Day of India which is also the Foundation Day of RSV (on 15th August). Other programmes are organised occasionally.

* A two-day painting workshop was organised for the children of the school. Two friends of the school from Britain, Toni and Mr. Rousham, jointly conducted the workshop. Two days later the paintings were exhibited at RSV which the teachers and students from neighbouring schools also visited.

* Three Parents–Teachers Meetings were held. The academic progress of the students and development of the school were the main points of discussion.. After the meeting the parents rendered free service in the vegetable and flower gardens on RSV campus. All meetings ended with a joint afternoon meal.

7. Hihiri Pipiri (Hostel)

Hihiri Pipiri is a students' home beside the RSV school. The home started as a Day Care Centre in 2006 and transformed into a full-fledged home for the students in 2007. Presently, there are 12 (8 boys and 4 girls) students staying in the hostel. All students are former RSV students who come from difficult family-backgrounds. After passing out from RSV after class IV, they enter the hostel. They study at the near-by government school, and after school spend the rest of the day in the peaceful environment of the RSV campus. There they do their home-work under a teacher's guidance, they play, sing, paint and work in the garden of the school campus. Some of the year's extra-activities are given below.

* Emmy, an American student, spent seven days with the students, she taught English to them, visited their families and took part in the day-to-day activities of the 'Home'. She was one of ten Social-Work students who came to the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati with the inter university exchange programme from America. The entire group spent half a day at RSV school.

* On 8th February, the students went to see the HUL celebration programme at Dhanshara village. Several tribal activities are organized for three days by local organizations every year in the memory of two Santal martyrs, Sidu Murmu and Kanu Murmu, who fought for Santal freedom 150 years ago against the local landlords and administration. Thousands of people gathered to attend the programme.

* A one-day cycle tour was organized to Santiniketan to visit the families of the friends of the school.

8. Bio-orchard (on RSV Campus)

Biological farming (farming without pesticides and chemical fertiliser) is a great need in our country. To set an example to the farmers in our area and to have a source of income in harmony with village life, this orchard was started four years ago under the guidance of Srikanta Mondal. Hundreds of fruit trees grow on the RSV campus now. Mr. Srikanta Mondal has meanwhile transferred his responsibilities to Monotosh Das, a full time worker. Monotosh regularly sells fruits, vegetables and by-products like jam and jelly at local markets in Bolpur and Santiniketan. The bio-orchard is still growing and developing. So far it has not yet given us sufficient profit in return for our investment. From last one year parents of the sponsored children (Children who get financial support for their education) work in the Bio-Farm once a week in return for the support they receive for their wards.

9. Vocational Training Centre (VTC)

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) was started in 2001 at Bishnubati with the financial support of the German NGO Agape, Heidelberg. Five Women Self-Help Groups (SHG) with 12 female members each are being looked after by the Centre. The groups receive small credits from the bank to start their enterprise. VTC gives them technical and logistic support in their initiatives. Since last November, five new groups with five members each have been formed. The members of these groups have started rearing domestic animals like goats, ducks, pigs etc. in the traditional way to bring extra income to their families. This project is fully supported by Agape. This year six group meetings were held mainly on how to start a small credit programme feasible to the village and family situation. In March, a research scholar from Kolkata and her professor, Deboprasad Chakraborty, spent four days in the village. The scholar did a pilot study on the programmes of the SHGs funded by AGAPE.

The Museum of Santal Culture is situated at VTC building.

10. Hospitality and Partnerships

We welcomed to our villages among others: Dr. Monika and Nico Golembiewski, Silvia Mangatter, Germany; Marianne und Debu Pal Chowdhury, Stefan Kastner, Dentist, Ria Oschee, Manfred Watzke, Gerti Herr, Dr. Ulrich and Hedwig Oser, Dr. Karlheinz and Ilse Burk, Frankfurt, Germany; Syamoli Tan Khastgir, artist, Santiniketan; Prof. Rajat Kanta Roy, Vice Chancellor, University of Visva-Bharati; Mrs. Shila Kundu Poddar,

Indian Museum Kolkata; Prof. Ranjit Kr. Bhattacharya, former Director of Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata; Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya, Dept. of Social Work, Visva Bharati; Mihir Sen, educationist, Kolkata; Mr. Samiran Nandy, photographer, Santiniketan; Barka Soren, Sriniketan; Mrs. Henrike Rick, Germany; Arne Harms, Berlin University, Germany; J. Banerjee, Dhanti-Voyage, France; Deboprasad Chatterjee, Maulana Azad College; Debkolpa Basu Das, Agape; Dr. Wolfram Froeb, Germany; Prof. D.K. Khan, Kalyani University; Alan Rousham, UK., Dr Mathias Kross, Potsdam (Germany).

11. “Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati”, Germany

In 2008, ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati’ obtained German government registration in Frankfurt. In the past, the group was functioned informally, headed by Dr.-Ing. Mandaresh Mitra and his wife, Dipl.-Päd. Roswitha Mitra. Presently, the organisation has a new executive body under the leadership of Marianne Pal Chowdhury. The organisation disseminates information about our work and awareness about the Indian village situation in Germany. They also take the lead in collecting donations for our Sanghas. We are very grateful to them! Only with their help, we can continue to function. We continue to work closely with the Kindermissionswerk (The Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / “Sternsinger” Aachen (Germany), 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 in Germany.

The Meditation Centre Sonnenhaus in Beuron (Germany) donates a substantial amount every year towards our regular expenses.

Further, Agape e.V., Heidelberg (Germany), headed by Christine Weitmann, has continued to support the VTC at Bishnubati.

12. Sponsorship

For the last several years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski has personally collected money in Germany to support some of the sick and physically weak children and mothers of our villages.

Since the last two years, we have also started the sponsorship programme for needy students. After selecting the students and receiving their personal data, Dr. Monika Golembiewski and Marianne Pal Chowdhury collected a number of like-minded persons who are willing to help these students. At present we have 16 sponsored students who are being supported in various ways.

13. Health and Nutrition

Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Germany, who visits the villages once in a year also collects donations for medical purposes. Satyaban Ray, a homeopath, keeps direct and regular contact with the patients. He is supported by three health workers, Parboti Murmu, Hiralal Khan and Putul Hansda. From 1st November 2006 to February 2009, Dr. Kausik Ghosh, a general physician from the Sub-divisional Hospital, Bolpur, visited

Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati once a week. Besides treating patients and helping them to get admission into hospital, Dr. Ghosh guided Satyaban Ray in serious medical cases. Dr. Sitaram Banerjee, a general physician of Government Primary Health Centre, Sattore, will take over from Dr. Ghosh from April, 2009.

As in previous years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski treated patients at Ghosaldanga and neighbouring villages. Silvia Mangatter and Nico Golembiewski, students from Germany, joined her. Silvia and Nico basically helped us to start the special Nutrition feeding programme at Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga in collaboration with “Manab Jamin”, Bolpur and ‘Indienhilfe’, Herrsching (Germany). This programme was mainly started for the malnourished who were selected through special health check-ups last year. This year the programme was extended to another tribal village, Rindanga Kora-para. Nico and Silvia along with the organization identified three villages Bishnubati Hindu village, Panchabanpur Santal village and Rindanga Koda para where community toilets and washrooms will be built.

The following were serious medical cases, which were looked after last year.

- * Monika Mardi (F- 35) of Panchabanpur village. Problem created due to incomplete treatment. During lygation tumour was found and doctor stopped both the operation. She is fine now.
- * Monika Murmu (F-13) of Bautijol village has Polio and now being treated with physiotherapy at Catholic health Centre, Mokrapur.
- * Lakhi Tudu (F-14) of Panchabanpur village. She had been suffering from regular convulsion. Now being treated at Burdwan town.
- * Somenath Das (M-9) of Bandhnabagram village was bitten by dog. He is fine now.
- * Sokodi Hembrom (F- 8) of Khaspara got infection in the leg due to injury.
- * Maloti Hembrom (F-4) of Khelodanga has got spinal TB with paralysis and now being treated at Kolkata.

14. Births and Death

BIRTHS

At Bishnubarti:

- * S/o Sanyasi Lohar and Sandhya Lohar
- * S/o Arjun Hembrom and Lakhi Hembrom
- * D/o Mongla Tudu and Ramai Tudu
- * S/o Kalo Murmu and Gende Murmu
- * D/o Gopal Murmu and Nilmoni Murmu
- * S/o Sankar Baski and Churki Baski
- * S/o Sokol Baski and Sumoti Baski
- * S/o Jiten Baski and Rani Baski
- * D/o Lokhai Hansda and Buri Hansda
- * S/o Kadon Murmu and Lakhi Murmu
- * D/o Ramchand Baski and Basanti Baski

- * D/o Mansa Baski and Sokodi Baski
- * D/o Samu Hembrom and Rubi Hembrom
- * D/o Renta Hansda and Chita Hansda
- * D/o Gonesh Mardi and Minuti Mardi

At Ghosaldanga:

D/o Gomati Murmu (pre matured baby girl)
D/o Lakhan Murmu

DEATHS

At Bishnubati:

- * Rosik Murmu (Dahubuto haram), M- 72 years
- * Chaitan Kisku (karam guru), M- 79 years
- * Sumoti Kisku (Dilip Budhi), F- 76 years
- * Dasi Budhi, (W/O Thribhan Hansda), F- 78 years
- * S/o Sokol Hembrom and Golapi Hembrom, 7 months
- * D/o Mithun Baski and Sukhi Baski

At Ghosaldanga:

- * Daughter of Gomati Murmu (pre matured baby)
- * Sumi Murmu, (F-70 years)
- * Som Tudu, (M-61 years)

Educational Achievements at Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati *An Overview*

The *Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha* and *Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha*, two registered organisations, work in the two Santal villages Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati for the last 23 years. From their inception the Sangha's main focus has been education. When they began, each village had only one single student who had passed the Madhyamik Examination. They were Sona Murmu in Ghosaldanga and Boro Baski in Bishnubati. No other student attended High School then. Since Sona and Boro began to organise the educational activities in their respective village, the picture gradually changed. Each of the two villages now operates

- * one kindergarten (with lunch),
- * one coaching centre for Primary School pupils (evenings),
- * one coaching centre for Secondary School students (mornings and evenings).

Since 1996 the Sangha runs the *Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV)*, a non-formal Santal School situated between Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. Children from these two villages attend classes during the day. The main aim of our school (RSV) is to develop an appropriate teaching method and syllabus suitable in a Santal village context.

The following statistics represents the *combined total* of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

Total population : 769 persons.

Ghosaldanga: male 154, female 128 = 282 persons

Bishnubati : male 253, female 234 = 487 persons

Kindergarten: male 25, female 21 = 46 pupils

Coaching Centres:

Primary Level: male 26, female 32 = 58 pupils

Secondary Level: male 31, female 27 = 58 pupils

Since the beginning of the Sangha's educational activities, the following number of students passed the following examinations:

Madhyamik 17

Higher Secondary 7

B.A. 2 (Ramjit Mardi and Gopal Murmu)

B.S.W., M.S.W. 1 (Boro Baski)

Post-Diploma in Fine Arts 1 (Sanyasi Lohar)

11 students have passed the examinations of class IX. 5 students are presently in College and preparing themselves for graduation.

Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram: 5 classes, 94 pupils (male 46, female 48)

The *Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha* and *Bishnuabti Adibasi Marshal Sangha* employs 7 full time teachers and 11 part time teachers. This excludes unpaid volunteers recruited from the senior students of both villages.