

**Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha**

Registration No. S/56375 of 1987-88

Vill. Ghosaldanga, P.O. Sattore 731 236, Dist. Birbhum, W.B., India

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**Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha**

Registration No. S/88087 of 1997-98

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**Annual Report**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

**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. Bishnubati founded the registered society Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha (BAMS) in 1998. 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 Santal day school, situated between Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

The aim of the Sanghas and of the school is the all-round development of the tribal population in these two villages and in many neighbouring villages. Its main thrust, however, has been education. The last page presents an overview of the results GASS has achieved in the last 27 years. Other areas of work have been: medical aid, family health and hygiene, fishery, vocational training, maintaining a Museum of Santal Culture, bio-farming and, last but not least, the maintenance and dissemination of Santal culture.

GASS 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 Organizations 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 12th June 2008.

Given below are the names, designation and profession of its members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Profession</b>
1. Mohan Hembrom	President	Farmer
2. Dudu Murmu	Vice-President	Farmer
3. Sona Murmu	Secretary	Social Worker
4. Nilu Murmu	Assistant Secretary	Farmer
5. Lakshmiram Tudu	Treasurer	Social Worker
6. Bijoy Tudu	Member	Farmer
7. Dhona Hansda	Member	Farmer
8. Dasarath Murmu	Member	Teacher
9. Balui Murmu	Member	Tailor

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

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Profession</b>
1. Boro Baski	President	Teacher
2. Dhona Soren	Vice-President	Farmer
3. Ramjit Mardi	Secretary	Govt. employee
4. Gobinda Baski	Assistant Secretary	Student
5. Bimol Baski	Treasurer	Social Worker
6. Suno Mardi	Member	Farmer
7. Mongla Mardi	Member	Farmer
8. Jithu Baski	Member	Farmer
9. Sanyasi Lohar	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, President BAMS and In-charge of RSV and of correspondence.
- > Gokul Hansda, Dhanyasara, Co-founder of RSV and in charge of Santal cultural programmes and excursions; he is employed as a teacher in a government school.
- > 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, BAMS and RSV.
- > Sanyasi Lohar, Bishnubati, artist and art teacher, social worker.
- > Bimol Baski, Bishnubati, kindergarten teacher, Treasurer of BAMS and guide of Santal Cultural Museum, Bishnubati.
- > Pintu Ghosh, Bishnubati, teacher of the Secondary Coaching Centre at RSV.
- > LakhiramTudu, treasurer of GASS and teacher of the evening school (Primary section).

- > Ramjit Mardi, Secretary of BAMS; he is employed by the West-Bengal government with posting in Bolpur.
- > Parbati Murmu, health worker in Ghosaldanga.
- > Martin Kämpchen, Santiniketan, advisor to GASS, BAMS and RSV; link-person to the "Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati" (Germany). He is a scholar, writer and translator.

#### 4. Education

Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati each run 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. Before the government-run early education centres Anganwadi Centres and Sishu Siksha Kendra (SSK) were established in these two villages GASS and BAMS have been operating a Noon-Meal Feeding Centre since more than two decades. Now, the programmes of both the villages have merged with the Anganwadi Centres. To overcome problems with the medium of instruction in these Centres, the Sanghas have placed two Santal teachers to support the government teachers who do not speak Santali, the native language of the children. Since the last three years at Ghosaldanga a special nutritious food programme is provided for the most malnourished children and pregnant mothers by Dr. Monika Golembiewski thrice a week in the afternoon.

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 SchoembsVidyashram (RSV).

Type of School	Ghosaldanga	Bishnubati
Noon-Meal Feeding Centre/SSK	26 ( M-17, F-9 )	29 (M-16 ,F-13)
Primary coaching centre	26 ( M-14, F-12 )	37 (M-17, F-20)
Secondary coaching centre	15 (M-8, F-7)	40 (M-18, F-22)

\* Lunch was given to the children in all the centres for six days a week.

\* From 2013, three more Evening Coaching Centres for primary school students have been opened in three Santal villages. The new Centres are at Bautijol, Panchabanpur and Bandlodanga.

#### Students of Class XI-XII and B.A

Villages	Class-XI-XII	B.A/B.Sc
Ghosaldanga	8 ( M-3, F-5 )	13(M-4,F-9)
Bishnubati	20 ( M-10, F-10 )	16(M-9,F-7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

\* The above students' number is of the current year. The students who have passed class X and above and have left studies or have been absorbed in various jobs have not been included here. Their figure has been given at the end of the report in *The Overview*.

### Employees of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and RSV at a glance

Sl. No	Department	No. of employees	Name of employees
1	Noon-Meal Feeding Centre/Kindergarten	2	Bimol Baski
2	Primary Coaching Centres	3	Lakhiram Tudu, Narayan Murmu, Suno Mardi
3	RSV (KG – class IV)	6	Boro Baski, Mono Murmu, Ranjit Khan (also Warden of the Boys' Hostel), Konika Khan, Pada Murmu (also Warden of the Girls' Hostel), Uttom Baski
4	Secondary Coaching Centre (Class V – VIII)	5	Dasarath Murmu, Mongal Tudu, Bimol Patra, Gobinda Baski, Ramjit Mardi, Swapan Ghosh
5	Coaching Centre (Class- V – VIII) at RSV	2	Deep Das (Mathematics), Samir Kr. Das (English),
6	Hostel(RSV) Class V–X	2	Pintu Ghosh
7	Health Workers	3	Satyanarayan Roy, Rani Baski, Parbati Murmu
7	Cooks	2	Dhona Hansda, Shusila Hansda
8	Garden/Bio-orchard	2	Monotosh Das, Mongal Tudu
9	Night Guards	2	Rupai Hembrom, Nobin Baski
10	Administrator	1	Sona Murmu

\* Most of the teachers are part-timers. The full-time teachers perform administrative duties besides teaching. For example, Bimol Baski, who teaches at the SSK in the morning, also looks after the accounts of BAMS at Bishnubati in the evening. Ramjit Mardi and Lakhiram Tudu, too, perform other duties besides teaching.

## 5. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes

### (a) VILLAGE EVENTS

\* On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013, four members of Rotary Club, Bolpur visited the Evening Coaching Centre at Panchabanpur. The Bolpur branch of the Rotary Club has been supporting us to run the Centre in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Baden-Baden, Germany.

\* On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Dr. Monika Golembiewski conducted the health check-up of the students of Bandlodanga Evening Coaching Centre. Later she also treated the patients of the village and her medical team conducted a TB awareness session.

\* On 20<sup>th</sup> November, Katrien van Beurden, the Artistic Director of the International Theatre Company 'Hotel Courage', and her associates from Amsterdam/The Netherlands performed some of their pantomime sketches as part of a cultural programme at Bishnubati. The village theatre group performed a play on Santal myth. The group was accompanied by Anand Singh Bawa, Honorary Secretary of the Federation of Indo-German Societies in India (New Delhi).

\* On 9<sup>th</sup> December, Martin-da's birthday was celebrated at Prantik, Ghosaldanga. Besides presenting song, music, dance, skits the special item of the evening was the performance of Chadar Badani by the junior leaders of the organization. Chadar Badani is a special art of Santals that is at the verge of dying. This is the only known art of Santals where an artist perform Santal group dance with wooden statues and rest of the group join him with songs and music.

\* On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the **Twenty-Fifth Annual Adibasi Baha Parab** (Santal Spring Festival) was celebrated in Ghosaldanga with great enthusiasm. Like every year hundreds of people from different parts of Birbhum District participated. This year 22 Santal folk groups with their traditional dress and musical instruments participated. The special attraction of this year was the 'Kobi Goana', a Santal poetess reciting the myths of Santal life and culture. The festival started at noon and continued until early next morning. Three Santali drama groups performed their plays. The last three hours of the night were spent with songs and dance. This year, the 'Baha Parab Award' was conferred on the well-known writer Prof. Suhrud Kumar Bhowmik of East Midnapur who personally came to receive it. To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Adibasi Baha Parab, a two-day international conference was held. A comprehensive report is given in the box below.

<p><b>International Conference – Tribes in Transition</b> 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014</p>
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The Silver Jubilee celebration of 'Adibasi Baha Parab' at Ghosaldanga was preceded by a Two Day International Conference on '*Tribes in Transition: Conflict over Identity, Resources and Development*' on 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Santiniketan and the RSV school. The successful completion of the Conference gave a huge boost to the organizers and also sent a strong message to fellow tribals who are in various ways struggling to express their cultural identity in a multicultural Indian society.

The conference was organized by the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi, and Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT). The Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, funded the conference.

The first day of the conference was held at the Sriniketan Campus of Visva-Bharati University. After a brief introduction about the conference by Dr. Ivy Imogene Hansdak, convener of conference, Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati & Chairman of the Xaxa Commission, spoke about the present scenario of the crises that exist among tribals in their cultural identity. The Keynote speaker, Prof. G.N.Devy, Director, Bhasha Research & Publication Centre, Vadodara, moved the audience by his extensive knowledge and experience in the field of tribal culture and literature. He presented a panoramic view of the crisis tribals in India are going through with their historical and political legacy. Prof. Devy expressed the hope by seeing the conference and the talented young tribals come forward to address these issues.

Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, presided over the inaugural session. Besides appreciating the initiative he expressed happiness that the University could be part of this process.

The first panel discussion of the day was on 'Tribal Cultural Heritage and Conflict over Identity'. The panelists were Prof Virginius Xaxa; Mr. Tonol

Murmu, AISWACS, Kolkata; Kumar Rana, Senior Research Associate, Pratichi (India) Trust. The paper of Ludwig Pesch, Secretary, Tribal Cultural Heritage in India Foundation, Amsterdam was read out in absentia by Prashant Kumar Hembrom, a scholar of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. The session was moderated by Prof. Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, formerly Director, Anthropological Survey of India.

The second panel was on 'Translation and Publication of Tribal Literature' and the panelists were Dr. Anand Mahanand, EFLU, Hyderabad; Dr. Boro Baski, GBAT; Ruby Hembrom, Adivaani, Kolkata. The session was moderated by Prof. G.N.Devy. The post-lunch session began with A.K. Pankaj, Jharkhandi Bhasha Sahitya Sanskriti Akhra, who was supposed to present the paper in the last panel but could not due to some miscommunication problem and presented it separately soon after the lunch break. Sister Gemma Toppo's visual presentation was on 'Tribal Women and Human Trafficking'. It created a lasting experience for many in the audience. The presentation was followed by a cultural programme beginning with Rabindra Sangit in Santali by the well-known singer Barka Soren of Kalitola village. After this Baul and Santali songs presented by the well-known Santali fusion singer Rathin Kisku, Santiniketan. The first day session ended with a Santali group dance by the villagers of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. After the programme Prof. Devy's brief visit to the RSV school and the Santal Cultural Museum at Bishnubati and his kind words of appreciation were a special encouragement.

The venue of the second day's programme was the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV) at Ghosaldanga/Bishnubati. The first panel of the day was on 'Tribal Healthcare and Community Development'. Panelists were Dr. Shantidani Minz, Christian Medical College, Vellore; Dr. Prabir Chatterjee, Kolkata; Ms. Kirsty Milward, Suchana, Birbhum; Fr. David Solomon SJ, Johar HRD Centre, Dumka. Dr. Monika Golembiewski's presentation was delivered in absentia by her colleague Satyanarayan Roy, Santiniketan. Gokul Hansda, President, Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) presided over the session. The second session was 'Writers' Meet' and the writers presented their speech were Marshal Hembrom; Durbin Soren, Sibin Soren and Sunder Manoj Hembrom. Dr. Ivy Imogene Hansdak moderated the session.

The post lunch session was on 'Tribal Youth: Problems of Employment' and panelists: Prof. Sonajharia Minz, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Santiniketan; Fr. James Toppo SJ, St. Xavier's College, Maharo; Prashant Kumar Hembrom, MBA student, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata; Abhay Xaxa, Ph.D. scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Fr. David Solomon SJ, Director, Johar HRD Centre, Dumka was the moderator.

The two day conference ended with the Valedictory Session. The speakers were Dr. Boro Baski, Co-Convenor of the conference; Dr. Martin Kämpchen, Santiniketan, and Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya, Dept. of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, delivered the valedictory speeches. A Vote of Thanks was given by Sona Murmu, Trustee, GBAT.

On 27 March, Sanyasi Lohar of Ashadullahpur (Bishnubati) unveiled six murals on the mud walls of Bishnubati huts. They depict scenes from Santal myths and festivals. Sanyasi with his team of artisans from around Bishnubati had prepared this innovative venture. The murals can be seen on the internet under [www.tinpahar.com](http://www.tinpahar.com). Many village people, students, artisans arrived to witness the event. Sanyasi introduced the unveiling ceremony and Gokul Hansda explained each scene which was depicted.

### **(b) EXCURSIONS – EVENTS – TRAINING outside the villages**

\* On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 30 youth from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati went to the ‘Birbhum Blossom Theatre House’ near Illambazar forest to see the play ‘Matir Ghorer Gan’ (Song of a Mud House). Partha Gupta, the director of the Theatre House and of the play, staged the drama with the Santal men and women of local villages. As the play was uncommon to the Santals, it created great enthusiasm among the audience. The Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, sponsored the theatre workshop.

\*From 15<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, five teachers from RSV visited the school of Grammanoyan Milon Samity, Khejurtola (District South Dist. 24-Parganas). Besides observing the school in session the group also saw the various activities, run by the Samity with the mothers’s group, like Bratachari (physical training) and handicrafts like embroidery, sewing etc. The teachers were invited by the Secretary, Jaykrishna Kayal, who is also a trustee of the Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust and closely attached to our organization since many years.

\*From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, Boro Baski went to Jharkhand and Orissa with a documentary film team to document the life and works of four Santal writers. The four Santali writers are Shobanath Besra, Orissa; Thakur Prasad Murmu, Ranchi; Dhirendrath Baskey, Kolkata and Bhaiya Hansda, Dumka. In the first phase of the shooting Shobanath Besra and Thakur Prasad Murmu’s life and work were documented. The two other authors’ lives were shot in November and December. Boro Baski was the interviewer of the film. Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi is funding the project.

\* On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014, senior members of the Sanghas had a meeting with the officials of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, headed by Prof. Samir Ranjan Sikdar, to discuss the “Scheduled Tribe–Specific Rural Biotechnology Programme”. This is meant to be implemented by the Sanghas. The meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Hirak Ghosh, Santiniketan.

\* In August-September, Sanyasi Lohar went to attend two Art Workshops at the Summer School for Artists in Salzburg (Austria). During these five weeks he stayed with our friend and sponsor Georgine Hauptmann. Sanyasi re-visited the Ecole d’Humanité in Switzerland (where he had earlier stayed as an art teacher three times) with Jakob Dörr and Martin Kämpchen. Further, he conducted three exhibitions of his art work in Germany (Stuttgart, Heilbronn and Frankfurt) and visited our friend and sponsor Ludwig Pesch in Amsterdam/The Netherlands. The exhibitions were organized by the junior group of Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, especially by Tim Weinert, Alik Habigt, and Jakob Dörr.

### **6. The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV)**

The Rolf SchoembsVidyashram (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. Gokul Hansda was its full-time teacher until June 2010,

Boro Baski remains its Principal to date. The three part-time teachers are Mono Murmu, Uttom Baski and Konika Khan. Two full-time teachers, Ranjit Khan and Pada Murmu (from April 2013), are also the Wardens of the Boys' and Girls' Hostels respectively. Sanyasi Lohar, an ex-student of Kala Bhavan and resident of Bishnubati (Ashadullapur), is the art teacher. There are also two cooks, Dhona Hansda and Sushila Hansda, who cook for the school and hostel students.

The school organises several regular programmes throughout the year. They include the celebration of Teachers' Day (on 5<sup>th</sup> September), of Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday (in the 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. This year RSV had 82 students (M-41, F-41).

In July 2010, a special Coaching Centre for classes IX to X has been started at the RSV campus. The idea behind this Centre is to provide quality teaching and guidance to the students who prepare themselves for their final examination (class X). Another reason is to reduce the pressure of the teachers in the village centres at Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati who already suffer from the shortage of experienced teachers. This year there were 19 (M-8, F-11) students and three teachers in the Coaching Centre.

Some of the activities of the RSV are given below:

\* On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Dr. Shymal Kumar Mitra, an engineer from Kolkata came to RSV with some of his colleagues to discuss the collaboration in building sanitary toilets in the villages.

\* On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014, Three RSV teachers Mono Murmu, Ms. Pada Murmu and Sri. Uttom Baski had gone to the Kolkata Book Fair 2014. They bought a few dozens of children books and teaching material for the library.

\* On 25<sup>th</sup> February, a new boys' hostel building was inaugurated. After demolition of the old thatch-roof building which was originally meant for mushroom cultivation, an entirely new, concrete building with a verandah on three sides was erected. The building was funded by the Schöck Family Trust, Baden-Baden/Germany. The engineer was Snehadri Chakraborty. Prof. Dr. Klaus Jork from Darmstadt/Germany was the chief guest of the inaugural session.

\* On 5<sup>th</sup> May, the annual evaluation meeting of employees of Bishnubati, Ghosaldanga and RSV was held. All staff members of the respective fields presented a progress report of their work. Several resolutions have been passed by the members to introduce more efficiency and transparency into the work.

\* On 10<sup>th</sup> May, the teachers of RSV presented demonstration teaching classes to the teachers and students of Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga. This session is the follow-up of the teachers' training programme conducted last year by Soumitra Bhattacharya and Sushila Marandi of Loreto Day School Sealdah, Kolkata.

\* From 11<sup>th</sup> August to 13<sup>th</sup> September, Caroline Schneider, a student volunteer from Germany stayed for two months in the village and taught music, painting and gave English lessons to the students. She was given a farewell by the students at RSV through a small cultural programme.

\* On 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Independence Day of India and also the Foundation Day of RSV was celebrated. Besides flag hoisting and a cultural programme the special attraction of the day

was the friendly football match between RSV students and students from neighbouring villages. At the end, a full meal was served to everybody.

\* From 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to January 2014, Angelina Hörner and Imke Gerhardt two students from Germany stayed for three months with us. They stayed in the girls' hostel at RSV campus. Besides teaching English and sports to the junior students they also took up projects on music and gymnastic with the hostel students which they performed during the birthday celebration of Martin-da on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Angelina and Imke also organized educational tour with the students to Santiniketan and attended various family and social occasions in the villages.

\* On 15<sup>th</sup> September, Rolf and Anne Bucher, two expert gardeners from Germany, showed a film on their farming work with the Masai tribe in Kenya/Africa. They also described the life and work of the tribe which is so different from the Santals.

\* On 25<sup>th</sup> October, Rolf Bucher's birthday was celebrated at the RSV school. The hostel students and the senior staff of the organization were present for the occasion. The celebration was followed by the grand lunch together.

## 7. RSV Education Extension Programme: Evening Coaching Centres (ECC)

Education Extension Programme was started in 2013 in the three neighbouring villages with the intention to support the students of RSV who live in those villages, in their studies. Further, the Centres are meant to create a linkage between the parents and the school to assess the problems students face in the school as well as in the families. In every village there are two teachers who live in the same village running the Evening Coaching Centre. The Centres begin at 6 pm and continue until 8 pm every day, except on Sundays. Apart from teaching, the teachers also advise the parents about the education of their wards. Regular attendance of the students is kept at the Centre. If a child discontinues the parents are informed immediately. There are also regular parents meetings and health checkups for the children and parents. Mono Murmu, the teacher of RSV is the supervisor of the Centres. The three new Centres are Panchabanpur, Boutijal and Bandhlodanga. Some statistics of the Centres is given below.

### Short description of Evening Coaching Centres.

Village	Boys	Girls	Total student	Teacher
Panchabanpur Started 1 Jan.2013	19	17	36	Kalidasi Mardi & Somnath Murmu
Bautijal Started 21 March 2013	19	15	34	Parbati Kisku & Kalichoron Murmu
Bandhlodanga Started 1 March 2013	45	35	80	Mridula Tudu & Gopal Mardi

\* On 23<sup>th</sup> December 2013, a picnic for all the students of five evening school took place at the RSV campus. This is the first time the students from all the evening schools including Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati took part. The whole day was spent with various games and sports activities. About 250 students had lunch together in the play ground of the school.

### **8. Hihiri Pipiri (Students' Home)**

Hihiri Pipiri is the Students' Home situated next to RSV. The home started as a Day Care Centre in 2006 and transformed into a full-fledged home for the students in 2007. This year, 30 students (15 boys and 15 girls) were staying in the two hostel buildings. The students are mostly former RSV students and hail from an economically weak or disturbed family-background. Students of Class IV to X stay in the hostel; they study at various government high schools within a ten km radius. Besides studying under the guidance of our teachers, they play, sing, paint, perform theatre sketches and work in the garden of the school. This year, too, the students performed a number of dances and a drama in different programmes in our villages and outside.

### **9. Junior Leaders**

In the last two or three years, the second generation of leadership in Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati has organized itself and formed a group of young men who are College students or have meanwhile completed their studies and have either been absorbed in the work of the Sanghas as teachers and social workers or begun salaried work elsewhere. This group of six to ten persons is lead by Ramjit Mardi and has been guided for the last two to three years by Martin Kämpchen. He has regular meetings with them in Santiniketan. The Junior Leaders have begun to execute regular village programmes on their own (i.e. without the monitoring of the Seniors) as for example the Baha Parab. Since this financial year they receive a small sum of money from Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V. (Frankfurt) which is mainly used to attend Spoken English classes.

With the support of the Seniors this group has made great progress and gained in confidence to take up work on their own and develop a vision for the future.

### **10. 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 nature and village life, this orchard was started in 2001 under the guidance of Srikanta Mondal (of Manab Jamin). Hundreds of fruit trees grow on the RSV campus now. Monotosh Das, a full-time worker, tends the entire orchard and sells its produce regularly: 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.

After Monotosh Das received training at the Bose Institute, Falta, he began Beekeeping and mushroom Cultivation, guided by the Bose Institute which kept regular contact with him.

Rolf Bucher and Anne Bucher, organic farmers from Stuttgart (Germany), visited us in October/November 2013 for a third time to proceed with their aim to plant Moringa trees and reap their leaves which have specially rich nutrient value. They pulverised the leaves and prepared "Moringa-biscuits" for the consumption in the hostels, in our RSV midday-meals and in our Nutrition Centres in the neighbouring villages supported by Dr. Monika Golembiewski. After Rolf and Anne left Nilu Murmu from Ghosaldanga follow up the Moringa project. This year, Nilu has planted hundreds of Moringa samples in and around the

RSV campus. He also bakes nutritious cakes and Moringa biscuits once a week for the Feeding Centres.

Since several years, the parents of the sponsored children (i.e. the children who get financial support for their education) work in the Bio-orchard once a week in return for the support they receive for their wards.

### **11. Vocational Training Centre (VTC)**

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) was started at Bishnubati in 2001 with the financial support of the German NGO Agape, Heidelberg. On the ground-floor the coaching classes for standard V to XII are being conducted every morning and evening. And one small room is reserved for Computer training. The Museum of Santal Culture is situated on the first floor of the building. The students maintain the garden and the pond. Gobinda Baski is the teacher-in-charge of the VTC.

### **12. Health, Nutrition and Sanitation**

As in previous years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski treated patients at Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, RSV and the neighbouring villages. After establishing the 'Mother and Child Care Centre' at Mokrapur, Bolpur town three years ago, 10 km away from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, she gives more time treating patients there. The hospital has not only been useful for the villagers to get good health care services but it has been equally useful for the people of the town.

Satyaban Ray, Santiniketan, a trained homoeopath and a health-worker for GASS, BAMS and RSV, keeps direct and regular contact with the patients in the villages and the hospital. He is supported by two health workers: Parboti Murmu at Ghosaldanga, Rani Baski at Bishnubati and Pada Murmu at RSV. Pada Murmu has taken charge from Sumoti Mardi who left last year after her marriage. Dr. Sitaram Banerjee, a general physician of the Government Primary Health Centre, Sattore, has attended our Ghosaldanga Health Centre to treat village patients once a week. Emergency and serious medical cases are referred to the 'Mother and Child Care Centre' at Mokrapur, Bolpur.

The Nutrition Programme and Sanitation Programme continue at Rindanga, Pachabanpur and Ghosaldanga Hindu village under Dr. Monika Golembiewski's guidance. The programme of Rindanga is run by Sanyasi Lohar of Bishnubati. He has founded his own registered society which works closely with GASS and BAMS and with our donor agencies.

### **13. "Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V.", Germany**

In 2008, the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' obtained German government registration in Frankfurt. In the past, the group had functioned informally, headed by Dr.-Ing. Mandarsh 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 take the lead in collecting donations for the day-to-day expenses of our Sanghas and of RSV. We are very grateful to them! Only with their help, we can continue to function. They also receive help from the Kindermissionswerk (The Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / "Sternsinger" Aachen (Germany).

The annual meeting of the registered society took place in June 2013 and was attended by Martin Kämpchen who reported on the progress of the work in the villages and on the plans for the future.

The internet website of the society is [www.dorfentwicklung-indien.de](http://www.dorfentwicklung-indien.de). Some of the text is translated in English.

#### **14. 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 four 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.

Since last year we have 11 more new educational sponsorships from Merck in Darmstadt/Germany, a pharmaceutical company. Arun Kapur, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi also has sponsored three high school students of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. Altogether 33 sponsored students are being supported in various ways. As a policy, any one of the family members of a sponsored child should give one day of work in the campus of RSV. The work includes tilling the soil in the Bio-orchard, cleaning the garden or repairing thatched roofs etc.

#### **15. Partnerships and Hospitality**

- “Shining Eyes e.V.” (Germany) continued their services in the fields of health, nutrition and sanitation.
- The Meditation Centre Sonnenhaus in Beuron (Germany) donates a substantial amount every year towards our regular expenses.
- The Bose Institute (Calcutta) has begun to formulate several projects with the Sanghas which await execution.
- The Merck pharmaceutical company in Darmstadt (Germany) whose executives visited us in 2011, continued to support us financially.
- Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, has begun to support the Evening Coaching Classes since 2013.

Here is a list of some of the guests who we welcomed to our villages and RSV:

Anand Singh Bawa, Honorary Secretary of the Federation of Indo-German Societies in India (New Delhi); Katrien van Beurden, the Artistic Director of the International Theatre Company ‘Hotel Courage’ and her associates from Amsterdam; Sanchayan Ghosh, Kala-Bhavana, Santiniketan; Angelina Hörner and Imke Gerhardt, Germany; Rolf Bucher and Anne Bucher, Organic farmers, Germany; Gopi Ghosh, Agronomist, Santiniketan; Arun Gupta, Banavilla, Birbhum; Tonol Murmu, All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society (AISWACS), Kolkata; Caroline Schneider, Germany; Prof. Klaus Jork, Germany; Dr. Dhuni Soren, Liverpool/Dumka; Kathrin Klein and her husband Torsten, Germany; Erna Lutz and her friend Elfride Woerz, Germany; Alik Habigt, Germany; Nilotpal Maumdar, Dean, Satyajit Roy Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. Dilip Hembrom, Kolkata; Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Germany; Prof. Albert Murmu, Bangladesh, Sharmistha Dattagupta with her friend Holger, Göttingen, Germany; Debasis Shaw, Karigor publishers, Kolkata, Anshuman Dasgupta, Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan; Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya, Department of Social Work, Santiniketan; Dr. Bashabi Fraser, UK; Prof. Somdatta Mondal, Department of English, Visva-Bharati.

## 17. Births and Deaths

### Births: Bishnubati/Ashadullapur

Sl.no	Baby's name	M/F	Parents' name	Village	Date of Birth
1	Sanjana Soren	F	Robi Soren	Bishnubati	15/7/2013
2	Prince Baski	M	Sunil and Nil Baski	Do	5/8/2013
3	Sanjit Hembrom	M	Mongla Hembrom	Do	25/10/13
4	Joyjit Mardi	M	Ramjit and Bhabini Baski	Do	19/1/14
5	Joyeeta Kisku	F	Dilip and Dasi Kisku	Do	24/2/14
6	Raj Murmu	M	Sunil and Chabi Murmu	Ashadullapur	15/3/2014
7	Dipak Baski	M	Budi and Milani Baski	Do	27/5/2014
8	Suraj Baski	M	Sunil and Kusum Baski	Do	14/2/2014

### Deaths: Bishnubati

Sl.no	Deceased person's name	Age	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name
1	Matal Baski	75	M	14/7/2013	Sunil Baski's father
2	Potonga Mardi	70	M	14/6/2013	Khela Mardi's father
3	Churki Soren	65	F	14/3/14	Robi Soren's mother
4	Nemai Lohar	50	M	17/6/2013	Sanyasi Lohar's brother

### Births: Ghosaldanga

Sl.No	Baby's name	M/F	Parents' name	Date of Birth
1	Momini Murmu	F	Budi and Maloti Murmu	7/4/2013
2	Kalpana Tudu	F	Lakhiram and Kobita Tudu	14/6/2013
3	Kohili Tudu	F	Basudev and Sundari Tudu	6/7/2013
4	Kalicharan Tudu	M	Kobiraj and Sukurmoni Tudu	21/3/2014

### Deaths: Ghosaldanga

Sl.no	Deceased person's name	Age	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name
1	Kalo Tudu	76	M	April 2013	Talai's father
2	Mukhi Soren	70	F	May 2013	Lakhowa's grand father

3	Lakhi Murmu	65	F	June 2013	Sonmoni's grand mother
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### **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 28 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 organize 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. A hostel and a special coaching centre for class X and IX have been started since 2007 and 2009 respectively at RSV campus.

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

Total population: 827 persons.

Ghosaldanga: male 162, female 139 = 301 persons

Bishnubati : male 273, female 253 = 526 persons

Nutrition Feeding/Kindergarten: male 33, female 22 = 55 pupils

Coaching Centres:

Primary Level: male 31, female 32 = 63 pupils

Secondary Level: male 26, female 30 = 56 pupils

Since the beginning of the Sangha's educational activities, the following number of students passed the following examinations and placed in various job and professions:

Madhyamik 10

Higher Secondary 7

B. A. 3

BP.Ed 1

B.S.W., M.S.W. 1

M.A. 1

Post-Diploma in Fine Arts 1

#### **Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram:**

Primary School (Class KG to IV): male 41, female 41 = 82 pupils

Hihiri Pipiri Adibasi Hostel (Class V to X): male 15, female 15 = 30 pupils

Special coaching centre (IX and X): male 8, female 11 = 19 pupils

The *Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha* and *Bishnuabti Adibasi Marshal Sangha* have 12 full-time teachers and 18 part-time teachers. This excludes unpaid volunteers recruited from the senior students of both villages.

**For further information about the organization and recent publications please log on to our website-**

Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V., Frankfurt (Germany)

<http://www.dorfentwicklung-indien.de>(in German; English version under preparation)

*Links to recent publications*

<http://www.dandc.eu/articles/220714/index.en.shtml>(English)

<http://www.dandc.eu/articles/220714/index.de.shtml>(German)

### **Publications**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Primer, Part-I)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Primer, Part-II)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Primer, Part-III)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Primer, Part-IV)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Drama)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (Santali Songs)
7. Celebrating Life: The Santal Experiment in Freedom
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (SoantalMuktadharaiprobesh)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Our Village Ghosaldanga (Photo book)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Our Village Bishnuabti (Photo book)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Our School RSV (Photo book)
12. \_\_\_\_\_ A Journey of Ghosaldanga and BishnubatiSantal Village
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Activities and Achievements of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati
14. Photos and Cards on Santal lives