

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

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

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 routed through GASS. In 1996, the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV) was founded, a non-formal Santal day school, situated between Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. From these three centres the work has spread into other Santal villages.

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 29 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 financially.

2. Managing Committees of Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha

Name	Designation	Profession
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 Adibasi Marshal Sangha

Name	Designation	Profession
1. Boro Baski	President	Social worker
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	Artist and Teacher

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 a Santal teacher at Bishnubati to support the government teachers who do not speak Santali, the native language of the children. In Ghosaldanga the amalgamation of teachers has stopped since last two years due to some technical problems. However, 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. 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.

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	18 (M-10, F-08)	15 (M-8, F-7)
Primary coaching centre	22 (M-10, F-12)	42 (M-11, F-31)
Secondary coaching centre	19 (M-7, F-12)	40 (M-17, F-23)

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

Villages	Class-XI-XII	B.A & B.Sc –M.A
Ghosaldanga	5 (M-4, F-1)	8(M-3,F-5)
Bishnubati	21 (M-11, F-10)	14(M-9,F-5)
Total	26	22

* 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 employee	Name of employees
1	Noon-Meal Feeding Centre/Kindergarten	2	Bimol Baski, Parboti Murmu
2	Primary Coaching Centres	4	LakhiramTudu, Saraswati Mardi Narayan Murmu, Parboti Murmu (also health worker)

3	RSV (KG – class IV)	5	Sanyasi Lohar (since August 2015), Dasarath Murmu, Gobinda Baski, Pada Murmu (also Warden of the Girls' Hostel), Ranjit Khan (also Warden of the Boys' Hostel)
4	Secondary Coaching Centre (Class V – VIII)	5	Mono Murmu, Somnath Murmu, Bimol Patra, Uttam Baski, Ramjit Mardi, Swapan Ghosh
5	Coaching Centre (Class- V – VIII) at RSV	2	Kausik Karmakar (Mathematics), Samir Kr. Das (English),
6	Hostel(RSV) Class V– X	2	Pintu Ghosh
7	Health Workers	3	Satyanarayan Roy, Rani Baski, Parbati Murmu (also cooks nutritious food at Ghosaldanga)
7	Cooks	2	Dhona Hansda, Suno Mardi
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, Lakhiram Tudu, Ranjit Khan, Pada Murmu and Parboti Murmu too, perform other duties besides teaching.

5. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes

(a) VILLAGE EVENTS

* On 9th April 2015, like every year the annual children fair was organized at Bishnubati. The school children of Bishnubati and RSV hostel organised various games and put up food stalls for the villagers. The women of the Self Help Group sold food items like ghogni, chop, puffed rice, cucumber, brinjal fry, and lemon juice. At the end the students and the members of the Self Help Groups put up a cultural programme with dances, music, and sketches that continued till 11 pm.

*On 27th July, Gokul Hansda, Sona Murmu and Ramjit Mardi presented their experiences of their German tour (first half of July) before the students and members of the organization. They also showed the photos of the tour.

*On 5th September, like every year Teacher's Day was celebrated at Ghosaldanga. Students from Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, RSV and the three Evening Coaching Centres put up their cultural programme. At the end all, the teachers and senior students had dinner together. Dr. Monika Golembiewski was the special guest of the programme.

* On 9th December, Martin-da's birthday was celebrated at Ghosaldanga. The students of RSV, Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and the villagers presented a cultural programme.

* From 2nd to 7th February 2016, a team from ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, Germany’ came for a visit to the organization. In the seven days of their stay they interacted with the members of the organization and a number of discussions were held about the village work. The team members were Hedwig Oser, Ulrich Oser, Manfred Watzke, Herbert Veltjens, Stefan Kastner, Debu Pal Chowdhury and Marianne Pal Chowdhury.

* On 23rd March, the Twenty-Seventh Annual Adibasi Baha Parab (Santal Spring Festival) was celebrated in Ghosaldanga. Hundreds of people from different parts of Birbhum District participated. 22 Santal folk groups with their traditional dress and musical instruments took part. The festival started at noon and continued until 11 o’ clock at night. This year, the ‘Baha Parab Award’ was conferred on a well-known Santal marriage drummer, Ram Mardi, of Borobagan village, District Birbhum. Mr. Murmu also presented an instrumental performance with his group. Dr. Binoy Kr. Soren, Department of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati University was the chief guest of the programme.

(b) EXCURSIONS – EVENTS – TRAINING outside the villages

* From 24th June to 6th July 2015, a series of meetings was held at Bautijol, Ghosaldanga, Bandlodanga, Bishnubati, Siela, Tantbuni and other villages to discuss the Scheduled Tribes-Bio-technology project of Bose Institute (Kolkata). Until now the Institute which is one of the premier research institutes of India, has been supporting us with Income Generation Programmes only in Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. From this year we became the nodal centre for 11 different villages which accepted the Income Generation Programmes of the Bose Institute. The programmes include mushroom growing, bee keeping, goat and pig rearing, duck and chicken rearing, vermicompost, rain water harvesting. Pintu Ghosh of Bishnubati became the Coordinator of the nodal centre.

* From 30 June to 13 July, three members of GASS and BAMS went to Germany on a cultural tour. They were Gokul Hansda, Sona Murmu and Ramjit Mardi. For Ramjit it was the first trip to Europe. They were invited by the Udo Keller Foundation (Neversdorf). Accompanied by Martin Kämpchen, the team gave performances of Santal culture along with informative meetings in Frankfurt, Beuron, Tübingen, Baden-Baden, Diemarden near Göttingen and in Neversdorf.

In Frankfurt the team met for an informative exchange with the ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati’, organised by Mrs Marianne Pal Choudhury and her team. The village team stayed in the home of Prof. Klaus Jork in Darmstadt and visited the Merck company for an extended campus tour. Thereafter they went to the long-time sponsors, the Sonnenhaus in Beuron and performed and explained their village work. Martin Fröb was the host. Next stop was Tübingen where the village team performed in a primary school, organised by Erna Lutz. In Baden-Baden, the team of four were hosted by Mrs. Sabine Schöck of the Schöck Foundation. In Diemarden near Göttingen, the team was invited by Prof. Sharmishtha Dattagupta and her husband Holger Bartels. The final stop was Neversdorf, the seat of the Udo Keller Foundation, where the team performed for one day in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Foundation.

*On 4th July, Boro Baski went to Fortis hospital in Kolkata to see Kartick Kora of Rindanga village who was admitted. Sanjoy Kora and Pradip Kora the two friends from his village also accompanied him. Kartick had been sent to Falta, one of the training centres of the Bose Institute along with three more boys from the organization. He got sick from his old wound in the leg and became seriously ill. He returned home cured after a week.

* On 21st July, seven supervisors of the ST-Bio-technology Project had a meeting with Mr. Hirok Ghosh, the chairman of the Project, at his residence at Santiniketan.

* On 27th July, two Santali musical albums ‘Ale Ato (Our village- Video)’ and ‘Sedai Katha Sedai Din (Bygone days-Audio)’ were formally launched in the Santal Hul Celebration programme at Dhansara village. The songs and music of the albums were sung and played by the students, teachers and friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati villages. The Tribal Cultural Heritage in India Foundation, Amsterdam, financially helped us to bring out the albums.

*On 29th July, Boro Baski, Monotosh Das and Gobinda Baski went to the Bose Institute, Kolkata, to present the future plan of action and budget of the ST-Bio-Technology project for the year 2015-16. There were four more organizations from different districts of West Bengal who presented their budget.

*On 6th August, a meeting of the teams of Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust and the Shanti Trust, a consultancy agency, was held at the ‘Kasahara’ restaurant at Santiniketan. The subject of discussion was to formulate a guideline for training programme for the teachers of our organization.

*From 1st to 10th November, Boro Baski attended the ‘Bodding Symposium 2015’ at Oslo, Norway. He represented the Museum of Santal Culture at Bishnubati that was also the indigenous partner of the symposium. On the way back to India Boro Baski made a stopover at Frankfurt, Germany, and stayed at the home of Marianne Pal Chowdhury and Debu Pal Chowdhury. He met the members of the ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati’ at Frankfurt and updated them about the village work.

* At the end of November a group of our Junior Leaders from Ghosaldanga and Bishnuabti went for an educational tour to an organization at Ayodhya Hill in Purulia District (West Bengal). The team was headed by Sona Murmu.

* On 12th February 2016, the Annual Picnic of RSV was held at Dhonuktola at the bank of Kopai river. 250 student and teachers of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, RSV, Bandlodanga, Bautijol and Panchabanpur participated. Each student gave 250 grams of rice and Rs.10/ as contribution.

*On 5th March, a Post-Bodding Symposium seminar was held at the Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC) at Dumka. As he had been a participant of the Symposium, Boro Baski went to attend the seminar along with Bimol Baski and Gobinda Baski. Apart from the Indian participants to the symposium many educated Santals from Dumka, West Bengal and Assam participated. Mr. Oddvar Holmedal attended the seminar as the representative of the Norway missions.

* From 23rd March to 4th April, a team of 14 senior students and teachers went for an educational tour to South India. They visited three organizations: the Vidyadaya Visva-Bharati Trust of Mr Ramdas at Gudalur, Tamilnadu; Sita School of Mrs Jane Sahi at Silvepura, Karnataka and Ms. Meenakshi's school at Puvidham, Tamilnadu. The first two organizations are known to us since the last two decades. The team participated in a number of discussions with the members of the host organizations and performed Santal cultural programmes. The tour was organized by Boro Baski and locally coordinated by Mr. Ramdas, the director of Vidyadaya Visva-Bharati Trust.

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. Gokul Hansda was its full-time teacher until June 2010. Thereafter, Boro Baski remained its teacher-in-charge till July, 2015. Sanyasi Lohar is the teacher in-charge of the school since 1st August 2015. He is an ex-student of Kala Bhavan, Visva-Bharati and is a resident of Bishnubati (Ashadullapur). Sanyasi has been the art teacher of RSV since many years. Other teachers are Ranjit Khan, Pada Murmu who are also the Wardens of the Boys' and Girls' Hostels respectively. Gobinda Baski and Dasarath Murmu teach in the morning and in the evening they also teach the High School students in their own village, Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga respectively. The music teacher is Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Dhona Hansda and Suno Mardi are the cooks of the school children.

The school organises several regular programmes every year. They include the celebration of Teachers' Day (on 5th September), of Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday (in the beginning of May), and of Independence Day which is also the Foundation Day of RSV (on 15th August). Other programmes are organised occasionally. This year RSV had 80 students (M-43, F-37).

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 Evening Coaching Centres at Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati who already suffer from the shortage of experienced teachers. This year there were 15 (M-6, F-9) students and four teachers in the Coaching Centre. Mr. Supriyo Sadhu, the headmaster of Bolpur High School, came to teach twice a week. From 2013 RSV has started three more Evening Coaching Centres in the neighbouring villages (Panchabanpur, Bautijol, Bandlodanga) as the RSV education extension programme.

Some of the activities of the RSV were:

* On 16th June, 2015, a Parents-Teachers Meeting was held at RSV. Besides the meeting parents took part in cleaning the campus of the school. They brought spades, sickles and baskets with them to clear the grass from the football ground, vegetable and flower gardens and repaired the lane of the campus by putting extra soil or bricks. Every year as the monsoon starts we clean our campus especially to protect us from snakes.

* On 26th June, Gokul Hansda, Sona Murmu and Ramjit Mardi were given a farewell in a small programme at RSV who left for Germany on 29th of the month. The team headed by Martin-da performed cultural programmes and met our village friends in Germany.

*On 18th July, Rolf Bucher and Anne Bucher, the organic farmers from Germany who had been visiting us since last six years and helping the villagers to develop kitchen gardens gave a lecture to the teachers of RSV on how to introduce gardening and agriculture among the students.

*From 1st August, Boro Baski, who has been the teacher-in-charge of RSV school for many years, has now transferred his responsibilities to another Senior Leader, Sanyasi Lohar of Bishnubai, a trained artist who has worked with us since the beginning. To get a break from the day-to-day running of the school, he has taken employment at the Panchayat Department of the West-Bengal Government. Boro continues to take care of the correspondence and discharges other responsibilities of our Sangha. He continues to be a member of the Finance Committee, the Council and the Trust and is the President of BAMS. As before, he stays on the RSV school campus when not at the Panchayat Office.

* On 28th August, a seminar was conducted at RSV on the method of work of the organization. All the employees and the senior students of the organization participated. To discuss the method of work was important because over the years many new teachers and students have joined in the village work but had no orientation about the philosophy and method of our work. Through open discussion all were satisfied with the outcome of the meeting. Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya and Prof. Ranjit Bhattacharya from Santiniketan discussed the development and the drawbacks of the organization from an outsiders' point of view. They have been witnessing our work since more than two decades.

*On 6th February, 2016, Bio-Orchard shop was inaugurated at RSV campus. Until now the organization has been selling its bio-products through push sales to various people close to Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and in Santiniketan. This is the first time that we opened a shop to sale our products. A small ceremony was organised on the occasion. Mr. Shoban Roy Chowdhury from Bose institute and many villagers were present. Mr. Olaf Iversen, the German Consul General of Kolkata was the chief guest of the programme.

*On 27-28 February, a Two Day Workshop on 'Legal Awareness for Santal Women' was held at RSV school. The programme was organized by the Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati with the financial support of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. Several resource persons in the field legal services were present, among them the Secretary of the Legal Aid Services; Additional Judicial Magistrate, Suri; a practicing lawyer of the Bolpur Court and Protection officer (Domestic Violence). About 100 Santal women from Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and neighboring villages were present.

*On 27th March, a Workshop on Landscape Dialogue, Mukhomukhi-Spring session, was held at RSV. Prof. Sanchayan Ghosh of Kala-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati was the co-ordinator of this programme. Several artists, writers, teachers and villagers participated in the programme.

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 monitored 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. Uttam Baski (Bishnubati) is the supervisor of the Centres from June 2015. Earlier Mono Murmu was supervising the schools. 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	9	10	19	Kalidasi Mardi & Somnath Murmu
Bautijal Started 21 March 2013	19	17	36	Parbati Kisku & Kalichoron Murmu
Bandhlodanga Started 1 March 2013	10	6	16	Mridula Tudu & Gopal Mardi

8. Hihiri Pipiri (Students' Home)

Hihiri Pipiri is the Students' Home situated inside the RSV campus. The home started as a Day Care Centre in 2006 and was 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 economically weak and/or disturbed family-backgrounds. 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 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 Santal Spring Festival (Baha Parab). Since last 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 some progress and gained in confidence to take up work on their own and develop a vision for the future.

10. Volunteers

Since 2003, students from Europe, especially from Germany, have started coming to us regularly. Earlier, the visitors were mostly individual friends of Martin-da who used to come to visit India and on their way back home had been staying for some days to experience village life. But in the last few years German visitors have come as student volunteers who stayed in order to teach and interact with the young pupils of our schools. They engage in teaching English, music, sports, art and crafts. They also learn from us, like Santali and Bengali music, dance and most importantly by staying with us they experience our way of life.

This year number of young men and women from Germany visited us: Karlin Reus, a student from Frankfurt arrived and stayed for three months working with our children, teaching them yoga and gymnastics, English and games. She stayed in Prantik house at the village.

In March Jakob Dörr and his girl-friend Laura, both students in Hamburg, stayed in RSV for four weeks participating in all programmes and teaching the students. For Jakob this is the third time he has visited us.

Clara Edinger and her boyfriend Kilian Scheugenpflug (Frankfurt, Germany), stayed with us for two months worked mostly with the hostel students with music, sports and art work. Kilian prepared study boards for the students that they are still using.

11. 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.

The Bose Institute, Kolkata has been a great support this year in extending our income generation programmes to the neighbouring villages. In 2014, after taking training from the institute we began with only four programmes like mushroom growing, duck rearing, pig rearing and rain water harvesting. This year we are working in 11 villages on nine skills like bee keeping, vermicompost, chicken rearing, fishery, kitchen garden, food processing goat and sheep rearing. 13 persons are involved in the project among them many have got training on these trades from Falta, the training centre of the institute.

* In July 2015, Rolf Bucher and Anne Bucher, organic farmers from Stuttgart (Germany), visited us the fifth time to proceed with their aim to plant Moringa trees and reap their leaves which have especially rich nutrient value. They pulverised the leaves and prepared “Moringa-biscuits” for the consumption in the hostels, in our RSV midday-meals and in the Nutrition Centres in the neighbouring villages supported by Dr. Monika Golembiewski.

After Rolf and Anne left, Nilu Murmu from Ghosaldanga follows up the Moringa project. Nilu has planted hundreds of Moringa saplings 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 children.

12. 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 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. Uttam Baski is the teacher-in-charge of the VTC from February, 2015.

13. Health, Nutrition and Sanitation

As in previous years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski treated patients of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, RSV and the neighbouring villages. After establishing the 'Mother and Child Care Centre' at Mokrapur, Bolpur (10 km away from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati), four years ago, she gives more time treating patients there. The hospital has been useful for the villagers to get good health care services.

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. 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 Mokhrampur, Bolpur and the hospitals of Bolpur.

The Nutrition Programme and Sanitation Programme continue at Rindanga, Pachabanpur and Ghosaldanga 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.

14. "Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V.", Germany

In 2007, the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' obtained German government registration in Frankfurt. In the past, the group had 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 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 substantial help from the Kindermissionswerk (The Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / "Sternsinger", Aachen (Germany) since the inception of the informal 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' by Dr. Mandaresh Mitra at least 25 years ago. The Kindermissionswerk at present adds 20 % to the sum collected by the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati'. We are grateful for this long-lasting cooperation!

The annual meeting of the registered society took place in May 2015 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. Some of the text is translated in English.

Parallel to the Junior Leaders in Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, the German 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' have begun to organise a cell of Junior Leaders who have begun meeting in Germany. All the Juniors have been former volunteers with us and wish to continue to support our work within the frame work of the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati'. Tim Weinert has been elected by the Junior Leaders to lead them.

15. 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 five 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.

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.

16. Partnerships and Hospitality

- The Kindermissionswerk in Aachen (Germany) has continued its cooperation with us. As mentioned in no. 14, it has added 20% to the sum collected by the ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V.’ in donations.
- The Meditation Centre Sonnenhaus in Beuron (Germany) donates a substantial amount every year towards our regular expenses.
- “Shining Eyes e.V.” (Germany) continued their services in the fields of health, nutrition and sanitation.
- Bose Institute, Kolkata, continues its support towards income generation programmes through their Rural Bio-technology programme. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bose Institute in 2014.

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

Sanchayan Ghosh, Kala-Bhavana, Santiniketan; Rolf Bucher and Anne Bucher, Organic farmers, Germany; Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, Vice-chancellor, Visva-Bharati; Ranu Dattagupta, Santiniketan; Prof. Sharmishtha Dattagupta and Holger Bartels, Göttingen, German; Prof. Samir Sikdar and Suban Roy Chowdhury, Bose Institute; Olaf Iversen, German Consul General, Kolkata; Clara Edinger and Kilian Scheugenpflug, Frankfurt; Karlin Reus, Frankfurt; Dr. Binoy Kr. Soren, Department of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati. Jakob Doerr and Laura, Frankfurt. Dr. Monika Golembiewski.

15. Births and Deaths

Births: Bishnubati & Ashadullapur

Sl. No	Child's name (Bishnubati)	M/F	Parents' name	Date of Birth
1	Debolina Mardi	F	Babulal and Fulkoli Mardi	05/8/2015
2	Rimil Baski	F	Uttam Baski	29/4/2015
3	Mallika Murmu	M	Raju and Maloti	10/9/2015
4	Rani Mumru	F	Thakur and Saraswati Murmu	16/11/2015

5	Pallavi Mardi	F	Gopal and Nilmoni Mardi	30/1/2016
6	Sushila Hembrom	F	Sonot and Sumitra Hembrom	09/3/2016
	(Ashadullapur)			
1	Surojit Hansda	M	Bajun and Monika Hansda	29/7/2015
2	Ishita Hansda	F	Rupai and Minu Hansda	27/9/2015

Deaths: Bishnubati & Ashadullapur

Sl.No	Deceased person's name (Bishnubati)	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name
1	Sunil Baski	M	12/9/2015	Late Matal's son
2	Jithu Hansda	M	12/2/2016	Dataram's brother
	(Ashadullapur)			
1	Mama Baski	M	25/12/2016	Hopon Baski (Husband)

Births: Ghosaldanga

Sl.No	Child's name	M/F	Parents' name	Date of Birth
1	Mrinali Murmu	F	Mono and Lakhi Murmu	16/4/2015
2	Soumyodeep Murmu	M	Sonatan and Buri Murmu	23/4/2015
3	Probhat Murmu	M	Dasarath and Buri Murmu	16/5/2015
4	Sagen Murmu	M	Chand and Kobita Murmu	29/7/2015
5	Moushami Murmu	F	Sunil and Moti Murmu	18/8/2015
6	Ranbir Murmu	M	Robin and Kalidasi Murmu	30/9/2015

Deaths: Ghosaldanga

Sl.No	Deceased person's name	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name
1	Bhabini Tudu	F	04/10/2015	Late Bhonda's wife

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 29 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 represent the combined total of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

Total population: 845 persons.

Ghosaldanga: male 174, female 142 = 316 persons

Bishnubati : male 272, female 257 = 529 persons

Nutrition Feeding/Kindergarten: male 15, female 15 = 33 pupils

Coaching Centres:

Primary Level: male 21, female 43 = 64 pupils

Secondary Level: male 24, female 35 = 59 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:

<i>Madhyamik</i>	10
<i>Higher Secondary</i>	9
<i>B. A.</i>	3
<i>BP.Ed</i>	1
<i>B.S.W., M.S.W.</i>	1
<i>M.A.</i>	1
<i>Post-Diploma in Fine Arts</i>	1

Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram:

Primary School (Class KG to IV): male 43, female 37 = 80 pupils

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

Special coaching centre (IX and X): male 6, female 9 = 15 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