

Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust

(Registration under Trust Registration Act 1982)



Annual Report

1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



Address:

Ghosaldanga / Bishnubati

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Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha
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Annual Report

1-April 2020 to 31 March 2021

1. Introduction

The Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) has been founded at Kolkata in 2002. The primary intention of the Trust is to provide continuity to the work and security to the employees of Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha (GASS) and Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha (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. Trustee Members :

Name	Designation/Profession
1. Gokul Hansda	Govt. School teacher
2. Sona Murmu	Secretary, Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha
3. Boro Baski	President, Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha and Former Government employee
4. Snehadri Sekhar Chakraborty	Engineer, Visva-Bharati
5. Sunil Kr. Ghosh	Former AGM, Allahabad Bank
6. Sandhi Mukherjee	Rtd. IPS officer

3. 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 about a dozen 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 34 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.

4. Managing Committees of Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Profession</u>
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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Profession</u>
1. Boro Baski	President	Social worker
2. Dhona Soren (till 14th January)	Vice-President	Farmer
3. Ramjit Mardi	Secretary	Contractual Govt. Employee
4. Gobinda Baski	Assistant Secretary	Student
5. Bimol Baski	Treasurer	Social Worker
6. Saraswati Mardi	Member	Health worker
7. Khukumuni Hansda	Member	Leader, women dance group
8. Jithu Baski	Member	Farmer
9. Sanyasi Lohar	Member	Artist and Teacher

5. The Sangha Council

The Managing Committees are supported by the Sangha Council which meets approximately once a month and to discuss 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 correspondence; former employee of the Department of Panchayet and Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal.
- > 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 in charge of RSV school.
- > 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 and in charge of the Bio-technology project funded by Bose Institute, Kolkata.
- > 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 (Contractual) with posting in Bolpur.
- > Parbati Murmu, health worker in Ghosaldanga.

- > Anil Hembrom, B.Ed student. Responsible for the guests and in-charge of ‘Kick for Help’ programme.
- > Padma Murmu, Teacher of RSV and Warden of Girls’ Hostel.
- > Ranjit Khan, Teacher of RSV and Warden of Boys’ Hostel.
- > 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.

Effect of Covid 19 pandemic:

This is to mention that due to Covid 19 pandemic and a yearlong country wide lockdown from 24th March 2020 the normal activities of the organization had severely affected. The most affected area was education. RSV school has been closed since March of last year and could not be re-opened yet. Other coaching centres had been opened for a short period of time when the intensity of the corona virus was low and lockdown was eased in the state.

Though the education centres were closed the teachers had kept regular contact with the students in their respective villages by visiting them, maintaining Corona guidelines laid down by the Government. They organized awareness programmes about the pandemic and explained to the villagers about the precautions to be taken to avoid the infection. The teachers also helped in distributing face masks, soap, washing powder and ration packets of rice, dal, potato etc. The report presented here will help to get an idea how the activities of the organization functioned during the Corona pandemic and when the pandemic was eased.

6. 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 for more than two decades. Now, the programmes of both

the villages have merged with the Anganwadi Centres run by the Government. 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 children are taught by the Bengali teachers. Since seven years, at Ghosaldanga a special nutritious food programme is being provided for the most malnourished children and pregnant mothers by Dr. Monika Golembiewski three days a week in collaboration with the Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha. Parboti Murmu, the teacher and mother from the village looks after the nutrition programme as well as provides basic awareness to mothers on child health and nutrition. This year due to Corona pandemic only dry food had been provided. There were 15 malnourished children at Ghosaldanga. The Coaching Centres work in the early mornings and in the evenings. Lunch is 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 the three Santal villages Bautijol, Panchabanpur and Bandlodanga.

In addition, the Sanghas run a day school, i.e. a non-formal Santal school called the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV).

Type of School	Ghosaldanga	Bishnubati
Noon-Meal Feeding Centre/SSK	15 (M- 6, F-9)	40 (M-21, F-19)
Primary coaching centre	26 (M-10, F-16)	26 (M-7, F-19)
Secondary coaching centre	18 (M-6, F-12)	30 (M-12, F-18)

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

Villages	Class-XI-XII	B.A & B.Sc -M.A
Ghosaldanga	7 (M-4, F-3)	3(M-1,F-2)
Bishnubati	7 (M-1, F-6)	3(M-0,F-3)
Total	14(M-5. F-9)	6 (M-1, F-5)

* 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 this 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/Sishu Sikha Kendra	2	Bimol Baski, Parboti Murmu
2	Primary Coaching Centres	10	Lakhiram Tudu and Sumitra Baski (Bishnubati); Narayan Murmu, Parboti Murmu, also health worker (Ghosaldanga); Somenath Murmu and Mistri Kisku (Panchabanpur); Kalicharan Murmu and Parboti Kisku (Bautijol); Gopal Mardi and Rina Hansda (Bandlodanga).
3	RSV (KG – class IV)	5	Sanyasi Lohar (since August 2015), Dasarath Murmu, Gobinda Baski, Padma 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, Uttam Baski, Ramjit Mardi, Swapan Ghosh
5	Coaching Centre (Class- VIII to X) at RSV	2	Dip 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 (also cooks nutritious food at Ghosaldanga)
8	Music teacher	1	Sabyasachi Mukherjee
9	Cooks	2	Dhona Hansda, Somenath Murmu
10	Garden/Bio-orchard	2	Monotosh Das
11	Night Guards	2	Rupai Hembrom, Nobin Baski
12	Administrator	1	Sona Murmu
13	Coordinator	1	Boro Baski

* 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, Padma Murmu and Parboti Murmu too, performs other duties besides teaching.

7. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes

a) Village Events

* In April 2020, the Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust took up the awareness and supportive programmes on the Corona pandemic among the people of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and the surrounding villages. The programmes included explaining to the people about the virus and the various precaution measures laid down by the government such as maintaining physical distance, personal and community hygiene, wearing masks etcetera. Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust in this regard had taken up the role in providing material support to the villagers such as distributing self made masks, rations like rice, potato, pulses, soap, washing powder, oil and sugar. Three ladies Sumitra Baski, Sumita Baski and Sumita Hembrom from Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga made the masks at their home for distribution.

*In May, The youth who went to work to Tamil Nadu and Maharastra returned to their respective villages safely. But, as the protocol of the government, all of them had to stay in quarantine for 15 days outside their villages. Subhas Baski and Chede Kisku from Bishnubati and Ashadullapur were in the government quarantine centre at Kendadanga High Madrasah near Bishnubati. Paresh Tudu from Ghosaldanga was in the cultural centre building at Ghosaldanga football ground. Somenath Tudu, the cook of RSV too had to stay with his brother Paresh because he had gone to bring him from the town by bike. The solar light installation at RSV is complete. The installation was first done at the girls' hostel and later at the boys' hostel, kitchen and in the school campus.

*In July, the educational coaching centres of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and the three extension coaching centres resumed their classes in consultation with the parents of the students. RSV school did not resume its classes but the teachers came to the school regularly to make teaching materials and lesson plans.

*In August, the Village Committee members of Bishnubati and the Finance Committee decided to appoint Uttam Baski as the Teacher In-charge of the High School Coaching centre of Bishnubati and Swapan Ghosh to assist him in teaching. After the demise of Bimol Pathar last year there was no full-time teacher at the centre. Uttam who had been the In-charge of the primary evening schools of five villages has been replaced by Ramjit Mardi. Since Ramjit has been transferred to the Block Development Office at Nanoor in his government job, he was unable to attend the classes in the morning at Bishnubati regularly.

A Yoga session with the women of Ghosaldanga village was conducted by Leena Murmu and Sona Murmu.

*In October, the five primary evening coaching centres and two high school coaching centers of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, Bandlodanga, Bautijol, and Panchabanpur regularised their classes.

*In November, a teachers' meeting was held where they presented the reports of their respective centres. The teachers of Panchabanpur and Bandlodanga however mentioned that since many of their students were busy helping their parents in the field harvesting rice they were often drowsy while studying in the coaching centre because of physical tiredness. Letting them go home early and doing more interactive sessions were some of the suggestions given to the teachers to help the students to concentrate in their studies.

*On 25th December, Christmas day was celebrated at the school in which the students, teachers of RSV and all educational centres took part. On this occasion the students of the Department of Mathematics, Visva-Bharati University donated school bags, pen, pencil and warm clothes to the students of RSV, Tantbuni and Taipukur villages.

*In January 2021, All the education centres were on holidays for seven days because of Sorhae festival. Even after reopening the centres, the attendance of the students were low as many of them had gone to visit their relatives with their parents after the festivals or visa-vise. High school students of Bishnubati and Boro Baski had brought out video albums of Sorhae song and dance that were shot in Bishnubati.

Mr. Roshan Kumar Yadav, who has recently completed his Master degree in theatre from Pondicherry University, is staying at the boys' hostel with two senior students. He has started a theatre workshop with the junior and senior students separately to boost up the students' self confidence, mental concentration and physical energy.

*In February, The Saraswati (Goddess of learning) puja was celebrated on 16th February and thus the evening classes were suspended for 3-4 days. In Ghosaldnga and Bishnubati the special food 'Khichuri' was served to the villagers. Though Saraswati puja is a Hindu festival, nowadays Santal youth also celebrate in some villages.

(b) Excursions – Events – Training outside the villages

*. 9th August, the World Indigenous Peoples' Day was celebrated at Ghosaldanga football ground with speech by Sona Murmu and other teachers followed by songs and dance performance by the children. Due to Covid the usual procession covering several villages of the area had to be cancelled this year.

Gokul Hansda and Boro Baski took part in the on-line conference on the subject "Adivasi Wisdom" on 9th August organized by Kolkata Creative Centre.

*Dasae' is one of the important festivals of Santals. The dance group of Ghosaldanga headed by Ramjit Mardi, Anil Hembrom, Lakhiram and others covered five different villages of the area and performed in more than 400 families. The dance group from Bishnubati also did the same.

* Boro Baski gave a Webinar talk on the making of the Museum of Santal Culture at Bishubati. The talk was organized by the “Paschimbanga Sangharalaya Samity”, Kolkata.

*The senior member of the organization also had a Zoom conference with a Delhi based organization ‘ImmerseGo’ on the Environment Learning Module through Arts & Indigenous Wisdom’.

8. The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV)

The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram 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, Gobinda Baski, Maloti Murmu, Pada Murmu who are also the Wardens of the Boys’ and Girls’ Hostels respectively. Dasarath Murmu teach in the morning and in the evening he also teaches the High School students in his own village Ghosaldanga. The music teacher is Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Since last September 2018 a cultural class is conducted on every Saturdays. Dhona Hansda and Somenath Tudu are the cooks of the school children.

The school organises several regular programmes throughout the year. They include the celebration of Teachers’ Day (on 5 September), of Rabindranath Tagore’s Birthday (in the beginning of May), and of Independence Day which is also the Foundation Day of RSV (on 15 August). Other programmes are organised whenever an occasion arises. From 2019 the Museum of Santal Culture at Bishnubati has been included in the curriculum to be studied by the students. Every class visits the museum as per their routine and Bimol Baski, the keeper of the museum, explains to the students the items. This year RSV had 113 students (M-60, F-53).

From 2013, RSV has started three more Evening Coaching Centres in the neighbouring villages (Panchabanpur, Bautijol, Bandlodanga) as a part of RSV Education Extension programme.

Some of the activities of RSV were:

*In June 2020, after the nationwide total lockdown that began from 24th March, now as the lockdown was eased partially the teachers' meeting was held at RSV to explore the possibilities of resuming the activities of the organization by maintaining the guidelines given by the government.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee, the music teacher also started his lessons twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday.

The teachers of RSV have prepared mango pickle from the mangos that had fallen due to the Kalbishaki storm.

*In July, A short condolence gathering was held at RSV by the teachers on the sad demise of our two good friends and well wishers of our village work Ms. Mechtild Jahn and Dr. Rainer Jork. Snehadri Chkraborty delivered a short speech on their long association with our village work. A letter of condolence was sent to Dr. Rainer da's son Dr. Hagen Jork. Many of us know him from our visit to Dresden in 1998.

*In August, The Independence Day and the foundation Day of the RSV school was celebrated on 15th August with minimum attendance of the teachers and students of the organization. Beside flag hoisting a small seminar was held for the teachers.

Maloti Murmu, the teacher of RSV has been transferred to Ghosaldanga coaching centre and Konika Khan of Ghosaldanga has been brought back to RSV for the convenience of the work. Konika later resigned from the job due to her personal reasons.

*In September, RSV school resumed its classes with students of each class being called on alternate days. The main reason to bring back the students to school is to help them re-connect with their books and studies through various educational activities like reading story books, singing, painting and revising the previous lessons. Providing nutritious food to the students is another important reason.

This year the teachers' day was celebrated at RSV on 5th September in a low profile manner. Besides some songs by the teachers, a short story reading session was presented by Gobinda Baski. Gokul Hansda and Boro Baski also shared their experience of participating in a Webinar discussion on the 'Indigenous Knowledge'.

Mr. Ludwig Pesch, an old friend of our organization, had organized a small programme to commemorate the 100th year of Rabindranath Tagore's speech in Paradiso, Amsterdam (1919) along with his team members of the Tribal cultural Heritage in India Foundation in Amsterdam. For the occasion the teachers of RSV had prepared a video with a Santali song and a short speech on how Tagore's idea of education and rural development has inspired our village work and a Tagore song in Santali.

*In November, a sports programme was organized for the students of RSV school and coaching centres. Manabesh Das and Tanmayee Karmakar, two master degree/post graduate students of the Social Work department took the initiative for the programme which were also part of their month-long internship course in the organization. They also presented their experience of working in the organization at RSV and suggested their views to make certain areas of activities better.

The installation of solar light in the RSV campus is completed. The solar panels are put in three different places. The maximum panels are installed on the rooftop of the kitchen which covers the kitchen, office building, garden path and the community room. And other two installations are on the roof of the girls' and boys' hostels respectively. All the installations are working well and giving good light. The work was stopped for several months due to Covid-19 pandemic and prolonged lock down.

Student strength at a glance at RSV

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
LKG	7	7	14
UKG	8	12	20
I	8	12	20
II	16	4	20
III	12	5	17
IV	9	13	22
LKG to IV	60	53	113

9. RSV Education Extension Programme:

Education Extension Programme was started in 2013 in three neighboring 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) was the Supervisor of the Centres since June 2015 to September 2020. Since then Ramjit Mardi has been supervising the schools. The three new Centres are Panchabanpur, Bautijal and Bandhlodanga. Some statistics of the Centres is given below.



Nutritious food being provided to the children when classes suspended due to Covid-19.



Children at the RSV school when classes suspended due to Covid-19



Winner- 'Kick For Help' team being awarded at Ballavpurdanga football ground.



Museum Day programme at the museum campus.



Food ration being packaged for the distribution



Mask distribution to the villagers.



Coaching class for senior students maintaining Covid-19 guidelines.



Health check up at Ghosaldanga dispensary.

Evening Coaching Centres at a glance.

Village	Boys	Girls	Total no. of students	Teachers
Panchabanpur Started 1 Jan.2013	4	5	9	Mistri Kisku & Somnath Murmu
Bautijal Started 21 March 2013	11	7	18	Parbati Kisku & Kalichoron Murmu
Bandhlodanga (A) Started 1 March 2013	10	12	22	Gopal Mardi
Bandhlodanga (B) Started 1 March 2013	14	13	27	Rina Mardi
Total- 3 centers	39	37	76	6 teachers

10. Hihiri Pipiri (Students' Home and Coaching Centre)

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 hostel for the male students in 2007. This year 30 students (15 boys and 15 girls) were enrolled in the two hostel buildings but due to Covid pandemic the hostels had been closed. 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 the students could only participate in the selected program of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.

Some of the activities of the hostel and coaching centre were-

In July 2010, a special Coaching Centre for classes IX to X has been started at the RSV hostel campus along with the hostel students. The idea behind this Centre is to provide quality teaching and guidance to the students who prepare themselves for their final examinations (class X). Another reason is to reduce the pressure of the teachers in the village Coaching Centres at Ghosaldanga

and Bishnubati who already suffer from a shortage of experienced teachers. This year there were 51 (M-19, F-32) students (including the hostel students) and four teachers in the Coaching Centre. Dr. Supriyo Sadhu, the headmaster of Bolpur High School, came to teach twice a week on Tuesday and Saturday.

*In July, The morning Coaching class for the hostel and the external students of class-VIII to X had continued until 23rd July as the second lockdown in the state began from 24th July. The duckery programme had to be closed temporarily due to lack of regular supervision in the campus

*In September, the hostels were still closed but the students who are from nearby villages came regularly for their coaching classes. The students also took part in all the activities like cleaning the campus and taking care of the garden, fishery pond, vermicompost and bee keeping.

Half an hour meditation and interaction session has been reintroduced in the hostel coaching class from this month. The morning prayer was discontinued during Corona and earlier students were attending prayer with hostel students.

*In October, Pintu Ghosh and his hostel students implemented the mulching method for growing ginger that Annalena Wagner and Jahannes Ritz, two German student volunteers, experimented with and taught them while staying here for five months. The ginger plants have grown very healthily and they are all so happy with the development.

*In March, 2021, eight senior students both boys and girls also have started staying in the hostels after a year of lockdown. Pintu Ghosh, the head teacher of the hostel students too has resumed the evening coaching.
From this month meditation has been included in the prayer which is held every day in the morning before class.

Beside regular studies cleaning, gardening, vermicomposting, bee keeping and other extra-curricular activities have continued. The yields of Onion and ginger have been very good but the fishery was not satisfactory due to unknown reasons. Nine new cygnets have hatched. They roam around the campus happily.

After the closure of the duck rearing project for more than six months 50 new ducks were introduced in the pond who joined the four swans that were already in the campus.

11. Bio-orchard (on RSV Campus)

Biological farming (farming without pesticides and chemical fertilisers) 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. From 2003 to 2006 Srikanta Mondal (of Manab Jamin) had guided us to develop the orchard more systematically. Over a hundred fruit-trees grow on the RSV campus. Monotosh Das, a full-time employee, looks after the entire orchard and sells its produce regularly: fruits, vegetables and by-products like jam and jelly at local markets in Bolpur and Santiniketan.

Since 2014 the Bose Institute, Kolkata has been a great support to us in extending our income generation programmes to the neighbouring villages until 2018. After the end the Bose Institute's project we continue to run some selected trades with our own resource. This year we have worked on six trades in the RSV campus and they are- bee keeping, vermicomposting, fishery, duck rearing, kitchen garden and goose rearing. All these trades are looked after by the hostel students as their extra-curricular activities with the guidance of Pintu Ghosh, the teacher in-charge of the hostel students.

This year Monotosh Das has sold the guava worth Rs.5000/ and lemon worth Rs. 2000/ besides the regular sale of turmeric powder. This year the rice that was produced from the organization's land was partly distributed to the needy parents of the students and the rest were sold. Earlier the rice was used for the mid day meal for the students. This is to mention that the products that were sold are only after fulfilling the requirements of the school and the inmates staying in the campus.

12. Museum of Santal Culture

Museum of Santal Culture was established in 2007 in Bishnubati with the financial support of the Indian Museum, Kolkata. Besides exhibiting the Santal cultural items in the museum we also talked and displayed the posters in various local fairs and rallies to disseminate the ideas of a community museum. The Museum also celebrates its annual Museum Day on 9th December and conducts

seminars and workshops on Santal life and their cultural heritage. In 2015, the museum had been one of the indigenous partners of an International Symposium, the Bodding Symposium 2015 at Oslo, Norway. The symposium was organized by the University of Tromso and the Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo. In this way we have gradually received local and international recognition for our community museum where the community itself maintains the museum.

Some of the programmes of this year are given below-

*In September 2020, a poetry recitation and a film show programme were organized by Paresh Soren, Rupchand Hansda and Bimol Baski at Bishnubati.

*In December, the Museum day was celebrated on 9th December at the museum campus in keeping with Covid -19 guidelines. Only the students, teachers and the villagers and some selected guests from Santiniketan participated in the programme. A Santali short story reading and a short Mahale play ‘Pataiche’ were the main programmes of the Museum day. Dr. Pardip Kr. Mondal, the curator, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati was the chief guest of the celebration. Other distinguished guests were Dr. Dhoneswar Majhi, Dept. of Santali, Visva-Bharati; Sundar Manoj Hembrom, Bandel, Hooghly; Dr. Kalachand Mahele, Kalyani University; Gauri Tudu, Santiniketan.

13. Vocational Training and Youth Empowerment

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. After the end of Agape project the building has been transformed into the Museum of Santal Culture in two phases in 2007 and 2019. The coaching class also has been shifted to a new house situated in the same campus.

The vocational training had been very irregular for several years until in 2017 Mr. Pankaj Mukherjee, an educated young man from Bolpur town took up the responsibility to reorganise the village youth and guide them to pursue the vocational courses according to their talent and interest.

Some activities of the vocational training and Youth empowerment programmes are given below.

*The youth who had been working and taking training in various institutions outside the village had returned to their respective villages due to Corona pandemic and nationwide lock down. As the lockdown eased the boys have slowly returned to their duties and trainings in their respective places.

* Dataram Tudu and Paresh Tudu returned to Hyderabad to work in Barbeque Restaurant; ** Robinath Hembrom joined as **CNC operator in Tambaram, Tamilnadu**.

* After completing medical lab technician course Rupchand Hansda from Bishnubati village joined '**Diploma in Radiology**' course in the Burdwan Medical College Hospital from January.

* Pradip Hansda, Avinash Soren and Lakhiram Mardi have resumed their work in **Peerless Inn hotel in Durgapur**.

* Raju Murmu's practical examination in Fitter Trade course has started in **Ramakrishna Mission**, Narendrapur, Kolkata.

* Manoda Hembrom and Sumitra Hembrom who had been pursuing General Duty Assistant course in Belur Shoromojibi Pathshala, their institute has not yet re-opened.

* Paresh Soren has been conferred the best camper award in absentia in an eventful programme at Belur. Four members of our organization participated in the **Rock Climbing Training Course at Joychandi Pahar, Purulia** held last year before the Pandemic started. All the youth who have joined in their respective services and training are former students of RSV school.

14. Kick for Help:

The Football Coaching Camp, funded by the German foundation 'Kick for Help', has been continuing since 15th December 2018. The young girls and boys from Ghosaldnaga, Bishnubati and surrounding villages are members of

this camp. The foundation was founded by Norbert Neuser, a German member of European Union Parliament. Mr. Neuser visited our village in 2020 and witnessed the training camp in 2020. Some important tournaments played in this year are-

*On 23-25 February 2019, both the boys and girls team participated in the football tournament organized by the Keoda Young Star Club;

*On 28th February, the boys' team played in a friendly football match with Surojit Sriti Sangha, Trisulapoti, Bolpur at the Ghosaldanga football ground;

*In October, both the teams had participated in three tournaments. In one match the girls' team took the second position and boys' team became champion in three tournaments.

*In December, the junior boys' team played a friendly football match with the Fuldanga football team at the home ground at Ghosaldanga.

* In January 2021, the girls' team of Kick for Help participated in a friendly football match at the Adibasi mela ground at Bonerpukurdanga village

*In March, seven under-19 boys had gone to Kolkata to give trials for the selection in the major football clubs. One of them is selected from the preliminary trial and other are disqualified due to their height and weight. More than two hundred boys from different parts of the district had participated in this trial game.

15. Volunteers

Since 2003, students from Europe, especially from Germany, have been coming to us regularly. Earlier, the visitors were mostly individual friends of Martin-da who came to visit India and on their way back home stayed for some days to experience village life. But since about a decade German visitors have been coming as student volunteers who stay 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 because of the Covid 19 pandemic no student volunteer had come to the organization.

16. Health, Nutrition and Sanitation

As in previous years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski treated patients of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, RSV and the neighbouring villages. After establishing the ‘St. Mary’s Child & Mother Health Care Centre’ (SMCMHCC) at Mokrampur, Bolpur (10 km away from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati), she gives more time treating patients there. Satyaban Ray, Santiniketan, a trained homoeopath and a health-worker for GASS, BAMS and RSV is the in-charge of the hospital when Dr. Monika is out of India. The hospital has been useful for the villagers to get good health care services. Emergency and serious medical cases are referred to the Government Sub-divisional hospitals at Bolpur and to the Hope Hospital, Kolkata.

Three health workers: Parboti Murmu of Ghosaldanga, Rani Baski of Bishnubati and Padma Murmu at RSV are responsible of the health care activities of the organization. The health workers works under the direct supervision of Satyaban Roy. 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.

Some important medical activities are given below-

*Budhan Hembrom (M-27) from Ghosaldanga had been treated for tuberculosis and medication is continuing.

*Two babies from Ghosaldanga and one from Bishnubati had been checked up for heart problems.

* Monika Hansda (F-42) from Bishnubati had been operated for Cataract and she is alright now.

Three children aged between 9 months to 2 years from the villages were admitted at the St. Mary’s Child and Mother Care hospital at Makrampur this month due to fever, cold and malnutrition, and are doing well now; Dr. Monika

Golembiewski came to Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati to treat the patients for the first time ever since Covid pandemic spread a year back.

17. “Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V.”, Germany

The ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati’ obtained German government registration in Frankfurt in 2007. The organisation has an 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. It takes the lead in collecting donations for the day-to-day expenses of our Sanghas and of RSV and for capital expenditures to maintain and improve the educational institutions.

Furthermore, in 2009 the organization also started a sponsorship to support the education of the girls and boys in the hostels. The sponsors give the money for all the expenses.

We are very grateful to them! Only with their help, we can continue to function. They also receive substantial help from the Kindermannswerk (The Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / “Sternsinger”, Aachen (Germany). The Kindermannswerk 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 19. September 2020 and was attended by Martin Kämpchen who reported on the progress of the work in the villages and on the plans for the future.

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 volunteers with us in India and thereafter wish to continue to support our work within the framework of the ‘Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati’. Judith Blohm und Laura Dietrich have been elected by the Junior Leaders as their spokesperson.

The internet website of the society is www.dorfentwicklung-indien.de. Some of the text is translated in English.

18. Sponsorship

Helping the sick and physically weak children and mothers of the villages is one of the core programmes of our organization. In the beginning the support had been mostly to the sick or needy persons. Since the last six years, with the support of Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, Germany the sponsorship programme has been broadened and the support has been extended to needy students who aspire to take vocational training and coaching for special courses.

The hostel students of RSV are sponsored by the Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, Germany. The sponsorship of the hostel students covers all the expenses like food, accommodation, tuition fee etc. As a policy, any one of the family members of a sponsored child should give one day of work per week in the campus of RSV. The work includes tilling the soil in the Bio-orchard, cleaning the garden or repairing thatched roofs etc.

19. Partnerships and Hospitality

- The Kindermannschaft 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.

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

Dr. Pardip Kr. Mondal, the curator, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati was the chief guest of the celebration. Other distinguish guests were Dr. Dhoneswar Majhi, Dept. of Santali, Visva-Bharati; Sundar Manoj Hembrom, Bandel, Hooghly; Dr. Kalachand Mahele, Kalyani University; Gauri Tudu, Santiniketan.

20. Births and Deaths

Births: Bishnubati & Ashadullapur

Sl. No	Child's name Bishnubati	M/F	Parent's name	Date of Birth
1	Robin Mumru	M	Thakur & Maloti Murmu	24/05/2020
2	Sirjan Murmu	M	Charan & Baishaki Murmu	25/12/2020
3	Anex Murmu	M	Soman & Kusum Murmu	07/01/2021
4	Anil Murmu	M	Sunail & Sumi Murmu	29/03/2021
	Ashadullapur			
5	Beta Baski	M	Barka & Suradhani Baski	19/07/2020
6	Ayush Mardi	F	Khela & Sumitra mardi	20/10/2020

Deaths: Bishnubati & Ashadullapur

Sl.No	Deceased person's name Bishnubati	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name
1	Som Murmu	M-75	10/9/2020	Rabon's father
2	Lakhan Murmu (Kariya)	M-48	27/10/2020	Logen's brother
3	Churki Mardi	F-75	12/10/2020	Suno Mardi's mother
4	Dhona Soren	M-76	14/01/2021	Dulal Soren's father
	Ashadullapur			
5	Mongla Baski	F-70	8/10/2020	Sigen Baski's uncle

Births: Ghosaldanga

Sl.No	Child's name	M/F	Parent's name	Date of Birth
1	Adrishা Tudu	F	Anil and Sarmila Tudu	15/06/2020
2	Prabir Hembrom	M	Budan and Moni Hembrom	19/05/2020
3	Suprio Tudu	M	Somnath and Sahana Tudu	6/11/2020
4	Suvankar Tudu	M	Mahadeb and Vadumani Tudu	27/10/2020
5	Suman Hembrom	M	Babulal and Gauri Hembrom	01/03/2021

Deaths: Ghosaldanga

Sl.No	Deceased person's name	M/F	Date of Death	Close Kin's name and relation
1	Balu Murmu	M-53	23/11/2020	Kobilal's father
2	Sibu Hembrom	M-55	05/01/2021	Nobin's elder brother

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 32 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 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 in 2007 and 2009 respectively at the RSV campus.

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

Total population: 860 persons. Ghosaldanga:

male 185, female 146 = 331 persons

Bishnubati and Ashadullapur: male 268, female 261 = 529 persons

Nutrition Feeding/SSK: male 27, female 25 = 52 pupils

Coaching Centres:

Primary Level (I to Class-IV): male 56, female 72 = 128 pupils

Secondary Level (Class-V-I0): male 18, female 30 = 48 pupils

Higher Secondary (Class-XI-XII): male 5, female 9 = 14 pupils

Higher Education (College, University) male-1, female 6= 6 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 (after class 10) 80

Higher Secondary (after class 12) 45

Higher education (After College, University) 13

Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram:

Primary School (Class LKG to IV): male 60, female 53 = 113 pupils

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

Special coaching centre (IX and X): male - 4, female - 17 = 21 pupils

The Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha and Bishnuabti Adibasi Marshal Sangha have 13 full-time teachers and 21 part-time teachers. This excludes unpaid volunteers recruited from the senior students of both villages and from Germany.

Our advisory and funding agency is: Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati e.V., Frankfurt (Germany).

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. _____ (SoantalMuktadharaprobes)
9. _____ Our Village Ghosaldanga (Photo book)
10. _____ Our Village Bishnuabti (Photo book)
11. _____ Our School RSV (Photo book)
12. _____ A Journey of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati Santal Village
13. _____ Activities and Achievements of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati
14. _____ Photos and Cards on Santal lives

**For further information about the organization and recent
publications please log on to our website:**
www.dorfentwicklung-indien.de

(in German ; some of the texts are translated into English)



Tree plantation by Bishnubati villagers at the cremation ground near RSV ravine



'Kick For Help' team in practice.