

## Monthly Report of March 2021

Since time immemorial Santals have been celebrating their traditional festival Baha Parab, the flower festival in the Bangla month of Falgun and in March of Gregorian calendar. Like other festivals this is also celebrated within the village community and people from outside the community have very little scope to participate in it. For the last thirty two years our organization has tried to make it more inclusive by organizing a 'Disam Baha Parab', the flower festival for all in the Ghosaldanga football ground on the next day of the traditional Baha Parab of the village. In the Disam Baha Parab dozens of tribal folk groups from surrounding villages take part in a day-night tribal sports and cultural programme which include dance, music and Santali drama performances. Annual Baha Award is also conferred to a distinguished personality who has a life time contribution in the field of tribal development.

It is unfortunate that this year due to Corona pandemic the festival had to be cancelled. However, the traditional festivals of the villages are celebrated as usual in the villages. A short essay on the festival is attached with the report.



A glimpse of Baha Parab

### Detail of the activities:

a) **Primary and high school Coaching Centers:** The morning and evening coaching centres at Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and the evening schools at Bautijol , Panchabanpur and Bandlodanga had continued their classes.

**b) RSV Primary school:** In the morning the RSV school teachers continued to take classes in the villages of the students. The classes are held at the courtyard or in the backyard of a family. A parents' meeting was held at Bishnubati in which Sanyasi Lohar, the teacher in-charge of RSV school discussed on sending the children to the coaching centre regularly. They also discussed the precautions needed to be taken during this pandemic time.



Teaching in the courtyard



Parent-Teacher meeting



Music class

**c) Hostel coaching centres and extra-curricular activities:** The coaching classes for high school students have been continuing since February at the hostel. Eight senior students both boys and girls also have started staying in the hostels from this month. Pintu Ghosh, the head teacher of the hostel students too has resumed the evening coaching after one year which was suspended in March last year. From this month meditation has been included in the prayer which is held every day in the morning before the beginning of the class. Beside regular studies cleaning, gardening, vermicompost, 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 reason. Nine new cygnets have hatched. They roam around the campus happily.



**d) Bio-orchard:** Besides vegetables like pumpkin, ladies finger, tomato, the pulses and turmaric have also been produced from the farm. The turmaric powder of RSV school has a very good reputation in the locality and people from Santiniketan and far off villages also come to purchase it. The mushroom was not satisfactory this season due to heat.



Winnowing the pulses

**e) Kick for Help:** The football training for boys and girls has continued as usual. 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 gone to give the trials.



**f) Vocational Training and Youth Development Programme-** The students and trainees who are involved in different training programmes are continuing their work in their respective fields, no new changes have occurred this month. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Raju Murmu gave his final written examination in Fitter trade in the Technical school at Narendrapur. He will also appear for the interview for the Apprentice course next month in the same school.

**g) Community Health programme:** The Health centre at Ghosaldanga continued to function once a week headed by Dr. Sitaram Banerjee assisted by Dr. Satyban Roy and two health workers Parboti Murmu from Ghosaldanga and Rani Baski from Bishnubati.

**h) Solarization of RSV campus:** The solarization is completed in the campus. Presently 41 lights, 14 ceiling and stand fans, 8 street lights, 1 water filter, 1 water pump and 2 computers are running with the system. But the service of this new installment has not been satisfactory yet. In the last three months despite connecting with the solar machine there, an occasional power cut has continued and the meter reading that used to reduce the expense has not happened yet. The work of repairing the problem is going on.

**i) Research and Training:** As the normal activities are resuming after the lock down the discussion to organize the teachers' training programme is going on with various organizations who conduct such trainings. We hope by the end of this year we will be able to conduct a training course.

**j) General information:** (i) Teachers' meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at RSV. Apart from discussing the progress of each activity, bonus for every employee was also discussed. The bonus amount has been disbursed to the bank accounts of the respective employees. (ii) Link of Boro Baski's essay in the D+C magazine, April 2021.

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Boro Baski, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021