



# Annual Report -2011-2012

Shripur Mahila-O-Khadi Unnayan samity

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***From The Desk of the Secretary***

***Go to the People; Live among them; Love them;  
Learn from them; Start from where they are;  
Work with them; Build on what they have.  
But of the best leaders, when the task is accomplished, the work completed,  
The people all remark: "We have done it ourselves"***

It's my pleasure to share the annual report of 2011-2012. We, SMOKUS, have been working hard to improve the economical, social and environmental conditions of the poor people. This report aims at giving a clear idea on how our organization have stand beside the people in need with an opportunity of a better livelihood. With a strong belief and by keeping up the commitment has shown towards poor people, the organization is really able to make change happen. Shripur Mahila –O- Khadi Unnayan Samity does its best to combat the major challenges in relation to development. Our organization has involved in working with various themes such as NREGA, Health, Nutrition, RSBY. Activities against Human Trafficking have been a most vital role of our organization all throughout this years of SMOKUS. Our main activity of human rights mainly for the women child care has developed a benchmark in the subdivision and now they are trying to cross the boundary. Child Rights has been our one of the most remarkable process depending on which we developed child centres for providing children better livelihood. A Village Resource Centre has been developed too where Computer Education Training is provided to students. Our collaborative effort with Block and district organizations is our key strength. Shripur Mahila –O- Khadi Unnayan Samity expresses its sincere gratitude to the resource agencies which supports the efforts for the improvement of the poor Indian people. I truly think that this kind of partnership between the so-called developed and developing worlds is the positive side of the globalization. We also thank the Government of West Bengal for its supports towards the activities. I am grateful to all the colleagues for their hard work and perseverance in difficult times with their untiring efforts. Together, we are gradually improving the local conditions by coping with various areas. Change takes time as it deals with the evolution of the mentalities and of the behaviors. The achievements reached in this year only constitutes a small step toward the fully development of the Indian rural area. However, we expect that one day, with the addition of all the positive changes achieved years after years, the local society will be strong enough to ensure to itself all the basic standards of living a human deserves to decently live.

With best wishes,

**Jaba Bhattacharjee**

**Secretary**

## **Background**

It was mid 1990, a few college going girls with vivacity and social concerns confronted with social reality of suppression, marginalization and pathos of rural gentry. These budding women from various parts of Uttar Dinajpur with an approach to do better for the said rural populace; contact few more women and the organization came in to its existence. Extensive interaction between the volunteers and their own money was the primary resource for the up -coming social organization and their modest planning and its implementation. The organization started to provide various services related with protection of women health and mother- child health care at Rampur under Raiganj Block and Patirajpur and Durlabhpur Gram Panchayets under Itahar Block. The effort continued for more than 3 years. By strengthening community people, they have been take part of different movement with various demands about livelihood and establish their rights. Thus the organization was formed for the women, focused for their causes and women empowerment as their basic, so in process rights of the women taken center stage of organizational endeavor. Organization came strongly with the individual victims of domestic violence.

## **Philosophy**

Based on the idea of "No Pains No Gains" and "Self Sacrifice"

## **Core Values**

- Methodological
- Getting Knowledge
- People's Participation
- Sustainability

## **Vision**

A dynamic civil society influencing policies and actions at all levels to safeguard the global environment and promote sustainable development.

## **Mission**

To build up a cadre of socially conscious youth in the field of community development through capacity building, mainstreaming and strengthen civil society partnership by enhancing participation, contributing to policy and stimulating action.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- To initiate the awakening process
- To build up the people's organization and the capacities of the people
- To encourage development of a democratic process towards people's solidarity
- To strengthen women in the expression of their full potential and rightful place in the society
- To try integrated and sustainable models of community health and rural development using, people's participatory approaches.
- To develop the technical skills of the people of the poorer section for their life style through maximum utilization of the local resources.
- To provide education and other alternatives for integrated development of the children , specially the girl child

## **The strategy**

- Application of improved livelihood principles
- Application of bottom up methodologies
- Networking with all stakeholders for better service delivery
- Promote propagate new ideas and thoughts with great challenges
- Community led and people centered

## **Area of operation**

The development activities of SMOKUS are spread over Nineteen Gram Panchayats in four blocks of Uttar Dinajpur district & GP of Matigara Block in Darjeeling district. namely  
Raiganj Block - Rampur, Bindol, Sitgram, Sherpur, Mahipur and Bahin G.P,  
Kaliaganj Block - Radhikapur Bochadanga, Anastapur, Baruna, Dhankol and Malgoan G.P,  
Itahar Block - Kapashia, Durgapur, Durlovpur, Itahar and Patirajpur G.P,  
Karandighi Block - Rasakhoa I and II G.P. & Matigara G.P.

## **Activities in Detail**

### **FORMATION AND NURTURING OF SHGS:**

SMOKUS involvement in SHG movement dates back to 1996. It's volunteers and grass root level workers were forming and nurturing (Capacity Building, Bank linkage etc.) SHGs in various villages of targeted blocks under SGSY programme. That was the beginning of SMOKUS association with NABARD. SMOKUS helps to formulate 100 of SHG groups. We worked with 450 SHGs.

In this year 15 training programmes had been organized to reach out the said objectives. Main issues discussed in these trainings were as follows:-

- Helping to Form SHGs
- What is Self Help and how to Start
- How are Groups Formed
- How are Group Meetings Organised and how do SHGs take shape through various functionaries
- Linking of SHGs with Bank
- Spreading the Message of SHGs to the other areas

Activities done:

- Training imparted to 50 women on sanitary napkins so that in near future they can at least use this hygienically with enough privacy during menstrual period. Three women groups already started selling after producing at home in school girls and young married women in neighboring villages
- **Beauty Parlour Training Programme**  
We organised and conduct beauty parlour training programme for the SHG's women as they become self reliant by doing their own business.
- **Training Programme of Readymade Garments**  
A training programme is organised for the twenty different self help group's women of 4 Bindole gram Panchayat.  
First training given on the sewing machine and all of its parts and accessories such that about ball, ribbon etc. Then training were conducted on all of the functions of all the parts of sewing machine. Then trained stitching e.g. stitch false, hen and stitch hook. Then gave training as they run the sewing machine after sitting before sewing machine. First trained how they make a petty coat. SMOKUS gave training of making of 'Churidar', 'Saya', 'Blouse'. 'Children's Frock and Eger' and Shirt and pant to both male and female. Before that SMOKUS gave training of taking measurement as they cut the clothing. All got training very properly with great attention. Among them four women started their carrier i.e. started business after purchasing sewing machines. They sewed their own family's clothing and try to get sewing order from others. Some women of different self help group cut and sewed their clothing in between training programme.
- All the women and men become very happy and were encouraged as they went towards self reliance path.
- Market linkages for 5 women for tailoring & 6 girls for beautician.

### **COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION ON NATIONAL RURAL GUARANTEE SCHEME**

SMOKUS conducted 17 one day sensitization programme on Rural Employment Guarantee scheme to sensitize the rural and poor community for deep involvement. SMOKUS provided its organizational and

technical support to the NREGS job card holders of all the target areas for opening no frill (deposit free) accounts for 1600 job card holders at various branches of national bank and post offices. In addition meetings being conducted at periodical occasions with the Gram Panchayat members with the purposes to understand the problems faced by the community for MGNREGA as well as the blockage for slow process, to find our possible solutions for providing more working days to the targeted beneficiaries and to find out possible avenues for broader linkages in MGNREGA programme. We make campaign that whether any body have job card, they are compulsorily get job. Moreover we campaign that whether any body apply for job then he must get the job or else he must get the allowance.

SMOKUS is very sensitive about job card. We visit door to door to know the present status of job card. We save the villagers from exploitation on job card issue. Because we notice maximum villagers keep their job card to the Panchayat Member and they don't withdrawn money according to their work. We arrange so many workshops on job card issue as the villagers keep job card in their safe custody and withdrawn money according their performance.

Problems discussed are as follows:-

- Lack of awareness which include the number of job cards done were huge but there was a misconception that they will get unemployment bonus for this. For this the number is much higher than the expectations and the needy people are not being enrolled. BDO is trying to verify all these and cancel the fake families.
- Lack of proper planning which found that quality of asset created is not always required standard.
- Weak monitoring and verifications systems
- No comprehensive data base as there is no internet connectivity and the people are not trained ,
- Inadequate capacity of implementing agencies

Role being played by the NGO are as follows:-

- Awareness building programme at community level
- Running kiosk in the public place with all applications
- Through participatory structures : gram sabha to ensure full participation
- Local monitoring by the vigilance and SHSY groups
- Time bound employment and to get the money within one month
- Lobbying and advocacy at Block and District level
- Orientation of the Panchayat people on computer and internet
- Help in creation of durable assets that strengthen rural infrastructure & livelihood resource base infrastructure & livelihood resource base

### **Dealing with SHG**

We always regularly arrange community meeting with SHGs groups and listen their grievance and crisis and then give proper suggestions and recommendations. We organised such type of meetings where we make provision for all the different groups as the groups can exchange their ideas and views in the meeting. Thus all the different SHGs are be more enriched with ideas and views. We collect and store all data of SHGs. Thus we navigate all the SHGs if necessary. We always analyse the work performance of different SHGs and give suggestion or recommendation to all groups if necessary. We always give the status report of present position and situation of different SHGs and give suggestions.

Thus we make a sweet journey for all the groups.

### **Financial Assistance to Groups**

We also give financial support to ten (20) SHG groups in Raiganj Block.

### **Enhancing Quality Control & Technical Support**

SMOKUS is successful to some extent in this above context to enhance quality of the groups. Some of the above such types of groups are doing quality business regularly till the day. SMOKUS assist them technically.

### **Teach Accounting Lesson**

SMOKUS conduct accounts training programme for those members of SHGs or SGSY who are doing business. SMOKUS teach them how to keep accounts when they doing business. SMOKUS also teach the group how they take bank loan from banks after showing the complete and fair accounts. SMOKUS also provide bank loans to many groups after making conversation with banks.

### **Stop Child Marriage**

Through those SHGs, SMOKUS continuously trying to stop Child Marriage by continuous campaigning through the group against child marriage. Beside that SMOKUS tries individually to stop Child Marriage by organizing and conducting different meetings and workshop. SMOKUS always interact and give lesson to the people of remote villages about the abuse of Child Marriage. In some cases SMOKUS stopped Child Marriage individually by the help of local youth. SMOKUS strongly believe that the Child Marriage is stopped in near future by awareness building, by higher education and by creating comparatively rich society. Thus SMOKUS is successful to some extent to prevent Child Marriage.

### **Child & Adolescent Club**

We also help to constitutes different child clubs and adolescent clubs by the children and by the adolescent respectively. For that reason we pick up children of age group six to nine years and nine to twelve years. We always cared and nurses that type of clubs by giving guidance on education or on social customs and on cultures. Thus we built their promising future.

### **Gender Discrimination**

We work on gender discrimination and organised meeting and workshop to remove gender discrimination from society. We have continuous effort to free the society from gender discrimination.

### **Imparting women empowerment and assistance to women**

Some groups have been formed under the women empowerment programme,

- Meeting with VC and Group leaders to discuss on social problems
- Orientation training on disaster management, running of relief camps, streamlining logistic supports
- Workshop on decentralize planning for effective use of Gram Sabha and Gram Sansad for decentralize planning

- Meeting with PRI members at Block and district level to ensure peoples participation at all level of development
- We organised workshop and meeting for making more awareness on the problems of pregnant women.
- We try to enhance the 'Dignity of Women' within community people.
- SMOKUS cared the pregnant women or other woman by encouraging for taking Iron tablet. We also make arrangement for better supply of Iron tablet to women.
- We enhance consciousness and awareness on the problems of mother as they rearing their children very properly.
- SMOKUS run VHND programme for better child care.

### **Awareness Camp on Basic Health with Special emphasis on Pulse Polio, T.B, AIDS etc, and Blood Grouping Programme**

We have organised awareness camp on basic health with special emphasis on pulse polio, T.B, AIDS, etc. in this financial year. Being members of a responsible social institution, we take part in the National Pulse Polio Immunization programme with local sub-centers and join hands to convince the people in general about its importance. We also assisted T.B. patients of our locality by different means such as we took them to sub-centres or Hospital, insisted them on their continuous treatment and helped their families etc. AIDS is a fatal disease. We organised awareness camp among masses about how to fight against it and how to prevent it. We have also organized a blood grouping programme from our own fund. In all these above programme people participated whole heartedly. We celebrate World Aids Day. On the date we aware people on the disease of AIDS. Thus we make more social and health consciousness.

### **Women and Child Development Programme**

Children are the future pride of the nation It is true that today's children are the future citizens. On the other hand it is said that development of a nation depends to a great extent on the development, empowerment and awareness of women. Both these sections of our country require proper care and immediate development. With the aim of total upliftment and development of these vulnerable sections of our society we organized awareness camps on health, hygiene, sanitation, socio-economic development, legal rights, legal aids and advices, problems related to early marriage, teenage pregnancy, polygamy, pre-natal and anti-netal care of child, reproductive child health, family welfare and use of devices for birth control, women empowerment, nutritional values of food items etc. In the camps the target groups have been acquainted with the facilities and advantages that they can avail from our organization and the Family Counseling Centers and Child Help Line under CSWB & WBSWB. The people of the locality are insisting us to setup FCC and Child Help Line services. We are looking forward to set up and run FCC & Child Help Line under the financial assistance of the said Boards in near future. We arrange workshop on right of education, on right of health and on right of nutrition of the children. We also arrange workshop on Child right. We are successful to some extent to prevent child labour. We provide sports equipments to children and encourage children to continue sports activity. SMOKUS run three free schools where we teach dance, drama and recitation by physical activities. Thus we enhance extracurricular activity among the poor backward children.

### **Child Education**

We always cared the child education. We care if the children attend school regularly or not. We also noticed whether children drop out. If drop out then why. We pick up meritorious children and arrange workshop with those children and give lesson on the methods to make education more enjoyable.

### **Dealing with ICDS**

SMOKUS always take track record of ICDS centres as we try to maintain the quality control of ICDS Centres. We successfully take track record of mid day meal and its quality. We try to maintain the quality of mid day meal.

### **Child, Women & Organ Trafficking**

We work against woman and child trafficking. We also work against human organ trafficking. If necessary we take administrative assistance and try to stop woman trafficking. If necessary we take local youth assistance to stop the above trafficking.

### **Creche Programme**

Establishment of creche centres was our long cherished dream. We had been waiting for a long period of time for getting sanction to run Creche units for the betterment of the pre—primary rural children.of let we have got it from CSWB (New Delhi) and WBSWB. Thanks to the boards for their kind permission. Under the financial support of the said board we have been organising two creche units under 'Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme' 25 children (0-6year age group) in each units. For the nourishment and teaching of the children 2 creche mothers have been appointed in each units. The children are supplied with nutritious supplementary food for their good health and playthings for their amusement. Monthly health check-up for the baby is done by a general physician.

### **Celebration of historical Days**

We celebrate Republic Day or Independence Day and hosting National Flag on that special day.These celebration enhance patriotic feelings and national integrity among the community. We celebrate National Youth Day etc and organised rally on the special event. These celebration enhance community's social, moral and cultural values.

## **List of wings of SMOKUS**

SMOKUS – Rampur,Vill-Uttar Rampur,Kaichdangi,P..O. Lahanda, Dist. Uttar Dinajpur,Pin 733121

SMOKUS- Vill+P.O. Bindol, Dist. Uttar Dinajpur,Pin 733121

SMOKUS- Fulbari, Matigara, Dist. Darjeeling

## ***Acknowledgement***

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7. PACS, Kol. Delhi
8. Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA)
9. Mr. Dipankar Bhattacharjee, SP Uttar Dinajpur
10. MAMATA New Delhi
11. Proadhan and Staff of Bahin GP
12. Rosakhowa I & II GP, Karandighi Block
13. Malgaon & Radhikapur GP, Kaliyaganj Block
14. Gulandhar & Kapasia GP, Itahar Block
15. Rampur & Bindol GP, Raiganj Block
16. Lok Kalyan Parishad, Kolkata
17. District Magistrate, Uttar Dinajpur
18. Action Aid India
19. Sri Mokhtar Ali Sardar, Zilla Sobhadhipati, Uttar Dinajpur
20. Mr. Ashish Ghosh, Kolkata
21. Mr. M.K. Day, DDM, NABARD, Uttar Dinajpur
22. Sobhapatris of Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Itahar & Karandighi
23. The BDOs and Joint BDOs of Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Itahar & Karandighi
24. OCs and ICs of Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Itahar & Karandighi Blocks
25. DSW, Uttar Dinajpur
26. Sri Arun Kumar Singh, BHUMIKA, Bihar
27. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, Center for Studies in Social Science, Kolkata
28. Sri Surojit Niyogi, Action Aid Kolkata
29. Prof. Ajit Roy Siliguri
30. Press Club, Uttar Dinajpur
31. Youth Coordinator, NYK Uttar Dinajpur
32. Nehru Yuba Kendra, Uttar Dinajpur
33. Sudesna Mukherjee, Kolkata
34. Debalina Chowdhury, Kolkata
35. Anita Boral, Kolkata
36. DPO, Uttar Dinajpur
37. Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharjee
38. Dr. Ramkrishna Das
39. Dr. Ashoke Mandol

40. NABARD, Kolkata

And all SMOKUS staff and the scores of women and children in the villages where we work; without them, there would be no reason for SMOKUS to continue doing what it has set out to do.

*Thank you all !*