

North East India Committee on Relief and Development (NEICORD)

VISION

Community living in harmony with God, one another and environment

MISSION

We seek to serve, care and work with the poor and the oppressed to promote peace, justice and transformation



Back ground of the Area

- ◆ The Ri-Bhoi District was created on 4th June 1992 with its headquarter at Nongpoh. The total area of the district is 2448 square kilometer with population of 192795 (2001 census). The Ri-Bhoi District was again divided into three zone the Western Ri-Bhoi, Central Ri-Bhoi and Eastern Ri-Bhoi.
- ◆ The western Ri-Bhoi falls under the Jirang constituency and there are more than 50 villages with the population of 21,089 approximately.
- ◆ The Western Ri-Bhoi is basically an agricultural area and majority of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The main crops grown in the area are rice and maize. The area has a vast potential for developing horticulture. The agro climatic variations within the area offers much scope for cultivation of temperate as well as tropical fruits and vegetables. The most grown horticulture crops are pineapple, banana and jackfruits. Ginger and turmeric are some important cash crops in the area though the production is not much.

Patharkmah community Development Project

- ◆ NEICORD is implementing the Patharkmah Community Development Program initially in the year 1999 with a baseline survey and motivational programs. This project is to develop the marginalized people through SHG programme.
- ◆ Initially the program covered only 5 villages but now 12 villages were covered under the program.
- ◆ Objectives:
 - To built the capacity of the local people
 - To increase the standard of living of the people
 - To bring about economic development in the group, families and society
 - To maintain and improve the family health as well as the health of the community
- ◆ Under this project there are 4 program components: SHG formation, Functional Literacy program, Basic Health Care program and Income Generating program.

Challenges

- ◆ The Western Ri Bhoi is one of the area in Meghalaya which consists of a mixed community i. e. the Khasi's, the Garo's and the Rabha's. But in spite of this, through the formation of SHG, we could bring the people together from different communities to strive for a common goal i.e., to fight against poverty.
- ◆ Motivating the people to come together to form SHG and to save is a big challenge, yet we were able to form 51 SHGs, which consists of 22 men's group, 20 women's group and 9 mixed group.
- ◆ Our biggest challenge was to motivate the people to take up other income generating activities besides agriculture. Now the people have opted other occupation to supplement their income besides cultivation such as weaving, handicraft, fishery and other small businesses like shops and departmental stores.

Outcome Objective

- ◆ The people have well understood the concept of SHG
- ◆ The people are now in a habit of saving
- ◆ The formation of SHG has bound the people together in spite of their different backgrounds and now they all strive for a common goal; which is to fight against poverty
- ◆ There are 51 groups (20 women, 22 men and 9 mix group) formed with the total savings of Rs. 420,914/- till December 2006
- ◆ The people are more enterprising and innovative and are willing to invest their money in various agricultural and non-agricultural income generating activities.
- ◆ The literacy and health program has enabled the people to understand the importance of education and also on the basic health issues, hygiene and sanitation.
- ◆ The agriculture training provided to the people has enabled them to improve their agricultural products. The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have considerably reduced.
- ◆ Till date, 510 families have been served which include the Khasis, the Garos and the Rabhas.
- ◆ This year the group members actively participated in the literacy program. There were a total members of 821 enrolled in the literacy program. Out of this, there were 409 men and 412 women participants.
- ◆ 1533 children were been given various vaccination during the period July 2005 - June 2006.
- ◆ The skill training centre has been a great blessing to many poor women. 20 women have been trained in tailoring this year and these women have started their own business by stitching at home and are able to supplement their family's income.

Success story

- ◆ Raboni Sangkli is married and has 5 children and is one of ten members of the Kiew Shaphrang SHG, Patharkhmah which formed in 2002
- ◆ In 2004 she started an income generating activity by opening a small shop selling biscuits and sweets which employed 2 helpers.
- ◆ In 2005, through the use of the internal loan from SHG, small financial support from NEICORD and use of own savings, she could expand the business to become a food stall employing 7 people.
- ◆ Presently she is earning a profit of Rs. 16,200/- per month. This has enabled her to supplement her families income in order to educate her children.
- ◆ From this profit she has saved enough to start another business as a contractor in the Public Health Engineering (PHE).



Success Story

Mrs. Lamino Sankli is a group member of Seng Kynthei Umpyrtha SHG 1; of one of the women group in Patharkhmah. Lamino is a house wife and has 9 children; 5 boys and 4 girls. She lives with her children and husband Mr. Goshen Rympei where their livelihood depends on daily wages as her husband works as a daily wage labourer; this makes their lives very difficult in terms of educating the children and also the living standard as the income is very uncertain. Lamino joined the SHG in 2003 and is an active member of the group. In June 2006, she took up piggery as her income generating activity.

Lamino started her piggery with 2 piglets for Rs.800/- After 2 months she sold one of the piglets for Rs.2000/-.The other piglet has been kept for reproduction and is expected to reproduce by April, 2007. Seeing that by undertaking this particular IGA and the demand in the market, she plans to expand this activity for her source of income.

