

UDGAM



Empowering Girls through Ankuran: A Nukkad Natak

Campaign in Dimapur Village, Barpeta, Assam

In line with our motto, "Together, let's champion girls' education!" FST's Barpeta team, in collaboration with ten dedicated girl leaders, presented a compelling Nukkad Natak (street play) in the streets of Dimapur village. This dynamic campaign, under our project Ankuran, aimed to promote education among girls and also to raise awareness about the adverse impact of early child marriage.

Performed in the local dialect, our street play ensured that the message resonated with every individual in the community. The ten girl leaders, integral to our mission of raising the age bar for marriage and advocating for girls' education, portrayed their roles with precision and passion.

The applause from the captivated crowd echoed the success of our powerful street play. Through the vivid portrayal of Mamoni's journey, we sought to sensitize the community about the importance of education for girls. Education, we emphasized, enables girls to make informed choices, paving the way for their overall development.

The community witnessed the inspiring efforts of our girl leaders. Together, we stride forward with Ankuran, dedicated to empowering girls and transforming lives through education.

The Story

The play centred around Mamoni, a young girl facing financial constraints and parental opposition to continue her education. The story unfolded to reveal the transformative power of government schemes, enlightening Mamoni and her friend about the possibilities for further studies. This newfound knowledge empowered Mamoni to challenge societal norms, particularly the idea of early marriage, and pursue her educational dreams.

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FST's Annual General Meeting 2023: Reflecting, Innovating and Planning Ahead

FST organised its much-anticipated Annual General Meeting for the year 2023 on September 5 at Kalimpong, West Bengal. With a diverse assembly of fifteen participants, including the esteemed Chairperson, five dedicated board members, the Executive Director, and eight dynamic FST staff members, the event was a convergence of minds dedicated to furthering the organisation's impactful work.

Setting the tone for the meeting, Chairperson Enakshi Dutta, serving as the moderator, initiated proceedings with introductions that went beyond the professional realm, delving into the rich backgrounds of each participant. This personal touch set the stage for a collaborative and insightful meeting. The highlight of the gathering was a captivating flash movie.

The highlight of the gathering was a captivating flash movie. The visual journey showcased FST's remarkable 18th year, featuring completed and ongoing projects, stories of community change, and a visual diary of activities undertaken throughout the financial year 2022-23. It resonated well with the board members and the Chairperson, who commended its insightful nature. Valuable suggestions were provided, such as increasing the number of girl leaders in Project Ankuran and introducing the key lingo for enhanced communication.

The meeting seamlessly transitioned into a detailed presentation by FST's Program Lead, Langhu Hringjangam highlighting the ongoing, completed, and newly introduced projects. Board members and the Chairperson actively engaged, providing feedback and suggestions. Key recommendations included virtual sessions for better project understanding and immediate response interventions. These insights were crucial for refining the organisation's strategies moving forward. The financial aspect of FST's operations took centre stage with a comprehensive presentation by the Head of Finance and Operations, Smriti Rekha Das.

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A transformative initiative is unfolding under the banner of Niroopan – Citizens' Collectives for Connecting City in the vibrant city of Guwahati, Assam. Supported by the philanthropic efforts of Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Niroopan focuses on engaging citizens and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in a constructive dialogue about the matters of Ward 32.

The core objective of the project is to engage citizens and ULBs in a dialogue on matters related to the ward. It is to enable the citizens' collectives to monitor resource utilization, assess the quality of works, and address community concerns within the ward. By integrating people from diverse backgrounds and areas, the project aims to foster collaboration and discover common ground that unites the community.

Niroopan is actively working in four specific areas or localities under Ward 32: Ward Street, Jahajghat, Panikal, and Bonkonwar East of Uzan Bazar. The project has been diligently organising awareness and sensitization meetings within these communities on essential topics such as the 74th Amendment, provisions of the 12th Schedule, Section 7A Citizens Charter, the role of citizens in urban governance, and the available provisions from the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC).

In order to gain insights into the community's perspectives on urban governance, challenges, and the way forward, Niroopan conducted four focus group discussions, seven individual interviews with selected citizens from Ward 32, and a comprehensive household survey involving 50 households.

Emphasizing the importance of urban governance, Niroopan formed four community groups within the selected areas, promoting a sense of unity and purpose. Additionally, recognizing the significance of responsible waste management, Niroopan conducted sessions on waste segregation, explaining its meaning, purpose, types, and the dos and don'ts.

Project Niroopan is not just about addressing immediate concerns but also about building a foundation for an engaged and informed community. By promoting dialogue, awareness, and collective action, Niroopan is empowering citizens to actively participate in shaping the future of their ward.

