

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER “XVI” EDITION

UDGAM

SEPTEMBER
2024



Transformative Cleaning Drive in Uzan Bazar with Community

In July, FST team along with 20 committed women from the community, spearheaded a significant cleaning drive on Fatik Chandra Road and Hem Chandra Road in Uzan Bazar, Guwahati. The initiative aimed to revitalize a previously neglected footpath, turning it into a clean and walkable space that enhances the environment and promotes public health.

The successful transformation of this area underscores the power of community action in creating a more pleasant and healthier environment. However, our efforts do not end here. To support ongoing cleanliness, we encourage everyone to use the Swachhata App to report any instances of littering. Simply snap a picture of any mess and send it to local authorities, or kindly remind others to dispose of their waste properly.



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Gender Awareness Meeting at Basipothar

FST recently organized a significant gender awareness meeting at Basipothar Nala Para Lower Primary (L.P) School in Jorhat. This initiative aimed to engage young minds in a thoughtful discussion about gender roles and their impact on society.



During the session, 19 schoolchildren participated in an interactive and -

educational game designed to explore concepts of gender equality and inclusivity. Their active involvement and insightful contributions demonstrated a remarkable curiosity and eagerness to understand these important issues.

This engaging experience provided valuable knowledge to the students and fostered a greater sense of awareness and acceptance. Through such initiatives, we continue to work towards building a more understanding and inclusive community.

Promoting Awareness: Workshop on Sexual and Domestic Violence Laws

We conducted a workshop on sexual and domestic violence in Kokrajhar. This event saw the participation of 26 individuals, including members of the Kokrajhar Women with Disability Association (KWDA) and their caregivers.



The workshop featured interactive games and thought-provoking activities, designed to create a supportive and engaging environment for learning. These methods aimed to ensure that participants could effectively grasp and retain critical information about their legal rights and resources. By fostering an atmosphere of awareness and empowerment, this initiative contributes to our ongoing commitment to strengthening community knowledge and support networks.

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Community Impact Session on Gender-Based Violence



In June, we conducted a community impact session in Uzan Bazar, where 35 women gathered to participate in a powerful skit and awareness session focused on addressing various forms of violence, including gender-based violence. This initiative aimed to shed light on critical issues such as domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse, and economic exploitation.

The session gave participants insights and strategies for recognizing and combating these pervasive issues. By fostering an open dialogue and sharing knowledge, the event underscored the collective effort required to challenge discrimination and promote safety in both domestic and workplace environments.

The strong community response highlights the shared commitment to building a safer and more inclusive society. As we continue these vital conversations, the focus remains on uniting efforts to eradicate violence and discrimination, paving the way for a more equitable and supportive community.



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Inspiring Active Citizenship: A Recap of FST's Residential Training Workshop

FST hosted a two-day residential training on Active Citizenship on June 21st and 22nd, to empower 20 enthusiastic youth on civic issues. This training aimed to provide the participants with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective civic engagement.

On the workshop's first day, they featured a series of enlightening discussions led by different experts. Dr. Abhijit Sharma from the Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), Prof. Kalyan Das of Cotton University, and Mr. Rizwan Uz Zaman from the Assam Climate Change Management Society delivered insightful presentations on critical topics such as urban civic issues, the emergence of the informal economy, and the impacts of climate change. The sessions provided participants with a deep understanding of these pressing issues, laying a solid foundation for their roles as active citizens.



In the latter part of Day 1, Mr. Kunaljit Bhatta and Mr. Eknath Pawar from the Praja Foundation discussed contemporary urban governance and strategies for effective citizen engagement. They emphasized the essential roles of governance bodies like the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) in fostering robust community involvement and addressing urban challenges.



Day 2 continued with a focus on urban governance, further exploring the roles and responsibilities of citizens as outlined in the Indian Constitution. This foundational discussion aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of their rights and duties in promoting active civic participation. The day also featured a thought-provoking session by Debabrata Rajkumar, Founder and Director of Nature's Orbit, who discussed sustainable waste management practices in Guwahati. This presentation sparked a critical dialogue about the role of youth in confronting and solving urban civic issues, highlighting their potential to drive meaningful change.



A key highlight of the workshop was an open dialogue on defining and embracing the youth's role in addressing urban challenges. This interactive session allowed participants to share their perspectives and develop actionable strategies for active citizenship.

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Story of Change

Yesmina's Journey to Empower Her Daughters

Yesmina is a mother of two daughters living in Balaipathar village, Barpeta. Yesmina's educational journey was cut short by early marriage, a common challenge in her community. Despite this setback, Yesmina's story is one of transformation and empowerment, driven by her determination to change her daughters' lives.

A few years ago, Yesmina began attending meetings organized by the FST team. It was in these sessions that she first voiced her heartfelt desire to see her daughters receive education. Her participation in these meetings marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life. She is focused on breaking the cycle of early marriage and limited opportunities for young girls in her village.

Through these interactions, Yesmina's commitment to her daughters' education became clear. She expressed a strong wish to ensure that her girls would not only attend school but also be empowered to become independent and self-sufficient. Her newfound belief in the power of education has driven her to actively support and encourage her daughters in their academic pursuits.

