

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER “XVII” EDITION

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Understanding Rights: Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop

November, 2024 | Uzan Bazar, Guwahati

We conducted a workshop on the Domestic Violence Act, of 2005, with 73 women participants. The primary objective of these sessions was to create a safe space where women could openly discuss the different forms of domestic violence, gain a thorough understanding of their legal rights, and unite to take collective action against abuse.



During the workshops, we delved into various aspects of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, economic, and psychological abuse. These sessions served as a platform for participants to share their personal stories, fostering trust and mutual understanding. By educating participants on the Domestic Violence Act, of 2005, we equipped them with the knowledge and tools needed to identify abuse and seek justice.



Skit as a Tool for Expression and Learning: An interactive highlight of the workshop was the group skits performed by participants. Through the skit, women courageously expressed the types of violence they had experienced and explored how they would respond differently with their newly acquired knowledge. This activity not only empowered participants to voice their struggles but also helped them internalize practical solutions and strategies for addressing domestic violence.

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Celebration of International Day of the Girl Child

October, 2024 | Kalgachia, Barpeta 📍

On October 13th we celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child with an empowering event in Kalgachia, Barpeta. The program brought together 153 collective members, boys and girls, and 17 inspiring girl leaders from 10 villages.

The day featured a screening of the Assamese film Village Rockstar, sparking meaningful reflections and discussions on girls' empowerment. Through interactive learning activities, participants explored critical themes surrounding gender

equality and the importance of community support. Shafiul Hassan, Director of Aman Foundation, enriched the day with his insights, while participants' stories further highlighted our community's collective strength.



Empowering Single Mothers with Skills for Success

October, 2024 | Umlyngka, Shillong 📍



Our two-day skills training in food processing at Umlyngka Community Hall in Shillong was a step towards fostering entrepreneurship among single mothers from Umlyngka, Nongrah, and Nongmensong. The workshop focused on teaching 32 women to make delicious chips while also covering vital business strategies to help them start and sustain a collective venture. By combining practical skill-building with teamwork and entrepreneurship lessons, this initiative has inspired these women to transform their passion into profitable ventures that uplift their community.

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Building Safer Workplaces for Women Street Vendors

October, 2024 | Hatigaon, Guwahati 📍



We recently conducted a session on sexual harassment in the workplace for 21 participants, including the women's street vendors of the Hatigaon area. The objective of this session was to create safer environments for women street vendors. The session featured two educational videos, followed by open discussions in which women courageously shared their experiences. These conversations fostered an atmosphere of trust and mutual support, laying the foundation for collective empowerment. To deepen their understanding and equip participants with coping strategies, we organized a drama. In the

drama, participants creatively demonstrated ways to confront and address harassment. This interactive activity provided an outlet for expression while reinforcing practical approaches to handling workplace challenges.

Raising Awareness: Street Plays Against Gender-Based Violence

November, 2024 | Uzan Bazar, Six Mile & Hatigaon - Guwahati 📍

In observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we performed street plays in Uzan Bazar, Six Mile, and Hatigaon area of Guwahati, on 27th November. With the active participation of community members, the play highlighted that violence is not just physical but can also be verbal and emotional. These performances were instrumental in sparking conversations about gender-based violence and mobilizing communities to take a stand against it.



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From Awareness to Advocacy: Hassan's Journey with Ankuran

Hassan (name changed), is a student of class nine from Balapathar village, Barpeta. He has been attending training sessions under the Ankuran project for over a year now. When he first joined, he was struggling with issues like nightfall, which left him feeling weak, guilty, and isolated.

"At the moment, it feels good, but afterward, I feel weak and guilty," he shared candidly, reflecting on the emotional and physical toll it took on him. **"After nightfall, I felt bad about myself. The whole day would be ruined because of it."**

Through a supportive environment, Hassan was introduced to topics like good touch and bad touch, personal hygiene, and the importance of education. These discussions not only broadened his understanding but also gave him the confidence to voice his concerns.

It was during one of these sessions that he sought help from a member of the FST team. Through their guidance, Hassan learned to manage and overcome his struggles with nightfall. **"Now it's been some months, and I no longer have this problem."**

Hassan's transformation didn't stop there. Equipped with knowledge and newfound confidence, he began talking to his friends who faced similar challenges. His journey from being a participant to becoming a peer advocate is a testament to the power of awareness and open dialogue.

