

ANNUAL REPORT OF HILL SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023



User

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HILL SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY (HSWS)
Vocational Training Centre,
P.O. & P.S. KALIMPONG, DIST. KALIMPONG

ANNUAL REPORT OF HSWS FOR YEAR 2022-2023

Briefing of the organization : Hill social welfare society of being a non- profiteering & basically a women base organization working for the overall development of women, youths and the children in the region of the Darjeeling and Kalimpong District in the state of West Bengal since its establishment in the year 2000- 2001. HSWS has been working for the welfare of the community people at the rural and the semi- urban areas especially of rural areas of distance remote places and the Tea gardens of the Darjeeling District empowering and encouraging for self employment opportunities and their better livelihood utilizing their local resources.

This organization on its 23 years of existence has implemented activities are mainly focused on education, health, agriculture, environment, and making peace through advocacy on social- economical rights and justice for a vision of sustainable livelihood. This organization reached a profound level although having various challenges and societal barriers by executing various activities, mobilizing resources of sustenance & quality control through networking and advocacy with various stakeholders of the community. The grass root people have come forward to address their issues and stand for their benefits. The people could raise their voices for the benefits with formation of an empowered society. The deprived women, youths and the children have been mainstreamed through the objectives for their betterment in their coming near future.

Hence the following are the List of projects/ programs implemented during the year 2022- 2023:

1. **SAK Kanyashree Prokolpa:** Kanyashree project(State adolescence girls programme) supported by Govt. of West Bengal. Our implementing area is Block II Kalimpong distinct as per Govt. work order. The adolescences girls they are getting good exposure in menstrual health and hygiene and they are getting Govt. schemes through awareness campaign along with skill development training on kitchen gardening, tourism, handicrafts and basic knowledge on livelihood skills. Awareness on girls trafficking/human trafficking etc. in hilly region.



2.

2. Handloom training INTACH: Handloom weaving and designing training program Supported by Intach in collaboration with Ahana organized by Hill Social welfare Society. In first phase 15 days handloom weaving and designing training program was organized and in second phase 7 days training program exclusively on handloom designing on sarees was done. Training was provided to 30 no of handloom weavers for their better sustainable livelihood.



3. West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation limited: This year training programmed on Beautician and floriculture conducted, supported by WBSCL and implemented by HSWS. The Beautician training program was provided with 60 no of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were divided into two groups 30 each batch, one batch training was conducted at HSWS Vocational training centre and another batch training was conducted at resource person own training centre near Birla House Mangaldara. For floriculture 90 no of beneficiaries were provide training program. The trainees were divided into 3 batches and the training program is conducted at 3 villages with 30 beneficiaries at Sangsay. Both the training program were successfully completed and they were engaged in beauty and wellness industry and floriculture and they are earning better income from it in local level.

1. An integrated Project at the Tea Gardens in the Darjeeling Hills to ensure sustainable livelihood and Disaster Risk Mitigation supported By CFC, brot (bread for the world) Germany.

This project was implemented at the 8 villages of the Tukdah Tea Garden since the year October 2015 with the objectives towards benefiting the village people and ensuring sustainable livelihood. The specific objectives are as follows:

- a. Community Organization leadership cadre building and their perspective capacity building: Training of Community leaders on perspective building / leadership development / developmental and contextual analysis rights & entitlements, laws and policies (women and youth from excluded community). There was Development group of volunteers from excluded communities and their orientation on rights/ laws/ policy/programmes and tools of advocacy & Community Sensitization & Mobilization for participation in Gram Sansad
- b. Network & Alliance Building: Advocacy with State Level Initiatives on livelihood, disaster, justice and entitlement issues. Creation of climate adoptive livelihood models. Legal support and Consultancy services prioritized issues.
- c. Capacity building of Disaster Management Committee and Task Force (DMTF).
- d. Gender Mainstreaming: Capacity enhancement on gender analysis, gender sensitive planning and gender budgeting on rights and entitlements where more than 80 males and females participated. Gender policy of the local clubs and samaj were formed and they were also taught about the need of gender policy in any organization.
- e. The pace of project activities was very slow due to disturbance in the socio economics level as well as in the civic life. There was no proper reestablishment in the public faces and the administration due to some gaps in the functioning of official duties. So the focus of the project activities in this cycle was to re introduce and reorientation in the community level, govt official and other stakeholder. There was a bit gap between project implementation with the target community though continuity of the project work binds the ring of our presence. We organized awareness' programme on gender equality and reoriented community based organization for the integrated approach for the social cause of community development. We imitated the govt official for bridging of Govt entitlements and advocacy on continuation of PDS, MGNREGA, MDM, and ICDS, old age pension, manavik PENSION, Students credit cards and animal health benefit facility to the Tea Garden people. We developed kitchen garden, organic farming, cutting tailoring, and mushroom cultivation practices among the progressive farmer of the Tea Garden for the sustainable livelihood. We organized awareness programme of human trafficking to the garden female workers and gave several example of human trafficking and cause of migration due to low income of the family. In this awareness programme there was association of TEA Garden management, Police department RR Block, CBO member, Schools and Youths of Tukdah Tea Garden. We organized one block level meeting in presence of BDO RR block and local representatives for the

execution and recommendation of Govt schemes and entitlement for the benefit of underprivileged communities.



2. Towards Basic Health Care & support (Unit I)

This project funded by Memisa Belgium- facilitated by WBVHA has covered the Tista Valley Tea Garden RR Block Darjeeling. Various activities focused towards community health related issues at the area. Awareness on general health related issues like leprosy/ENC, PNC/Children health and Nutrition common health. We organize covid -19 health kit support among community people more than 200 kits along with machinery items provide ASHA workers of the area.

The activities implemented are awareness on health issues, free medical camps, sensitization meetings with important stakeholders, partner meetings with different NGOs, Govt. Institutions- BPHC, ICDS, Block office,

Panchayat, Sub Divisional Hospital, Irrigation Department, Disaster Risk Management awareness for landslide affected area, spot / home counseling, and formation of SHGs/ Village Development Committees (VDCs) with proper referrals/linkages to various institutions. Organized awareness's & Sensitization & Advocacy on Anti-Natal Care & Post Natal Care- holding meetings with ANC, PNC, institutional delivery, counseling of mothers along with their husbands, JSY benefits, newborn care, immunization, birth registration, counseling on colostrums feeding (exclusive breastfeeding), complication in mothers/ infants, Contraceptive use including Condom Distribution and Home visits.

With the continuation of the project under HSWS- INDIA -16-17, the major activities covered were under these four components- Right to Development, Survival, Protection and Participation of the children and the youths of the 24 villages of the Lopchu and the Peshok Tea Garden. One day orientation programme was organized amongst the staffs to discuss on the goal and the objectives of the programme and to enhance their knowledge and better understanding of their work at the targeted villages. The youth groups, children groups and all the NFE centres were updated and strengthening and enhancing knowledge of Children Rights, their duties and responsibilities.

- Health Awareness camps
- Low cost nutrition Training
- VHND (Village Health Nutrition Day)
- Community Awareness meetings
- Linkage Development Meeting with youth
- Workshop with youth groups members
- Training on Floriculture farming
- Meeting on VLCPC (Village Level Child Protection Committee)
- Survey & monitoring of ICDS centre
- Block Level Advocacy meeting
- Activities planned such as Child Rights Mela in District level, State Child Protection Day, Formation of VLCPC at 16 Sansad in Lamahatta GP could not be executed due to some unavoidable circumstances.

The stakeholders of the community such as health representatives- health workers, ANM, ICDS representatives, Panchayat representatives, school authorities, Block Development Office has participated leading to effectiveness of the programme in our projected activities for the welfare of the children of Lopchu and Peshok Tea Garden.

Follow up of activities supporting livelihood to the underprivileged families on Govt. Flagship Schemes, Floriculture farming and supporting the older youths using their own resources for their sustainable income in future.

The basic Health Care project no longer runs by the HSWS due to the amendment on FCRA regulation by the govt. of India the project is closed in the January 2023.



Dasra:

Hill Social Welfare Society initiated this programme for making people aware, providing correct information and counseling programme to the deserted and the Covid -19 affected families. Miss. Sulochana Karki as a supervisor along with the help of Health Workers (ASHA) visited Dhajay village for survey on Covid-19 pandemic affected families and to aware the people on how to be safe and how to follow the protocols given by the government.

TIME PERIOD: The Tenure of the grant was 15-07-2021 TO 14-07-2022.

No of beneficiaries: During COVID-19 pandemic the people from hilly region and maximum underprivileged family got benefitted through Dasar grant. The total number of beneficiaries who got benefitted was more than 500. In such situation the people who were unable to go for work also benefitted.

Along with the help of Health Workers (ASHA) we visited several people houses to aware about the Covid-19 and to take more precautions. While visiting we get to know that the maximum number of people are migrated from different places. During the pandemic due to low source of income people were facing problems. Lifestyle of the people was not so good and not educated as well. They work on the basis of per day wages. Due to heavy rainfall the area were affected. Based on the data analysis from the office of the Bhalukhop Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong-I Block here exists maximum migrant labours with and without their

families from Nepal, Bhutan, Adivashis, etc. living in rented rooms of the local people.

The main focus of this programme was to make people aware about the Covid-19. The objectives were to make sure that the people wear masks, avoid gathering, provided information to people on 20 seconds hand wash by sanitizer or 40 seconds by use of soaps, regular use of sanitizers, keep social/physical distancing. Even we talk to the people who were mentally disturbed during pandemic. People were very thankful as everyone these days are not so careful and they were neglecting protocols in the village. People learned that they have to take the danger of the corona virus seriously.



THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DRY RATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO ONE FAMILY.

Sl.NO	ITEM	QUANTITY
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1	RICE	10kg
2	MUSURI DAL	1kg
3	MUSTARD OIL	1ltr
4	GRAM	1kg
5	TEA LEAF	200gm
6	SALT	1pkt
7	SOAP	2pcs
8	TOOTHPASTE	1pc
9	TURMERIC POWDER	1pkt
10	MASK	5pcs
11	HAND SANITIZER	1 bottle
12	SUGAR	1KG

This intervention was amongst the community people of Covid pandemic affected families –daily labour worker families, migrant workers, small farmers and other weaker section of community. As this area was largely affected by the pandemic, maximum number of deaths due to Covid 19 and the local Govt. had declared red zone area due to high rate of infection. And hence, 100 families were highlighted for the distribution of the dry rations. As the survey report we came to know that there are less houses than 100 household but the people in this village/gaon belongs to the weaker section of the community and we decided to give 4/5 household the double ration to the family member because they were also migrated from different places and were living there life by doing 100 days work to feed their meals.



Global Green Grant Fund:

Pilot project for livelihood initiatives:

Area of Implementation: Lopchu and Peshok tea Garden Lamahatta GP, Rangli Rangliot Block, Darjeeling district.

Activities:

Survey: Initially the field survey was conducted where the 3 field staffs of the project were assigned to conduct the survey. In Lopchu Tea Garden total 10 villages were surveyed by the field staff Mr. Rimal Moktan and 18 villages were surveyed from Peshok GP by the field staff Mr. Philip Moktan (9 villages) and Mrs. Miskan Rai (9 villages). The survey format was prepared as per the need of the project. After completion of survey they data analysis was done where we found that the majority of the population from the Lopchu and Peshok tea garden are Tamang, Lepcha, Bhutia, Dukpa, Sherpa and Subba (% of ST population is high in the areas) and all these community belongs to Schedule tribe. Another finding of the survey was the average annual income of the community people is less than 30,000/-. Due to low income of the parents many children are school dropout students, unskilled unemployed youths. Risk of child labor, human trafficking and unsafe migration is very high in the area. Many of the people are living in the geologically and meteorologically vulnerable areas where they have risk of landslide and cloud burst flash floods. As per the findings of the survey we have prepared the action plan of the project and planning for the implementation is done.

Orientation program:

On dated 11.03.2023 2 no of orientation program of GGGF is conducted at Lopchu GP, Naya basti, and Tower dara at Lopchu. Lopchu & Peshok GP is located at Rangli Rangliot block under Darjeeling district. The Lopchu and Peshok GP is dominantly a tea garden area where the economic condition of the community people is very poor due to the sick condition of tea garden. The tea garden is closed from last 9 years and the community people who were dependent upon tea garden for their livelihood are suffering. Therefore, we selected some needy villages under the Lopchu and Peshok GP and from each village at least four or five people took their participation in the orientation meeting.

The meeting is officially started by the field staff of GGGF project Mr. Rimal Moktan Tamang and Philip Tamang, where they introduce themselves and started his speech. They spoke about the poor economic condition of the area, no livelihood opportunity in the local area, no scope for any new livelihood models due to poor economic condition and unskilled people. After their brief introduction on the present scenario of the Lopchu and Peshok the self introduction of the participants was done.

After finishing the welcome speech and introduction round the main part of the orientation program is started and the session is covered by Miss Yamuna Chettri project coordinator of GGGF project. She informed the community people about the aims and objectives of the project. What are the main themes (disaster management, legal awareness, health and livelihood) over which the program will run and what will be the plan of action for the project in the coming days. After sharing the about everything regarding the GGGF project an interactive session with the present community people take place, where everyone took their active participation and discussed about what are their needs which the GGGF project will fulfill.

After the interaction with the participants with the unanimous decision it was decided that firstly they want to do livelihood related training on mushroom cultivation and Floriculture and after that they want awareness program on legal rights and free legal aid. With the words of assurance to the community people that we will soon work on the interest of people and will conduct meeting in office regarding the training program and will fix the date and informed the community people of Lopchu for the training on mushroom cultivation and with this the orientation program of GGGF project at Lopchu ended.





Legal aid awareness program:

On dated 23rd March and 24th March 2023 legal aid awareness program was conducted at Lopchu and Peshok. At Lopchu the program was conducted at Lopchu Community hall where a participant from different clubs and Community people has participated. At Peshok the program was conducted in Himalayan Church Prayer hall where the school students and members of other NGOS and clubs were present. The community people at Lopchu and Peshok were mostly ST and they are very backward due to poor economic condition and sick condition of tea garden. Still the problem between the workers and management is not solved they are continuously protesting against the tea garden management. In such situation it is important to aware the tea garden community about their legal rights guaranteed by the India Constitution to its citizens. The legal aid awareness is mandatory for everyone but it is more needed in the tea garden community where everyday they have to face the challenges from the tea garden management. The awareness on legal aid program in this sick tea garden will help the community people to know about their rights and privileges. The awareness program is conducted by the field staff of GGGF project Mr. Rimal Moktan, where the project Co-coordinator Miss. Yamuna Chettri and other field supervisor Mrs. Miskan Rai and Mr. Philip Tamang were also present. The program is conducted by the DALS member from Darjeeling Miss Priyanka Rai, where she informed the participants about the basic fundamental rights of Indian Citizens, Free legal aid to women's, Law regarding the rights of women and laws related to tea garden labors wages.



GOONJ: The CFW(**CLOTH FOR WORK**) program supported by GOONJ and the implementation partner Hill Social Welfare Society has helped the large number of the people in the hills. The community in hilly region is not much aware with the concept of CFW in spite of this these people has tried to fulfill the required compliances. The community people have actively participated in the conducted activities for their own benefit. All the implemented areas have their individual problems concerning to their local community, as per their needs they have done the activities and distributed the materials supported by Goonj. Following are the implementing areas for CFW: Bong Busty, Tista, Mungpoo, Kagay,Sangsay,Dhajay(CFW).



CLOTH FOR WORK SUPPORTED BY GOONJ



GOONJ VAAPSI INITIATIVE FOR LIVELIHOOD:

. MUNGPOO

Mungpoo GP is located at the Kurseong sub-division Darjeeling District. This noodle making unit is given to Miss. Anju Khati resident of mungpoo, she has experience in working in noodle making and she provide training to 25 no of women on noodles making. The trainees themselves make the noodles in 3 days in a week. Per day they use 20 kgs of flour (Maida) from 20 kg flour approx. 7 packets weighing 200 grms noodles is produced. So, in a week they produce 21 packets of noodles and in a month $7 \times 21 = 147$ packets which is sell at the village level. Due to the low quality of the noodles the market demand is low. However the noodle produced by Mungpoo Group is consumed and sell at the local level and small amount to profit is generating.



Noodles making

unit at Mungpoo



PESHOK

Peshok GP is located at Rangli Rangliot Block, Darjeeling district. This noodle making unit is provide to Mr.Roshan Rai of Peshok. He provided training to 25 no of women trainees, but due to the unavailability of some important parts of the machine like, pulley and belt due to which noodles machine has not been installed and no production till date. Peshok is a tourist area and here is also high demand of noodles in the local market but due to the incomplete parts of the noodles making machine they are unable to do the production.



Noodles making unit at Peshok

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. **Celebration of World Environment Day:** On 5th June 2022 HSWS celebrated the world environment day where the different government officers, Police IC and other SHG members were present. On this day our special guest Mr.Bishal Rai and Mr.Santa Bir Gurung has supported the 100 saplings which were planted at HSWS premises and rest were sent to the project area Lopchu Peshok and Tukdha.
2. **Sabala Mela:** Sabala Mela provides marketing exposure to the products of SHG members and micro entrepreneurs linked with Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (SVSKP) of the state, which help them to become self-reliant. HSWS is empaneled with the SHG AND SE department of govt. of West Bengal and were also invited to keep stalls at Sabala Mela organized by the District administration of Kalimpong on dated 13 January to 17th January 2023. The program is inaugurated by the DM Kalimpong Mrs. R.Vimala, where SHG members of HSWS and Handloom weavers of HSWS Vocational training centre were given stalls to sell their products. Selling of HSWS handloom products was encouraging and they have earned good profit. The sell data of HSWS on Sabala Mela.

Sl. No.	Name of Office/SHG/NGo/Dept. (in detail)	Name of participants	Contact Cost of product/item to N	Name of Products Items to be sold in Exhibition	Cost of product/item to be sold (if applicable)
1	Hill Social Welfare Society, Kalimpong	Ms Pasang Doma Lama	9679805096	Handloom Item , Local Items	Handloom Woollen Shawl- Rs

					500/700/950 Muffler – Rs 150, Check shirt – Rs 300per meter, Small Handloom Bag –Rs 70, Medium –Rs 110-150
2		Smt. Madhu Pradhan	9002901072	Floriculture	Cut flower per stick Rs 25, sapling per pot Rs 50,150,250



HSWS STALL AT SABALA MELA



3. **Shristishree Mela:** The Shristishree Mela, exhibiting the products of Self Help Groups is for sale at Kalimpong Town Hall premises. The Shristishree mela is organized by the district administration from 23rd March to 27th March 2023. The program was officially inaugurated by MLA Kalimpong Mr. Ruden Sada Lepcha. Hill Social Welfare society has also got stall to display and sell the local handloom products where our handloom weavers actively participated and did their selling.
4. **Foundation day of HSWS and visit of Japan Consulate:** Yearly HSWS celebrate the foundation day on 23rd November and this year we have visit of Mr. Matsutaro YAMASAKI Japan consulate. All the members, executive members and staffs were present in the annual day celebration. Visited. We HSWS were very grateful to have Mr. Yamasaki with us. Various other stakeholders and well wishers of the organization attended the annual day celebration and wished the further success of the organization in the development and upliftment of the underprivileged community people. Distress and dissatisfied Women's and children of the remote villages and tea garden area of the hilly region.



5. **Women's day celebration:** On 8th March 2023 HSWS celebrated the International women's day; with the theme embrace the equity "digital all". On this occasion HSWS felicitated and citation is the 3 women's from Kalimpong who have contributed much for the general public of Kalimpong. Mrs. Sandhya Pradhan, senior journalist of Kalimpong and Director of Gorkha Channel, Achal Agrawal Nautropanthist and Mrs. Januka Chhetri Civic Police Volunteer. Mrs. Samiksha Subba, WBCS Executive, SHG&SE Department office of the District Magistrate madam was invited as the chief guest and Sabhasad from 36 no samastya Mrs. Senora Namchu Mrs. Radhika Chhetri officer Sericulture department

Kalimpong were present as the guest of honor in the program. The office staffs were also felicitated and many important and distinguished personalities from the field of education, administration, media, and social workers have attended the program.



OBSERVATION OF WORLD WOMENS DAY 8TH MARCH 2023



6. Awareness on Legal Rights: HSWS organized legal awareness program at Lava on 24th November 2022 in collaboration with DLSA Kalimpong and Women police cell. All single women were aware about their rights, act and well aware about the various governments schemes but due to poor networking, lack of exploration, uneducated and less knowledge they were deprived from the Social Legal Rights and Issues. All were aware of misconception and fear of Police station dealings that it is for the safety of the people and well being of every individual.

This project has checked the community perspective on analyzing single women beneficiary's' troubles and sufferings. It has mainstreamed the values of inequality to equality. Most of the important stakeholders/ Govt. stakeholders have given prime attention on the issue. This project motivated and encouraged to share every

difficulties and personal problems towards the community and in their own surroundings. Joint coordination, corporation and team building relationship needs to maintain in single women, government and non government sector so that this will uplift their livelihood and empower them.



In concluding note, we would like to thank and extend our gratitude to everyone who has been there for HSWS as a strong backbone, our executive body, staffs, members and all the foreign and Indian partners and funding agencies, without out their support and co-operation, all the programs and projects for the financial year 2022-2023 will not be as successful. So, we can say the FY 22-23 is fruitful and successful for HSWS.

Thank You

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