

PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

2023-24 has been a year of expansion for APPL Foundation. 2022-23 ended with the aim of expanding the field programmes to benefit more people, and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to ensure impact to the local community. I am pleased to share the key highlights in this regard, in my capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

In 2023-24 the Foundation directly impacted close to 4 lakh individuals with our interventions in health, education & skill development, livelihood generation, and environmental protection through 10 programmes in 12 districts of Assam and West Bengal.

Health

The Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) in Chubwa, provides access to the North-East to specialized medical facilities, consultations, and treatment at affordable rates. In 2023–24, RHRC treated the health issues of more than 1 lakh people, most of whom came from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In this year, a CT Scan machine was also installed and made operational, along with 4 semi-cabins. We are grateful to Tata Consumer Product's for their continued assistance towards helping improve medical services in our target regions.

We are also grateful to Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) for contributing 10 Health Kiosks at 10 tea growing regions, under the E-Healthcare Programme. These kiosks have helped conduct medical tests with instant results, along 50 parameters for over 9,000 people. It has also been monumental in building a health database for the entire population of these regions in Assam. Technology such as this has also helped in improving the health-seeking behaviour of the community by improving their experience while availing medical services.

Another major public health concern on which APPL Foundation continues to work in North-East India is Tuberculosis. Under a pledge to support The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), over 2 lakh people were screened for TB using TruNat machines, provided by HPE across 25 tea growing regions in Assam and West Bengal. The success of this programme can be seen in the marked reduction of positive cases identified this year.

Similar to TB, the spread of fungal infection and poor menstrual hygiene continues to be a challenge for these communities. The continued efforts of previous years has led to visible improvements in 2023-24-the participation of women in awareness programmes has been the highest so far. With

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

over 20,000 women participating in awareness programmes, 17,000 of them willingly got tested for fungal infection. There was a marked reduction in the number of positive cases identified this year. Similarly, the sale of sanitary pads in 2023-24 has also been the highest so far, owing to increased and regular awareness programmes conducted by the female community leaders. These are indicators of a successful intervention as, in the past, the taboo around fungal infection and menstrual hygiene led to people with fungal infection showing reluctance to seek treatment with very less use of sanitary pads. These programmes also continue to serve as a source of income for 12 female community leaders apart from assisting in capability building in this frontal health/ hygiene area. We would also like to acknowledge support received from various individual donors which has helped running these programmes.

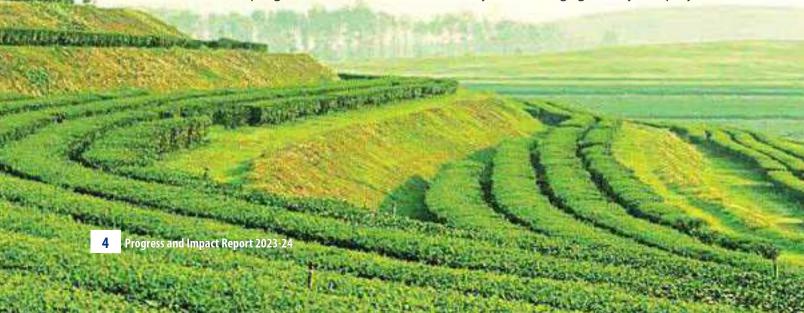
Skills and Education

Pursuing our aim to improve socio-economic conditions in Assam and North Bengal, the Foundation expanded the skill development, employment and education programmes. Apart from the existing long-term courses in APPITI, Rowta the Foundation also introduced a long-term course in the Vocational Training Centre(VTC) at Chubwa- Bachelor in Vocation (B.Voc) in Automotives. APPITI and VTC Chubwa were also chosen as the training centres to run the PM Vishwakarma programme for three

trades- Tailoring, Carpentry and Masonry. Assam Gas Company and Oil India also supported short-term training programmes. Overall, 802 trainees completed training in 2023-24. Total placements were 928, including those qualified in 2022-23. Placements were with reputed companies like- Tata Power, ITC, Ashok Leyland, Northeast Distillery, Barbeque Nation, Maruti Suzuki, etc.

Through the support of Tata Consumer Products, extensive repairs and renovation were carried out in the two Vocational Training Centres located in North Bengal and one in Assam, where training courses are scheduled to commence shortly.

A similar expansion was also done for the Teach Me Programme. Couple of years back, post COVID, Digital Learning Centres were started in two North Bengal locations to provide supplemental tuitions to school going children between classes 4 to 12 and help revive the practice of regular schooling, adversely affected by the pandemic. The modules, mainly Maths and Science, are aligned to the State Board Syllabi. Teachers have been hired from the vicinity, thereby assisting in local capacity building and empowerment. Based on the positive response, the programme was expanded during the year, to another centre in North Bengal, as well as 3 new centres in Upper Assam. At present, more than 400 students are enrolled for regular evening classes with 6 local youth being gainfully employed as





teachers under this programme. The increase in attendance of the students from 60% to 90% demonstrates that the programme has been successful in its goal of inculcating/ reviving the interest in education among the children. We would also like to acknowledge support received from various individual donors which has helped running these programmes.

Environment

The Foundation published another edition of Organic Growth which focusses on Regenerative Farming.

Financials

In 2023-24, the Total Income was Rs. 17.77 cr against Rs. 16.54 cr in the previous year. Against this, the Total Expenditure in 2023-24 was Rs. 17.23 cr against Rs. 16.70 cr in the previous year. The resultant Surplus (including amount transferred from Project Earmarked Funds) of Rs.0.59 cr was transferred to Unrestricted Funds. Surplus in the previous year was Rs.0.25 cr.

Conclusion

We are happy to inform that our efforts in 2023-24 have led to two major achievements in the current fiscal year-

i) The Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI) in Rowta Assam was accorded a score of 8.1 by the Directorate General of Training under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. This puts APPITI in the top 3000 ITIs of India, out of a total of 15,000.

ii) The Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) in Chubwa, Assam received accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

These achievements will go a long way in supporting APPL Foundation's efforts to try to reach the maximum number of socioeconomically challenged people residing in the tea growing areas of the North East through its welfare programmes.

We are grateful for our donors, faculty partner- Gram Tarang Employability and Training Services, staff, volunteers, Amalgamated Plantations Private Ltd and members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the continued support. The Foundation strives to ensure transformational impact for the local communities that we serve, while maintaining strict control over compliances and transparency in all its operations.

Ajoyendra Mukherjee, Chairman, Board of Trustees APPL FOUNDATION

Date: November 29th, 2024

Programmes	2023-24	2022-23	
Overall			
Beneficiaries (nos.)	399076	388580	
Programs (nos.)	10	10	
Locations (no. of districts)	12	12	
Healthcare			
RHRC (no. of OPD and IPD patients)	42833	44409	
e-Healthcare (no. of patient registrations) and Check-ups through Health Kiosks	70961 + 9188	58961	
TB Case Findings (no. of screenings)	200585	219903	
3F Programme (no. of women and girls given awareness to)	21340	13826	
MHM Programme (no. of women and girls given awareness to)	42071	44114	
Eye Screening Camp	9914	-	
Community leaders trained (nos.)	12	20	
Skills & Education			
APPITI & VTC (total trainees)	802	761	
APPITI & VTC (total placements)	100%	60%	
	(928 trainees)	(342 trainees)	
TEACH Me (no. of children)	442	244	
Flood Response			
Flood Response (no. of beneficiaries)	-	6000	





APPL Foundation, an irrevocable trust with the dominant objective of welfare of the general public in distress was formed in 2011. For 13 years the focus of the Trust has been to support local communities with medical aid, health services and relief, education and learning, environment protection and revival of indigenous tribal, music and dance. The initiatives of the Trust have had far-reaching impact within the communities in Assam Valley region and Dooars, West Bengal.

APPL Foundation Drives Sustainable Development

Development which meets the needs of the present and enables the future generations to meet their own needs.

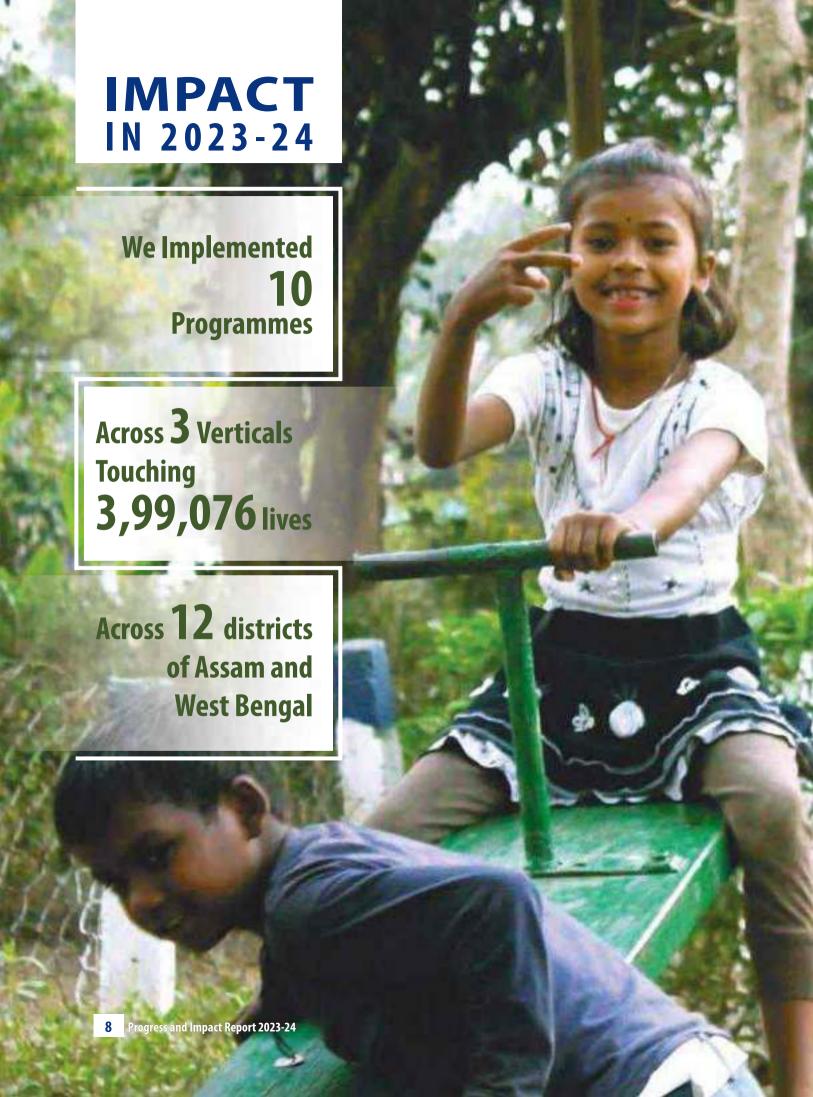
Our VisionCatalysing change

Our Mission

Significant improvement in the quality of life and livelihood sustenance of marginalized communities in the North-East.

Our Approach

Launch social impact initiatives in the fields of skill development & livelihood, education, healthcare, environment and culture in the North-East.





42,833

OPD and IPD patients provided treatment

2,988,809

medical services, including surgeries, diagnostic tests, treatments and e-consultations, conducted at RHRC and e-Hubs.

2,27,521

people diagnosed and treated for vision issues, fungal infection and **Tuberculosis.**

63,411

women and adolescent girls sensitized on personal hygiene for preventing skin and menstrual diseases.

he key challenges faced by remote and rural regions when it comes to healthcare. are accessibility to good quality services, and limited knowledge and understanding about health issues. These challenges also seen among the North-East Communities, in addition the limited number specialist doctors and facilities. APPL Foundation, through its interventions, has tried to bridge this gap of accessibility and knowledge. The Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) at Chubwa, Assam, provides access to quality healthcare services to the rural areas in North East India by equipping the healthcare units at the remotest locations with latest technology, treatment by medical specialists and skilled healthcare personnel. The field programmes strive to eliminate diseases such as Tuberculosis and Fungal Infections while also increasing awareness about it.



Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), Chubwa



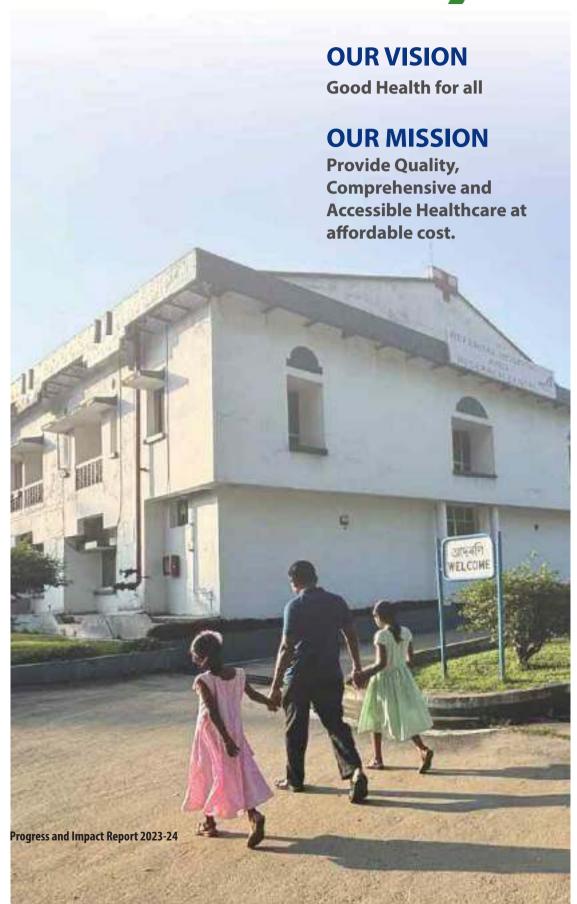




peferral Hospital & Research Centre, an 80-bed hospital with state-of-the-art medical facilities, was set up at Chubwa Tea Estate by Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (erstwhile Tata Tea Ltd.) in 1994. The hospital has been offering treatment at affordable costs to the public at large. On April 1, 2007, the hospital was transferred from Tata Consumer Products Ltd. to Amalgamated Plantations Private Ltd., and then again to APPL Foundation on February 21, 2021. In September 2024, the hospital also received its NABH Certification.

The hospital was built to provide secondary care medical facilities to nearby residents and the population in and around that area. Majority of the patients of RHRC earn less than Rs. 6,000 per month and 100% of patients consider RHRC to be the most affordable hospital in the region. It is also the only medical facility with SA8000 accreditation.





Departments

Orthopaedic, Cardiology, Eye & ENT, Pathology, Dental Department, Outpatient and Inpatient Departments, Emergency Department, with a team of highly skilled and experienced doctors.







Facilities

Laparoscopic surgery, Pathology with latest diagnostic facilities, Radiology Department with USG, Digital X-Ray & C Arm, CT Scan machine, 24 X 7 SCU and ICU with Ventilator, Executive Cabins, Modern Anaesthesia Unit, Echocardiography Unit, 24 X 7 Blood Bank services, 24 X 7 ambulance services, Medicine shop, Cashless insurance, etc.



40056 patients treated in Outpatient Department (OPD)

2777 patients treated in Inpatient Department (IPD)

206917 diagnostic tests conducted

1743 surgeries performed

43% of the patients of RHRC earn less than Rs. 10,000 per month.

95% of the beneficiaries said that they chose RHRC for their treatment due to the high quality of medical care provided here.

RHRC has treated over 3 lakhs patients since its inception. The services provided by RHRC have also led to an increasing number of patients seeking major and minor surgeries, and diagnostic procedures, ultimately leading to improved health-seeking behaviour and a healthier population.







collaboration with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), across 25 tea estates in West Bengal and Assam.

Tuberculosis has been a longstanding issue in the tea garden communities, mainly due to lack of sanitation practices and increased exposure to germs. APPL Foundation has pledged to support these communities in being TB free by aligning with The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), which aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025.

The programme offers:

- Screening of communities for TB across tea estates and nearby communities
- Diagnosis of people showing TB symptoms and their subsequent testing
- · Connecting diagnosed patients with the first line of treatment and monitoring their treatment
- Building capacity of tea garden hospitals to serve as TB identification/ diagnosis centres for the community at large.

IMPACT IN 2023-24

200585 people screened for TB symptoms

8543 people tested for TB

502 people diagnosed with TB

502 patients put on treatment

420 patients completed treatment

5% increase in number of people screened since 2022-23

37% increase in number of people tested

2.5% decrease in positive TB cases



Fungal Free Frocks (3F) Progamme

The tea growing regions are riddled with harsh weather conditions throughout the year, with a long wet season and a severe dry season. Female tea pluckers usually spend most of their day in the plantations and are constantly facing either harsh sun or heavy rain. The damp conditions due to water or sweat leads to the prevalence of fungal infection among this community and is highly contagious.

The challenge among the community is the limited knowledge about prevention and control of fungal infection, as well as a taboo surrounding the topic. This leads to home-remedies which often worsen the problem.

The Fungal Free Frocks (3F) Programme is an initiative of APPL Foundation supported by Serra Foundation, The Netherlands, with the aim to prevent and cure fungal infection through preventive and curative medical interventions. The programme was piloted in 3 tea estate communities in North Bank of Assam in 2019 which has now expanded to 7 tea growing regions. Local women from within the community are picked as leaders who hold awareness sessions to discuss the prevention of fungal infection, and do's and don'ts in case one has fungal infection. A reflection of the success of the programme can be seen in the health and lifestyle change that the community has adopted, as well as in the increase in number of people willing to seek medical help for the issue.

The initiative has helped in breaking the silence around fungal infection and improving health-seeking behaviour.

3F 3rd Phase

2021 onwards

7 Estates

Nahorani, Nonoi, Sagmootea, Kellyden, Lamabari, Hattigor and Majuli

IMPACT IN 2023-24

Awareness Campaigns

4871 Awareness sessions

21340 Women attended awareness sessions17018 Women screened (80% of total population)1097 Positive cases identified



Hygiene Promotion for Prevention 1204 Petticoats and detergents distributed







In the rural areas of North-East India, such as tea growing regions, personal hygiene is a major challenge. Taboos regarding the topic of personal hygiene also make it difficult for the community, especially women, to have the knowledge of, and cultivate good personal hygiene practices. This is highlighted even more when it comes to menstrual hygiene. Since menstruation also falls under the list of taboo subjects, women rarely propagate the knowledge of good hygiene practices down the generation. As a result, certain unhealthy hygiene practices have been carrying on for generations, such as using cloth during menstruation and not drying it directly under sunlight.

APPL Foundation has realized that Menstrual Hygiene is a cause of major concern and has been striving to improve these unhealthy practices since 2021. The Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Programme is going on in and around 15 tea growing regions of Assam and West Bengal to normalize conversations on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and women. Our trained female community leaders, known as Sakhis, have enabled a free learning and sharing environment by conducting regular awareness programmes and door-to-door awareness campaigns. The women and young girls now freely approach for help with their menstrual problem and are also provided easy access to affordable and good quality menstrual hygiene products.



IMPACT IN 2023-24

42071 women and adolescent girls sensitized on good Menstrual Hygiene Practice

7520 awareness campaigns conducted in households and community spaces

9054 menstrual absorbents

were availed by the women in the community 20% increase in menstrual absorbents availed by women

12 community leaders (Sakhis) nurtured to improve menstrual hygiene practices of the community

Menstrual absorbents are placed in various locations throughout the tea estates, so that women can easily access them. Pads are made available at doorsteps and common places of gathering such as challans, factories, and at awareness meetings.

Eye Camps

Prioritizing health remains a challenge in certain communities within the North-East, especially in rural regions. This includes the tea growing regions, where the main concerns are livelihood and local politics. In such a setting, health is usually ignored. Therefore, vision issues have been normalized and people are rarely seen seeking medical support for them. In fact, people are also of the opinion that they do not have vision issues even though they claim they cannot see clearly.

The limited understanding of vision issues is a problem that APPL Foundation worked towards with the support of Vision Spring Foundation. Eye camps were conducted in 5 tea growing regions of Assam where more than 9,000 people were screened for vision issues and 88% were found with vision issues.







IMPACT IN 2023-24

9914 people sereened for visual issues

5294 people provided with corrective glasses

3441 provided with reading glasses

57% of these (4943 people) were wearing glasses for the first time

12% (1214) cataract cases were identified and referred to nearby hospitals







SDG₁ NO **POVERTY**



SDG 5 **GENDER EQUALITY**



SDG 4 **QUALITY EDUCATION**



SDG8 **DECENT WORK** & ECONOMIC **GROWTH**



802

Youth from Tea Tribes and surrounding communities were trained in technical and vocational skills.

442

school-going children provided quality education through remedial classes in Math and Science.



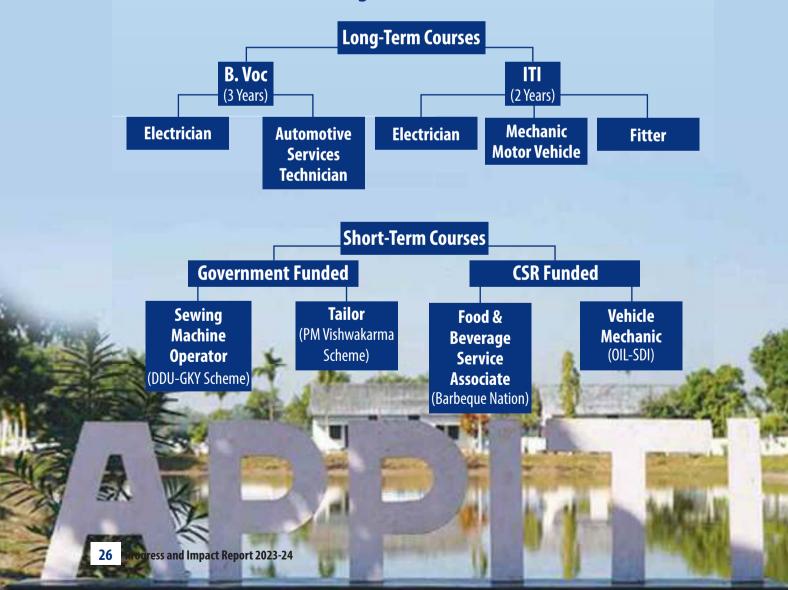
ight to Education is one of The 7 Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution. It is also recognized as crucial to realize some of the other rights such as Right to Work, Right to Social Security, and Right to a Decent Standard of Living. However, the average rate of literacy in India is only 74%. In comparison, the rate of literacy among Tea Tribes in Assam and West Bengal is only about 46%. This also decreases the employment opportunities available to them in the future.

APPL Foundation aims to improve levels of education and employability promoting education skill-development and amongst the young and Including improving formal school education, APPL Foundation also takes a realistic approach to increase employability of youth by skill trainings. Expanding the horizon of education and skill development, the Foundation is enabling the youth and women from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their socio-economic condition by opening new avenues of income and employment.

Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta

Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI) is a flagship training institute of APPL Foundation that provides certified vocational training to youth. The institute was established in 1997 by Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (erstwhile Tata Tea Ltd.) out of the need for skill-based courses for the youth from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds in order to generate technical manpower and employability. Since 2014, APPITI in partnership with Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS) has been training and creating employment opportunities for thousands of youth in the region.

We offers short term and long-term courses.



APPITI, Rowta: A Trendsetter in Skill **Development**



Hostel Facility

96 seats in Girls Hostel

72 seats in Boys Hostel



50% of the trainees at the centre are women

8.1 Grade Score received by APPITI from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, putting it in the top 3000 it is out of 15,000 in India.

Self-financed ITI courses at subsidized amount offered to youth from Below Poverty Line families

Trainees earn Rs. 10000 per month (on average) in their very first job

A well-maintained canteen providing quality affordable food to students and people visiting the centre in general

Forged partnership with Kaziranga University and companies such as OIL India and AGCL for running new short and long-term courses.

NO. OF TRAINEES **ENROLLED**

NO. OF TRAINEES **COMPLETED TRAINING**

NO. OF TRAINEES **PLACED**

Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Chubwa

The Vocational Training Centre at Chubwa functions as a branch of APPITI, established with the purpose of increasing the accessibility of skill development opportunities to the youth of the remote tea tribe community through certified courses.

Since 2016, APPL Foundation in partnership with Gram Tarang Employability and Training Services (GTETS) is providing free quality skill-based training, hence generating employment opportunities for the underprivileged youth of the region.

We provide one long-term course and 2 short-term courses

- Long-term paid course
 - Bachelors in Vocation in Automotives
- Short-term government funded course
 - Sewing Machine Operator (DDU-GKY Scheme)
 - o Tailor (PM Vishkwakarma Scheme)

Our uniqueness / We are Unique

- 65% of the trainees are from tea tribes
- 81% of trainees from tea tribe secured jobs after completing the trainings
- Youth across 8 districts of Assam were trained at the centre
- The centre holds record of placing 75% of its trainees
- Trainees earn Rs. 8500/- per month (on average) in their very first job

505 NO. OF TRAINEES ENROLLED **422**NO. OF TRAINEES
COMPLETED TRAINING

601 NO. OF TRAINEES PLACED









Teach Me Programme

The North-East region faces unique challenges when it comes to education. While education is considered more of a priority than health, challenges with existing educational institutions and faculty in rural areas makes quality education inaccessible to children.

In local schools, the student-teacher-ratio is high, making it difficult for teachers to give individual attention to each child's education. As a result, students often suffer from understanding difficult concepts, especially for Math and Science, thus, increasing the rate of student drop-outs.

APPL Foundation aims to reduce this gap between demand for good quality education and their access to it through the Teach Me Programme. Learning Centres were established in 3 tea growing regions of North Bengal- Dam Dim, Nowers Nuddy and Rungamuttee; and

in 3 tea growing regions in Assam-Namroop, Nahorkutia and Borhat, where supplemental education classes are held 6 days a week on Math and Science, every evening. Pre-loaded video content is made available on Smart TVs, with the help of which local men and women hired as teachers, easily explain complex concept in Math and Science.

This programme began in May 2022 with 2 centres in North Bengal. The success of these two centres led to the rapid expansion of the programme to 4 more centres- 1 in North Bengal and 3 in Upper Assam.

442 students are benefiting from this programme.





Environment Organic Growth

In contribution to global discussions around environment conservation, APPL Foundation also publishes an e-journal, "Organic Growth" with over 400 readers in East and North-East India. It highlights issues of environment degradation and innovative technical and non-technical breakthroughs towards environment conservation for a healthier greener future. The latest issue of the journal in 2023 focuses on Regenerative Farming.

Ever since Green Revolution, the concept and practical aspects of farming has continuously been evolving, while also being the subject of scrutiny among environmentalists. Among several such concepts, Regenerative Farming belongs under the umbrella of Nature Based Solutions. Regenerative Farming means agriculture that not only aims to improve food availability, but also takes a holistic approach towards the subject by focusing on improving soil health and biodiversity of the land. This topic is further explored in the latest issue of the journal, with articles from experts in the field.

ORGANIC GROWTH Vol 2 2024 Regenerative Farming

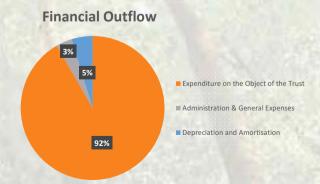


FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023-24

(All amounts in Rs)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED	31st March 2024	31st March 2023
PARTICULARS		
INCOME		
Donations and Grants	5,61,00,122	5,10,32,944
Income from RHRC	11,82,61,355	11,21,10,100
Other Income	33,66,170	22,45,090
Total	17,77,27,647	16,53,88,134
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on the Object of the Trust	15,80,28,774	15,77,78,104
Administration & General Expenses	61,64,830	48,05,757
Depreciation and Amortisation	81,39,916	44,16,027
Total	17,23,33,520	16,69,99,888
Excess of Income over (Expenditure)	53,94,127	(16,11,754)
Amount Transferred (to) / from Project Earmarked Funds		
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year carried to Balance Sheet	59,06,038	





OUR PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Our partners are pillars on which our interventions are established. We are thankful to our partners and associates for their continued support in our transformational journey.









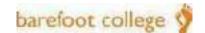
































OUR TEAM



AJOYENDRA MUKHERJEE Chairman



AMITAVA RANJAN SEN Secretary Trustee



MAHFUZA RAHMAN Trustee



RUMA RAO Trustee (Till 30.08.2023)



DIPANKAR BORAH *Trustee*



RIZWAN AKHTAR SADIQUE Trustee



P K SASIKUMAR *Trustee*



DEBASISH SENGUPTA *Trustee*



