



PROGRESS
& IMPACT
2015-2017



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TOWARDS A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER FUTURE...

TRUSTEES' UPDATE, 2015-17

Growth and development today can no longer be demonstrated by simply stacking up numbers, calculated on the basis of profit and loss considerations of the business-as-usual model. In order to achieve growth, at an individual or industry-level, that is relevant to our present world, one needs to strive towards envisioning a model that is ethical, socially inclusive and strongly adheres to the principle of 'do no harm'. J R D Tata's dream of wanting 'India to be a happy country' drives the ethos of all our activities here at the Foundation.

As the CSR arm of Amalgamated Plantations, the Foundation's catchment area is nestled in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas and is home to diverse ethnic and tribal communities. The tea plantation communities and its neighbours are our primary collaborators as well as the beneficiaries of our projects. The clear focus of our work has been to achieve social, economic and environmental enhancement while always placing the practical needs of our community-members at centre of discussions and plans for the future. Better access to quality education and healthcare is a high priority requirement in these areas and also form the main pillars of our work.



Boosting livelihood options through critical skills training and 'best practices' driven farming techniques that create positive environmental impact is another focus area of APPL Foundation's work. In our endeavour to raise the happiness quotient of our communities, we also facilitate a social environment where each community has an opportunity to preserve the uniqueness of their cultural heritage. Thus, environment and culture constitute the two remaining pillars of the Foundation.

In the last 2 years, we have been successful in achieving some of the goals we had set out while we need to continue to push ourselves to get to where we want to be. Our aim is to bring together different stakeholders in order to optimize impact in engendering communities that are resilient and socially empowered. Together with our strategic partners, we want to further accentuate the dissemination of information, so that communities can choose, for themselves, the best option available because we believe that information is power.

IMPACT 2015-17	
VERTICAL	LIVES TOUCHED
Skills & Education	10,000
Healthcare	1,80,000
Environment & Livelihoods	3,000
Culture	35,000

Looking ahead, for the coming 2 years, we plan to undertake the following missions:

- Plant 1 million trees in our catchment area
- Provide clean water to all our communities
- Build strategic partnerships in the areas of Education and Healthcare
- Lobby with stakeholders to increase accessibility through better roads

A stakeholder-driven approach to business and development fosters healthy, happy communities, which in turn, goes a long way in securing better and brighter futures for coming generations. We, at APPL Foundation, are constantly seeking sustainable solutions to challenges confronting us, as we firmly believe that the work we do should not only benefit communities today but also build strong foundations for the future.

Ranjit Barthakur
Chairman





PROJECT UNNATI

Towards a sustainable future

PROJECT UNNATI

Project Unnati is an initiative by Amalgamated Tea Plantations Private Limited (APPL) dedicated to improving living and working conditions of workers at the APPL plantations in Assam and North Bengal. It covers areas ranging from housing, sanitation & hygiene, education, health & safety, to improving systems & processes, providing best-in-class medical facilities and improving worker engagement through awareness and capability building.

The project endeavours to drive positive change through direct action as well as through stakeholder engagement and partnerships. Given the complexity of the challenges impacting the tea sector, it leverages new ways of thinking to progress towards its goals.

AMALGAMATED PLANTATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

Project Unnati is the flagship welfare programme by APPL to ensure **better living** for tea plantation workers. Formed between 1835 to 1927, APPL is one of the earliest tea estates in the world, and the **second largest** tea producer in India. APPL's tea estates cover **14304 hectares of tea estates, a total of 25 tea estates across Assam and West Bengal**.







// We are very happy with the improved housing and bathroom facilities at the workers colonies. The individual type bathrooms are helpful mainly for the women as we now do not have to go far to bathe. Provisions of fencing in the quarters compound will also be helpful to us. "

Sunita Rajowar

Worker, Nahorani Tea Estate



// Me and my family are happy and have a very hygienic surrounding as now we keep our house and surroundings neat and tidy."

Ignish Toppo

Worker, Kellyden Tea Estate

A FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME WAS CONDUCTED ACROSS ALL ESTATES. TOGETHER WITH TATA ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED AND CRISIL,

WORKERS

WERE EDUCATED ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF



SAVINGS



INVESTMENTS



SHAREHOLDING
PROGRAMME



APPL HAS DEVELOPED A COMPLIANCE STANDARD THAT INTEGRATES THE REQUIREMENT OF

11 INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

THE FIRST TIME SUCH A TOOL WAS DESIGNED CUSTOMIZED TO THE TEA INDUSTRY

AWARENESS ON GOOD ENERGY SAVING PRACTICES DISCUSSED WITH EMPLOYEE ESTATE COUNCILS THE USE OF

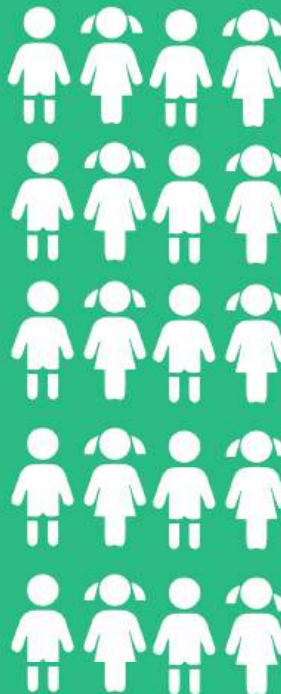


SOLAR LANTERNS

IS BEING PROMOTED TO ENCOURAGE ENERGY SAVING AMONG WORKER FAMILIES

OUR SHAREHOLDER TATA GLOBAL BEVERAGES IS ONE OF THE FUNDING PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY UNICEF AND EPT TO IMPROVE

FOR CHILDREN OPPORTUNITIES



IN TEA COMMUNITIES IN ASSAM AND REDUCE THEIR VULNERABILITY TO TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE. THE THREE YEAR PROGRAM WILL INITIALLY WORK WITH 350 COMMUNITIES IN OVER 100 ESTATES IN ASSAM

COMPLETED
REPAIRS FOR



6286
HOUSES

COMPLETED
REPAIRS FOR



5108
TOILETS

INSTALLED

146
BIO TOILETS

CONTRUCTED

250
BATHROOMS

2572

SMOKELESS
CHULAS(OVENS)

PROVIDED TO
WORKER HOUSES
AND HOSPITALS



IMPLEMENTED



MECHANICAL
SEWAGE
CLEANING

2570
SWACH
WATER FILTERS



COMPLETED
CONSTRUCTION OF



1314 RFT
PUCCA
(CEMENTED)
DRAINS



FORMAT OF
PAY SLIPS
MODIFIED TO
IMPROVE CLARITY &
ARE ALSO PRINTED
IN VERNACULAR
LANGUAGES



EMPLOYEE ESTATE COUNCILS
REVAMPED WITH PARTICIPATION
ACROSS WORK SEGEMNTS

50%
WOMEN
NUMBERS

NEW
NUTRITIONAL
DIET CHARTS
FOR CRECHES
AND HOSPITALS
IMPLEMENTED



ADOLESCENT
CLUBS
(MUSKASSN CLUBS)

FORMED AT ALL ESTATES ORF APPL TO
SPREAD AWARENESSON URBAN
IMMIGRATION & CHILDO TRAFFICKING,
CHILD MARRAIGE, GIRL CHILD
EDUCATION, ETC





APPL Foundation is the CSR wing of Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited. It was founded in August 2011, with the dominant objective to promote social impact initiatives in and around the areas where APPL operates.

APPL Foundation is engaged in facilitating and monitoring Project Unnati to optimise benefits for the community. Taking the mandate of Project Unnati further, APPL Foundation undertakes projects to bring about a qualitative change in the lives of the people living in the plantations.

The plantation communities need better health and education, and preservation of their unique cultures within a stable environment. Better living comes with better health and better education. We, at APPL Foundation, work towards applying some of the best technology-driven models that the modern world has to offer, in the fields of health and education to ensure better community access.

A light green line drawing of a tea plant branch with several leaves, positioned vertically on the left side of the page.

OUR VISION

Catalysing Change

OUR MISSION

*To enhance the lives of our own
communities in the tea plantations
of the Eastern Himalayas.*



OUR APPROACH

WHAT WE DO

IDENTIFY

Identification of the most immediate needs of the communities that we serve. While working with severely impoverished communities, the challenge of identifying the most urgent and sustainable areas to work is a crucial step. An in-depth understanding of the region and its people, alongside dedicated on-the-ground studies and extensive engagement with the communities helps us jointly arrive at the most suitable interventions. Our idea of community development is an inclusive process where we feel communities best know the kind of support they would want from us and together, through mutual exchange of ideas, we conceptualise our projects.

GARNER SUPPORT

The idiom 'two heads are better than one' describes the way we approach our work at the Foundation. We understand that in order to make a long lasting impact on lives of the communities we work with, it is also crucial for us to bring together different stakeholders and varied expertise in syncretic ways.

We partner with experienced, local organisations that have a nuanced understanding of how to implement new initiatives in culturally sensitive ways. We also bring on board funders with whom we collaborate to maximize our outreach and impact on the ground.

CAPACITY BUILDING

All our interventions seek to build capacities of individuals who come together to strengthen the communities to which they belong. The idea of philanthropy, well-meaning as it might be, is limited in its impact. But, when individuals are supported to hone skills, trained to access resources that are available, the outcomes are far more long lasting. The basic guiding principle of the Foundation in all our activities in the region is premised on the belief that capacity building interventions lead to self-sustaining change and development of societies.

// Our idea of community development is an inclusive process where we feel communities' best know the kind of support they would want from us and together, through mutual exchange of ideas we conceptualise our projects."





OUR **VERTICALS**

1

WE TRAIN
Skills and
Education

2

WE TREAT
Healthcare


3

WE PROTECT
Environment
and Livelihoods

4

WE PROMOTE
Culture





SKILLS & EDUCATION

*We Train
Education Beyond Schooling*

OUR OPPORTUNITY

Pressing needs of the family and a fear of the unknown – these are the two factors that immediately overshadow the value of education in communities in North East India. The communities working on tea estates are physically isolated from the towns and cities which house educational institutions. This results in a lack of awareness and access, and thus the need for early employment takes precedence over education and skill development. The problem of employment paired with the unavailability of trained educators further compromise the socio-economic well-being of the region's inhabitants.

WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO

APPL Foundation aims to create a lasting impact on the communities in North East India. A sure-shot way to ensure this is to focus education and skill-development in the younger generations. Our focus is not only on early and high-school education, but to take a realistic approach and train the youth for employment. Education alone does not guarantee employment, but formal education paired with technical and professional training opens many doors for the youth, within and outside the region. Together, these components go on to build communities that are resilient, in the face of social evils.

OUR AIM

Our goal is to build a resilient community, by equipping its members with the right balance of formal training and life skills. Community awareness and literacy programmes help us create a safe environment for the tribes in this region. We aim to create sustainable employment opportunities and laterally empower younger generations to benefit from these opportunities.

OUR IMPACT (2015-2017)

7 PROJECTS

8 PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS

70%
PLACEMENTS

10000 DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES



AMALGAMATED PLANTATIONS PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (APPITI) Rowta

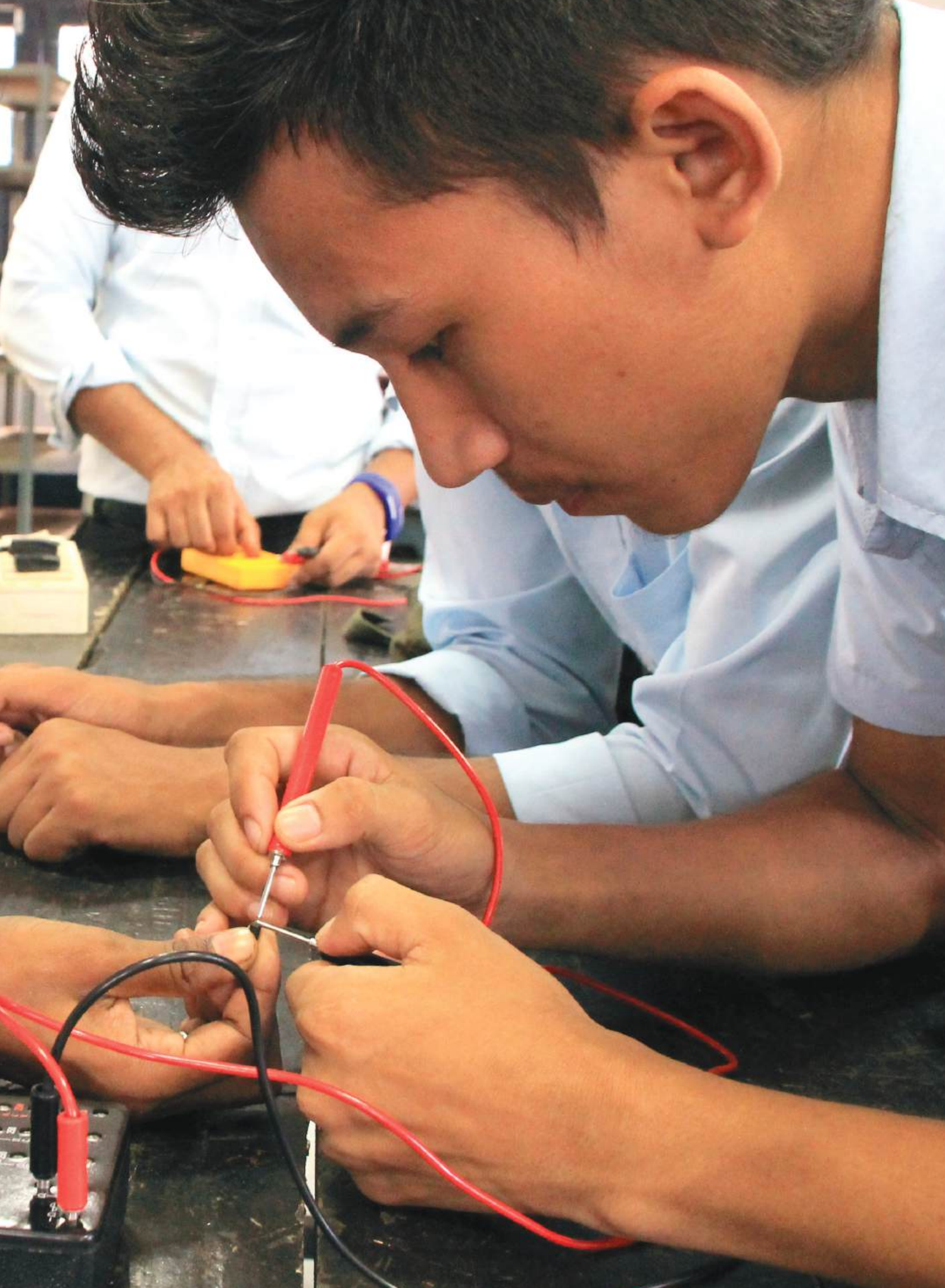
Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI) is a state-of-the-art livelihood training facility which trains youth from the region in various employable trades. Being a flagship programme of the APPL Foundation, the primary focus of the Institute is to create efficient technical manpower which is in great demand in the region. It intends to evolve into a hub of skills development-based education in the region.

WHAT THE INSTITUTE OFFERS

APPITI Rowta is affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), Government of India. The institute currently runs a residential programme of 2 years, for different trades like Motor Vehicle Mechanic (MMV), Electrician and Fitter - all high on the employability scale in the region. Also operated here are other short-term courses such as driving, fitter and fabrication, fitter and mechanist, sewing machine operator (SMO), electrician, etc.

The Institute was upgraded in partnership with Tata Motors in 2012, converting it into a state-of-the-art facility and centre of excellence in the region. In 2014, the APPL Foundation and Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS) forged a partnership to enhance the impact of the Institute by introducing new long-term and short-term courses and ensuring better employment opportunities for the trainees.







“ When I finished my graduation, my parents suggested that I pursue a Master’s Degree. But I saw so many of my friends, who had done their Master’s, just sitting around as they were unable to find jobs. I had decided I would much rather acquire some hands-on skills which would help me find employment, in order to support myself and my family.

I found out about the ITI from some friends who had studied here. After completing my 2-year training in the Electrician trade, a friend and I set up a workshop at home. Now that I have gotten selected to join Tata Global Beverages’ Packaging Plant in Indore, I am certain things are going to get much better for me.”

Kuldeep Bhattarai

Electrician Trade,

APPITI Rowta, 2013-15

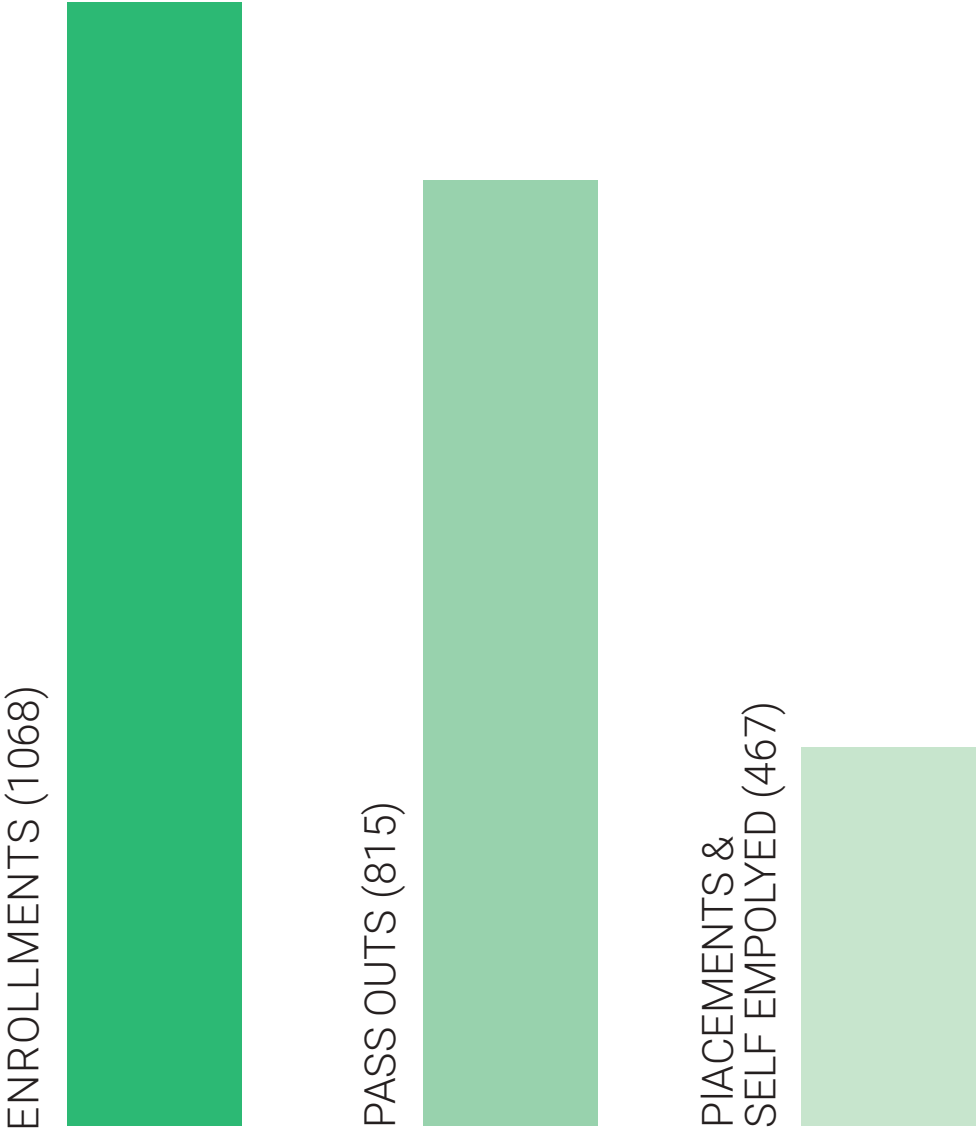


“ I am about to complete my Bachelors Degree. I applied for the 2-year programme at the ITI and came to appear for an interview today. Given my family's economic condition, I need to start earning to support them financially. We are a large family of 9 members. My father runs a tea stall and my mother manages the house. I hope to be an electrician someday and run my own workshop. I came to the ITI because I know that I will be able to achieve my dreams if I undergo training here.”

Moniram Baru

2016 APPITI aspirant





**STUDENTS AT APPITI,
Rowta (2015 – 2017)**

**100% PASSED OUT OF LONG TERM
COURSES OF 2014-16 BATCH**

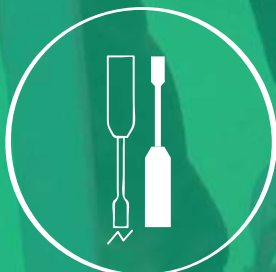
**100% PLACEMENT OF SHORT TERM
TRAINEES (OFFERED)**

**42% PLACEMENT OF 2014-16 BATCH
TRAINEES BEFORE
DECLARATION OF RESULTS**

COURSES OFFERED AT APPITI, ROWTA



**INDUSTRIAL SEWING
MACHINE OPERATORS**



ELECTRICIAN



**FITTER FABRICATION
FITTER MACHINIST
FITTER CTC
MAINTENANCE**



DRIVING







VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE Chubwa

Vocational Training Centre (VTC) Chubwa was set up with the objective of training the tea garden youth in various skill and income-generating activities, with a vision to build a skilled workforce within the community to ensure sustainable development. The Centre offers short-term courses for industrial sewing machine operators and customer care executives.

**85% PLACEMENT TO SMO CANDIDATES,
ALL OF THEM ARE FROM BPL
BACKGROUND**

**67.5% PLACEMENT TO CCE CANDIDATES,
ALL PLACED CANDIDATES ARE WORKING**

**PICK-UP AND DROP FACILITY TO ALL
FEMALE CANDIDATES**

POST-PLACEMENT SUPPORT



**INDUSTRIAL SEWING
MACHINE OPERATOR**

274 ENROLLED
194 TRAINED
194 PLACEMENTS OFFERED
69 CURRENTLY TRAINING



**CUSTOMER CARE
EXECUTIVES**

80 ENROLLED
56 TRAINED
47 PLACEMENTS OFFERED
16 CURRENTLY TRAINING

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Hattigor, Majuli and Nahorani

CREATING MEANINGFUL IMPACT

In keeping with our mission to create impactful change within communities, APPL Foundation, in partnership with Baptist Christian Hospital, undertakes work to empower the communities with health and safety, to bring about this change.

A serious issue faced by local communities in North East is trafficking and abuse. Resilient Community Project is aimed at combatting the vulnerability of children in the Tea Gardens of Udalguri and Sonitpur districts, to abuse and trafficking.



OUR WORK

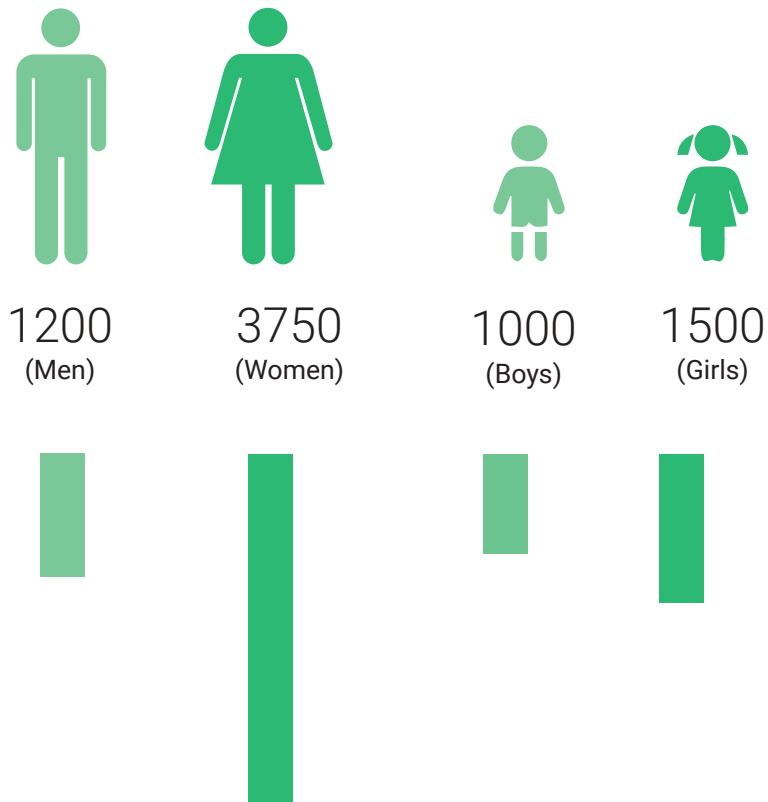
The project also seeks to address the lack of skills, knowledge, resources and mechanisms within families and communities that would enable them to protect their children and to provide adequate support to children who become victims. We conduct regular community awareness campaigns on healthcare and sanitation, domestic violence against women, trafficking of women and children, the need for child protection and the importance of literacy. Through this project, an Adult Literacy Programme (ALP) has also been launched at the two estates.



Mousomi Tanti, the 19 year old daughter of a tea plucker, is undergoing training to become a driver, under the Project's skilling module. Mousomi, who could only study till Class 10, wants to be an inspiration to other girls from her community.

IMPACT OF RESILIENT COMMUNITY PROJECT 2015-17

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



PROJECT IMPACT AREA POPULATION 2015-17

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 14,500 TEA
PLANTATION COMMUNITY MEMBERS



4450
(Men)



5550
(Women)



2200
(Boys)



2300
(Girls)



ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

Hattigor, Majuli and Nahorani

Adult Literacy Programme was implemented with the aim to impart functional literacy to young mothers whose children are attending crèche and lower primary school, in order to help them engage in their child's learning.

The teaching software for this programme has been donated by Tata Consultancy Services and proof of project's success is in the enthusiastic response of the women, who after working in the tea gardens come to learn to read at 7pm, every other evening.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



2015-2016

109 WOMEN

(COMPLETED THE 6 MONTH COURSE)

2016-2017

403 WOMEN

(COMPLETED THE 6 MONTH COURSE)



// There is something to be said about education, no matter what our circumstances are. No part of life today is easy without education. Even to work a manual labour job, like on the tea estate – we need to be able to read the numbers displayed. I am studying today, every evening after a long day's work, because I want to have the power to improve my life, for my basic rights. I want to be able to read my salary slip and understand what I am entitled to. To be able to write my own name without having to copy it! We go home from work, cook food, feed the children and put them to bed and then come to class because we want to set the right example for our children and make sure they understand the importance of education."

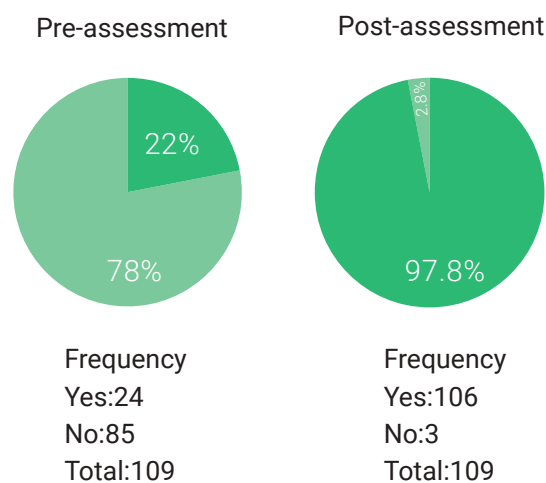
Aroti Lakra

Hattigor Tea Estate

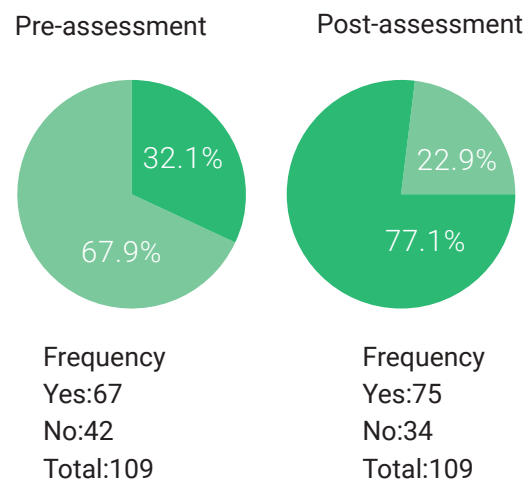
CHANGING THE LIVES OF TRIBAL WOMEN

A total of 109 women from the tea plantation communities received training in basic reading and writing skills. The tables below demonstrate how their lives have undergone transformation because of this programme.

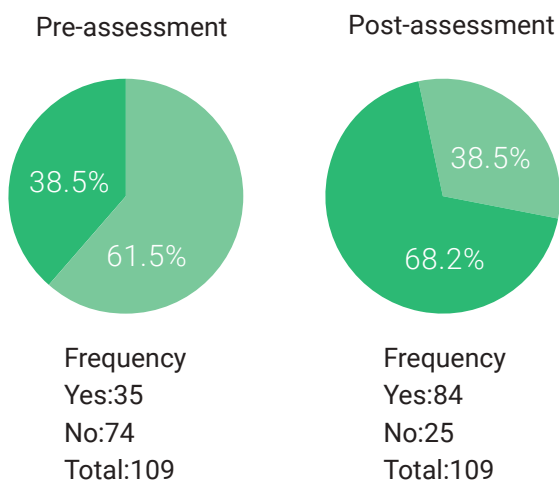
RESPONDENTS WHO COULD WRITE THEIR NAMES



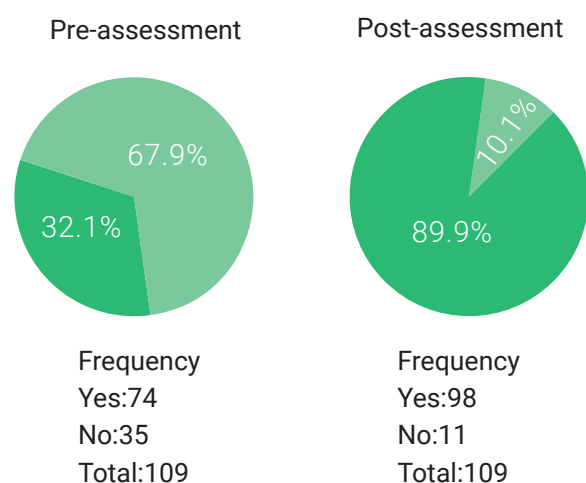
RESPONDENTS WHO COULD USE THE CLOCK



RESPONDENTS WHO COULD READ FROM 1-100

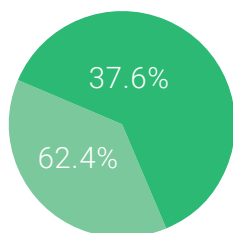


RESPONDENTS WHO COULD IDENTIFY DAYS OF THE WEEK



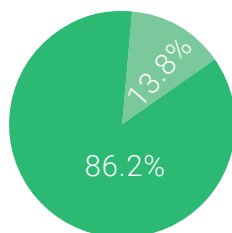
RESPONDENTS WHO COULD IDENTIFY MONEY

Pre-assessment



Frequency
Yes:68
No:41
Total:109

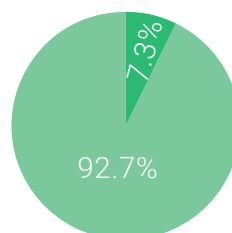
Post-assessment



Frequency
Yes:94
No:15
Total:109

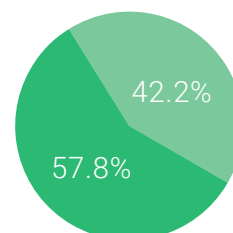
RESPONDENTS WHO COULD READ EXPIRY DATES WHEN THEY BOUGHT THINGS

Pre-assessment



Frequency
Yes:8
No:101
Total:109

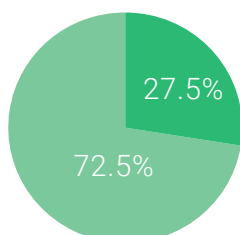
Post-assessment



Frequency
Yes:63
No:46
Total:109

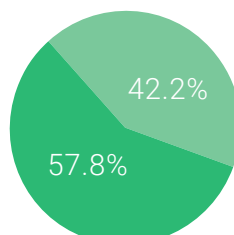
RESPONDENTS WHO COULD THE PRICE WRITTEN WHEN THEY BOUGHT THINGS

Pre-assessment



Frequency
Yes:30
No:79
Total:109

Post-assessment



Frequency
Yes:63
No:46
Total:109

DIGITAL LEARNING CENTRE

Lattakoojan

Computer literacy is slowly becoming a basic necessity for all employment. Lack of infrastructure in North East India creates a strong disadvantage for people living here.

APPL Foundation in collaboration with IRDIS, set up a DLC at Lattakoojan Tea Estate, Golaghatin May 2014, with the objective of disseminating basic computer knowledge within the tea community. The Digital Literacy Curriculum provides baseline digital literacy skills such as the fundamental understanding of computers and use of the internet. Certificates provided by Microsoft and IRDIS are awarded to the participants on the successful completion of the training programme.

Students from the tea community, within and in the vicinity of the Lattakoojan tea estate have immensely benefitted from the computer lessons being held at the DLC. The students range from Class VIII to BA degree students. As the schools in the remote areas of Assam do not have computer education in their curriculum, the DLC programme has enabled them to become computer literate, free of cost.

Also the Advanced Computer Literacy Course introduced in the 2015-16, has inspired some of the students who have successfully completed the DLC Programme as well as students doing degree- level study, to pursue a higher level computer course at the DLC Centre. Over 250 students have been provided training so far, of which 50% have been women candidates



DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 2015 – 2017



BASIC DIGITAL
LITERACY

316



ADVANCED DIGITAL
LITERACY

90

PASS PERCENTAGE: 46%



HEALTHCARE

*We Treat
Pre-emptive Diagnostics,
Proactive Healthcare*

OUR OPPORTUNITY

A well-developed health care system significantly affects the health condition of a nation.

Improvement has been witnessed unevenly across the nation, especially the North East, with wide urban-rural variations and limited access to the medical services. The region faces a number of challenges, the most crucial being lack of doctors and specialists. A shortage of medical colleges has led to low doctor-population ratio in the region. Although the WHO recommends that the doctor-patient ratio should be 1:1000, Assam experiences it to be 4 times worse, at 0.25:1000.

WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO

Patients with even minor health problems from rural areas have to travel to civil hospitals in towns and bear expenses of private institutions. Several times doctors refuse to serve in rural areas, further aggravating the shortage of doctors and health care centres in the rural areas. APPL Foundation, along with its partner organisations, tries to bridge the gap between the rural healthcare requirement and its availability.

OUR AIM

APPL Foundation's objective is to provide access to quality healthcare to the rural areas in North East India. We start by equipping the Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) at Chubwa with state of the art healthcare facilities.

We then connect make these facilities accessible to the remote regions with the use of cutting-edge technology, via e-Health Centres set up in collaboration with Hewlett Packard. We create awareness and provide basic medical care to the population through medical camps and weekly outreach programmes.

OUR IMPACT (2015-2017)

4 COLLABORATIVE
PROJECTS

180000 DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES

14.83 INFANT
MORTALITY RATE
(India: 40/Assam: 54)

0.570 MATERNAL
MORTALITY RATE
(India: 1.75/Assam: 3.28)





REFERRAL HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE (RHRC) Chubwa

Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), a 75-bed, secondary care hospital, was conceptualised by Tata Tea Ltd in 1989 and was set up at Chubwa tea estate by Tata Tea in 1994. RHRC has been offering treatment at minimal cost to the general public. The hospital works on a non-profit basis. Through its sustained and ethical medical practices, RHRC has earned a good reputation not only locally but even in the neighbouring states of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh from where patients come seeking better medical care. It is the only healthcare centre in the region with SA8000 certification. Since 2007, RHRC has treated over 3,00,000 patients of which over 2,50,000 have been non-employee patients. The mission of the hospital is to provide the best secondary medical care at affordable cost in the North East.





In the rural regions of India, where 73% of the country's population resides, we currently find only 25% of the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Accessibility is so poor, that 90% of the rural population have to travel more than 8kms to access basic medical services. Moreover, these healthcare centres are insufficiently equipped to cater to patients' medical needs.

RHRC SPECIALITIES



ORTHOPAEDICS



PHYSIOTHERAPY



**OBSTETRICS &
GYNAECOLOGY**



ENT



DENTISTRY



SURGERY



OPHTHALMOLOGY



NEUROSURGERY



MEDICINE

WHAT RHRC, CHUBWA OFFERS

Specialities offered include Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, ENT, Eye and Dentistry. The hospital has a serene, eco-friendly campus and provides a 75 bed in-patient ward and a separate out-patient ward, complete with a well-equipped diagnostics department. Since April 2015, the hospital has undertaken numerous measures to provide critical medical services needed in the region. New specialities like Orthopaedics, Neurosurgery and Physiotherapy have been introduced with the help of renowned consultant practitioners from Dibrugarh. On-going tasks include installing an HMS for better record-keeping and operationalization of the blood bank. RHRC also houses the eHub for our IT cloud based healthcare delivery system that has been launched in collaboration with Hewlett Packard. The eHub is digitally connected to five other locations across North Bengal and Assam and is able to provide realtime, online specialist consultations to doctors at those locations.





DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

for RHRC, Chubwa (2015 – 2017)





eHEALTHCARE PROJECT

in partnership with Hewlett-Packard (HP)

With healthcare facilities in rural India being scarce and ill-equipped, APPL Foundation partnered with Hewlett-Packard (HP) to create a symbolic milestone in the arena of healthcare in Assam and North Bengal. HP and APPL Foundation together set out on our journey to deliver specialist medical aid to remote locations, where our tea estates are located. Equipment and resources, amounting to Rs. 7.34 Crores has been donated by HP to the APPL Foundation. The Hathikuli e Health Centre (eHC) was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Assam, Shri. Tarun Gogoi

WHAT WE OFFER

This ground-breaking framework allows on-site staff members to perform diagnostic tests and send results to doctors at RHRC Chubwa for a remote diagnosis, or consult off-site specialists in real time. Features of the HP Workstations include Open Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems, cloud-enabled technology, key medical diagnostic equipment and integrated videoconferencing facilities. e-Healthcare centres are cost effective and easy to deploy, providing access to quality healthcare in remote areas. They are currently present in 5 places namely, Powai, Namroop, Hathikuli, Kellyden and Dam Dim. Our goal is to increase resources to make them accessible to neighbouring village populations within a 10km radius.

Another advantage of the eHealthcare set-up is that through the dashboard (image below), detailed analytics can be done on the data stored in the IT cloud. This feature has the potential to aid healthcare policy formulation, early epidemic detection, preventive healthcare and intervention and disease surveillance in real time. The availability of feature in itself can significantly lower our response time in the event of any widespread medical emergency.



APPL
FOUNDATION

eHealth Center

"Co - Developed with CSIR - IGIB"

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (2015 – 2016)

18253

PATIENTS
REGISTERED

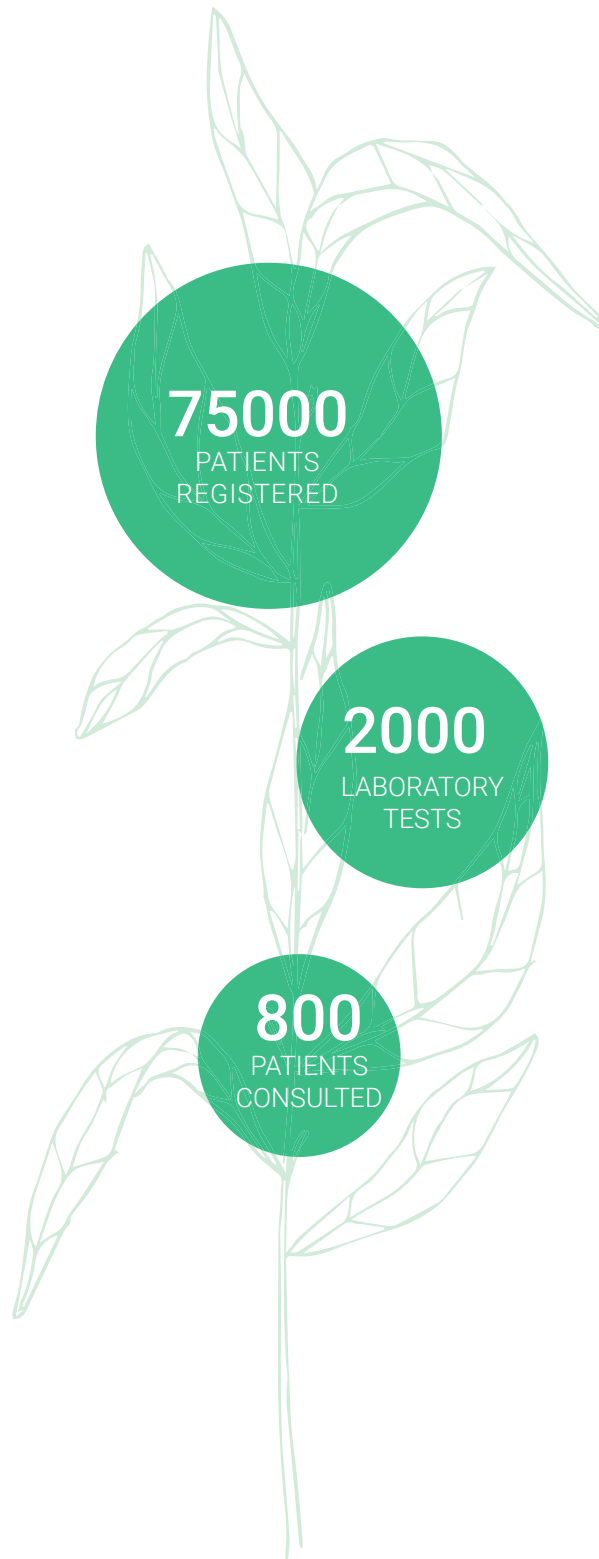
434

LABORATORY
TESTS

212

PATIENTS
CONSULTED

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (2016 – 2017)



INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN TEA GRADEN AREAS

in partnership with Parivartan

(An extension of the INCENSE Project of Tata Trusts)

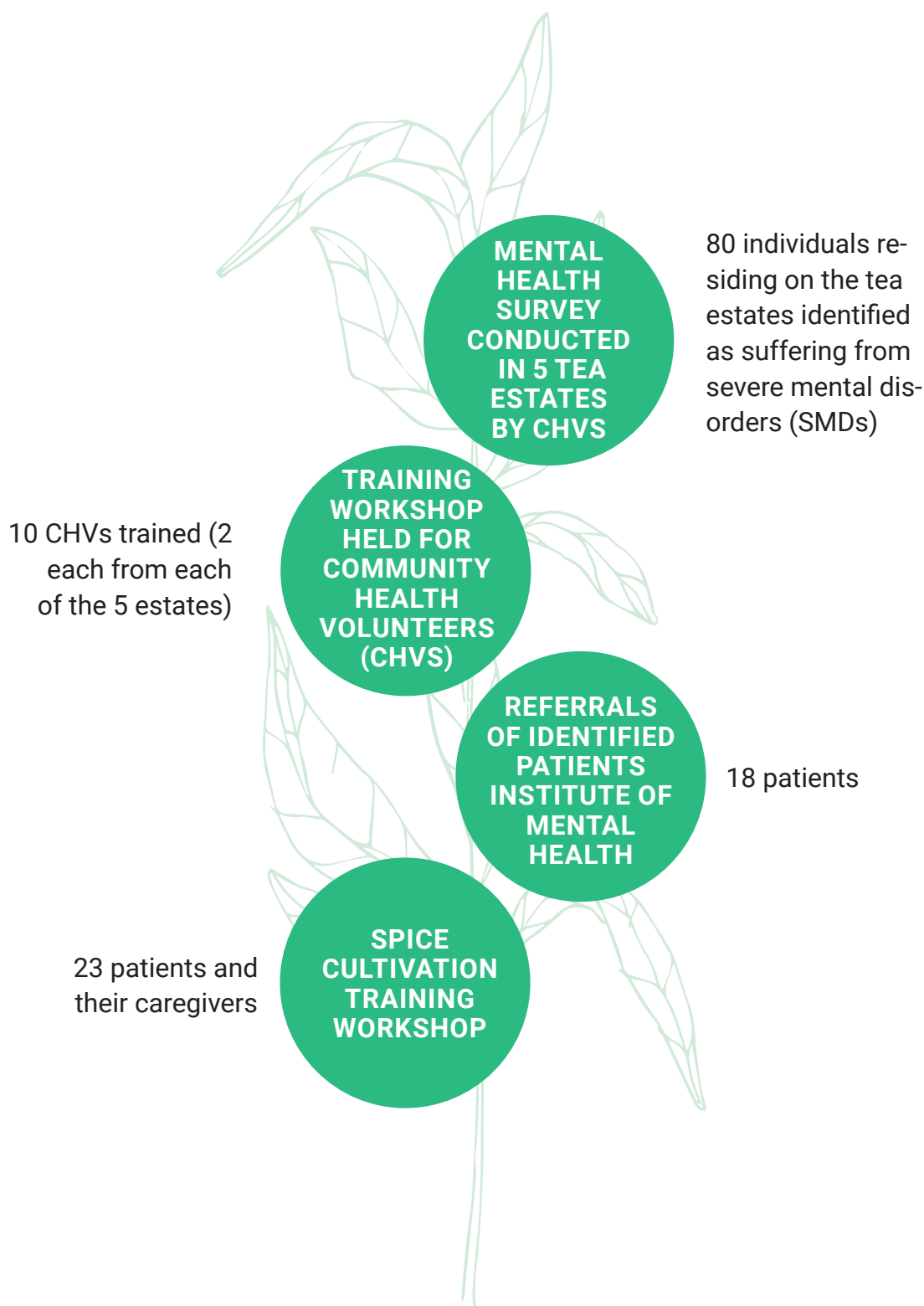
Mental Disorders contribute 13% of global burden of worldwide disease. Three-fourths of the burden occurs in lower and middle income countries. Most Low and Middle income countries have little or no access to proper care especially the marginalised population. The biggest challenge with mental health care is the stigma associated with it. Mental disorders affect about 25 million people in India- 1 in 4 people will have a mental disorder at some point in life. Lack of access to treatment is a huge problem, compounded by ignorance, negative attitudes and social stigma that often lead to discrimination, ill treatment and violation of human rights. Mental healthcare in India is riddled largely by inadequate medical and professional services, marked by an absence of effective and efficient community based support systems.

OUR WORK

Responding to the mental health needs of people residing within the tea gardens and enhancing livelihood and employment opportunities for people recovering from their problems in the INCENSE catchment area is the prime purpose of the collaboration between the Parivartan Trust and APPL Foundation. A survey has been conducted in the 5 estates and patients are being sent for referrals to We have, as part of the pilot project, provided spice farming training to recovering patients and their caregivers in Tezpur.



DIRECT BENEFICIARIES FOR PILOT PROJECT (2016 – 2017)



EYE SCREENING CAMP

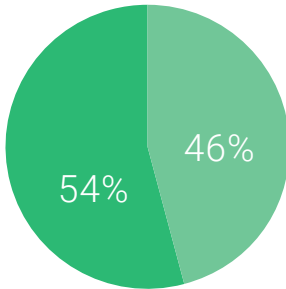
in partnership with VisionSpring

VisionSpring, in association with Amalgamated Plantations and APPL Foundation, conducted a vision screening program for the estate workers of three plantations in Dibrugarh, Assam. VisionSpring screened more than 4,000 tea estate workers and allied tea plantation populations with the objective of making the tea estate a refractive error free zone. The vision camps revealed a refractive error rate of more than 80%, i.e. more than 80% of the population screened had a vision problem which could be corrected with a pair of eyeglasses. The average age of all workers screened was more than 40 years. A total of 3500 eyeglasses were distributed at the camp.

Based on responses gathered from the community, 90% of the screened population received their first pair of eyeglasses as a result of the vision camps. Eyeglasses created instant impact on the lives of the tea estate workers resulting in enhanced working capacity, productivity, quality of work and life, improved working hours without experiencing any of the discomfort caused by blurry vision. The vision camps helped address an unmet need of limited or no access to affordable primary eye care services. With this initiative we were able to ensure access to affordable eye care and low-cost high quality eye wear in Dibrugarh region of Assam.

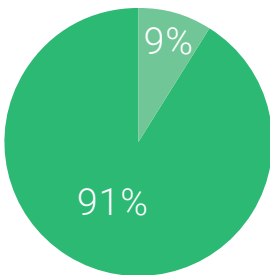


MALE/FEMALE RATIO OF POPULATION SCREENED



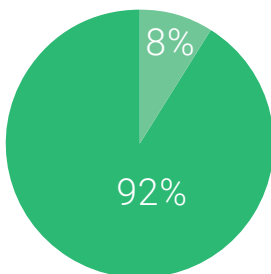
MEN: 2200
WOMEN: 1898

EYEGLASSES DISPENSED (3501)



READING GLASSES: 3201
PRESCRIPTION GLASSES: 300

FIRST-TIME USERS OF EYEGLASSES



FIRST TIME USERS: 3201
NON FIRST TIME USERS: 300

MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

North Bank, Assam

A medical outreach program, initiated in 1992, has been revived in the North Bank area of Assam in the last financial year. With only a small number of PHCs and specialist hospitals in this region, village communities have limited access to quality medical care. A state-of-the-art ambulance, donated by State Bank of India in August 2016, and a medical team, led by the doctor of Hattigor Tea Estate, reaches out to the village folk inhabiting this area, who are in desperate need of medical attention.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 2016-2017 (OCT-MARCH)



4255
PATIENTS
TREATED



5737
DISTANCE
COVERED
(IN KMS)

CANCER CARE

in partnership with ASMI

APPL Foundation in association with ASMI, organized a Cancer Care Camp for workers and staff at Kellyden Tea Hospital, in February 2016. Our endeavour is to create awareness, particularly among women on the topic of breast and cervical cancer.

The day-long workshop was led by Dr. Tapan Saikia (M.D. - Medical Oncology), along with three senior lady Gynaecologists and an eleven-member paramedical staff. The workshop included free PAP Smear/ Blood Sugar & Bone Marrow Density tests. We saw a high participation rate with over 200 women from Hathikuli, Sagmootea, Nonoi & Kellyden, being screened and tested for blood sugar and BMD. Sixty samples of PAP Smears were collected from women of different age groups. The participants showed deep interest in the subject and interacted with the gynaecologists separately in groups of ten to clarify their doubts on various women's health-related issues. The workshop was covered by News Live.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 2016-2017 (OCT-MARCH)



200
WOMEN TESTED



60 PAP SMEARS
SENT OUT

in partnership with Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata

Patients from the 25 tea estates across Assam and North Bengal are referred for cancer treatment and care, free of cost, to the Tata Medical Centre in Kolkata.

SUPPORT FOR CEREBRAL PALSY

in partnership with Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP)

Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy(IICP) is a specialist resource centre for cerebral palsy working since 1974 for the rights of persons with disability, particularly cerebral palsy. IICP is based in Kolkata but works on a national level in partnership with a close network of NGOs in many districts of West Bengal and 11 other states of India. It has vast international linkages and is working with advocacy groups nationally and internationally for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

IICP offers multifaceted services to infants, children and adults with cerebral palsy and a range of training programmes for persons with disability, parents and family members, professionals, students and personnel working in the community.



CLEFT CARE

in collaboration with Mission Smile

This initiative, in association with Mission Smile India, aims to return smiles to the faces of children born with cleft lips and palates. In the year 2015-16, APPL Foundation funded 20 cleft surgeries carried out by our partner Mission Smile, India. We plan to continue restoring smiles in the coming year.



“I don't feel shy about playing with my friends anymore!”

Loknath Halder

South 24 Parganas

Loknath comes from a large family, making it difficult for his father, Rakhit Halder to run the house. Rakhit is a poor farmer who worked in other's land to make their ends meet and they were devastated when Loknath was born with cleft lip and cleft palate.

After travelling on a bus for over 5 hours, Loknath arrived at a Mission Smile camp in May 2015 accompanied by his elder brother. Tested and deemed fit for surgery, Mission Smile's patient shelter became his home for next two days. His surgery was successfully conducted. His elder brother cried on seeing Loknath after the surgery.



ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOODS

We Protect

Breathing Life Into Traditional Professions

OUR OPPORTUNITY

With development in North East India, comes cultural and lifestyle changes. Often this development comes at the hefty cost of environment. The ecosystem of the region is rich and extremely valuable. It is important now more than ever to ensure its preservation as development intensifies.

WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO

Development at the cost of environment is a loss for a region and its community. APPL Foundation's goal is to preserve the region's rich biodiversity and further traditional professions like farming alongside newer professions. It is integral to provide farmers the right technological tools and equip them to meet the demands of the growing communities.

OUR AIM

APPL Foundation aims to support the farming community by helping them with technological advances and creating awareness through publications. Our aim is to increase the livelihoods of thousands of households over a period of time, through the Turmeric and Black pepper value chain. Our publication Organic Growth is an e-journal aimed at keeping readers up-to-date about the technological advances in organic farming.

OUR IMPACT (2015-2017)

2 PROJECTS

5 PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS

2000
BENEFICIARIES

1 QUARTERLY
PUBLICATION





SMALL FARM INTEGRATION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Assam and Meghalaya in partnership with Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust (SDTT) and Grameen Sahara

As part of our drive to ensure sustainable development, a key area of focus is to empower and encourage the most widespread profession, farming.

APPL Foundation is actively working in Assam-Meghalaya border region by focusing on small holder farmers integration with main stream spices market through collaborative farming approach. The project started its field level operations from 1st July 2015. To achieve the project goals and targets, APPL Foundation initiated activities by consulting with project stakeholders. The larger goals of the project is to improve the livelihood of 4275 farmers' households, over the period of 3 years by promotion of Turmeric and Black Pepper value chains. The project is being implemented in association with a trusted and proven field collaborator in the area by the name of Grameen Sahara. The project is currently working in 32 villages in 6 clusters spread in Kamrup Metro, Kamrup Rural, Ri Bhoi & Goalpara district.

28

Area proposed under
Turmeric cultivation
(Ha)

YEAR 1

Area proposed under
Black Pepper cultivation
(Ha)

7.44

250

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Turmeric cultivation

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Black Pepper cultivation

375

TOTAL AREA TO BE COVERED(HA): 35.44
NO. OF VILLAGES TO BE COVERED: 10

89.3

Area proposed under
Turmeric cultivation
(Ha)

YEAR II

Area proposed under
Black Pepper cultivation
(Ha)

11.66

750

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Turmeric cultivation

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Black Pepper cultivation

550

TOTAL AREA TO BE COVERED(HA): 100.96
NO. OF VILLAGES TO BE COVERED: 20

113.3

Area proposed under
Turmeric cultivation
(Ha)

YEAR III

Area proposed under
Black Pepper cultivation
(Ha)

16.22

1550

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Turmeric cultivation

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Black Pepper cultivation

800

TOTAL AREA TO BE COVERED(HA): 218.82
NO. OF VILLAGES TO BE COVERED: 30

230.6

Area proposed under
Turmeric cultivation
(Ha)

TOTAL

Area proposed under
Black Pepper cultivation
(Ha)

35.32

2550

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Turmeric cultivation

No. of farmers
to be promoted for
Black Pepper cultivation

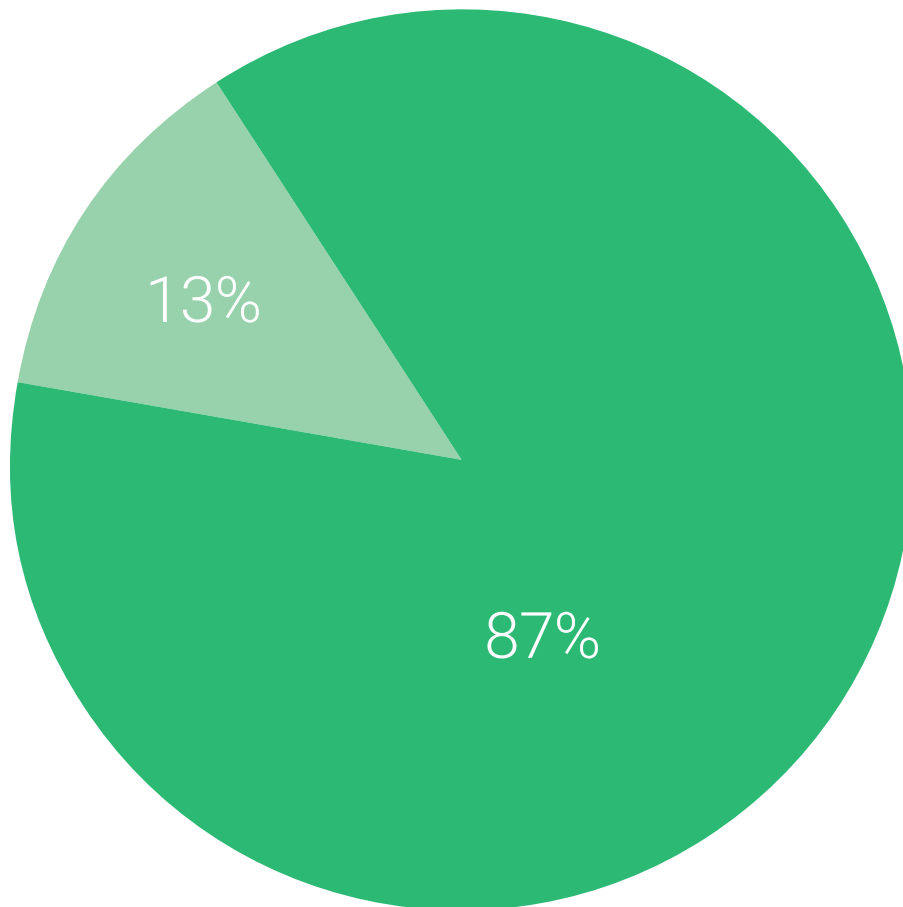
1725

TOTAL AREA TO BE COVERED(HA): 355.22
NO. OF VILLAGES TO BE COVERED: 60



TOTAL AREA COVERED UNDER THE SFI PROJECT

355 HECTARES SPREAD OVER
60 VILLAGES



Area Under Tumeric
Cultivation (Hg)

Area Under Pepper
Cultivation (Hg)

LIVELIHOOD & SOCIAL IMPACT (2015 – 2017)



FARMER PRODUCER
GROUPS FORMED

104



WOMEN FARMERS IN
PRODUCER GROUPS

1200



HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED

1195



ECONOMIC VALUE
ADDITION PER FARMER

TURMERIC: ₹ 4016
BLACK PEPPER: ₹ 13104

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (2015 – 2017)



Illegal timber trading that leads to excessive deforestation and degradation of local ecosystems



Illegal sand mining from river beds that is threatening the survival of River Dolphins



An area bordering the cultivable land has been reserved for planting fruit trees. This will act as a buffer zone between the elephants of the forests, who crossover into agricultural land in search of food. The fruit trees will now be able to provide foliage for the animals to feed on.

[illegible]

Awareness and education play an important role in development. Through our monthly publication named Organic Growth, we intend to highlight organic projects that help preserve the delicate ecological balance in the North-Eastern Frontier region.

CIRCULATION TO 1500+ THOUGHT-LEADERS AND DISRUPTIVE THINKERS



HAANTHI PARBATH DIFFLOO TEA ESTATE

in partnership with Balipara Foundation

An area has been intentionally kept uncultivated, within the garden premises of Diffloo Tea Estate for the specific purpose of facilitating elephant and other wildlife migration between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong. Together with Balipara Foundation, a dossier is being prepared of all the plant, animal and bird species found in here.



WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROJECT BETWEEN KAZIRANGA AND KARBI ANGLONG

in partnership with Wildlife
Conservation Society (WCS)

The primary objective of this joint project is to assess the migratory routes of elephants and identify appropriate conservation measures that can facilitate elephant and other wildlife movement between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong Hills. With the help of state-of-the-art technology and scientific methods to identify areas intensively used by elephants for movement during the flood season, we contrast the use of space by elephants during the dry season.

As the region is also infamous for human-elephant conflict (HEC), a survey was also conducted in Hathikuli and Diffloo Tea Estates where 180 residents were interviewed to understand the present situation and the kind of interventions that could be made keeping in mind both human and wildlife welfare.



Wildlife spotted in Diffloo and Hathikuli Tea Estates during the mapping survey



CULTURE

*We Promote
Preserving Through Engagement*

OUR OPPORTUNITY

North East India is home to different tribal and ethnic groups, making it one of the most culturally diverse regions of the country. Though culturally abundant and unique, the region's tribal arts and cultural practices seldom find a place in any mainstream discussion and face the threat of disappearance.

WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO

APPL Foundation believes that for the coexistence and mutual progress of the diverse communities to be realisable on the tea estates, and in the North East in general, there needs to be meaningful cultural exchanges between them.

OUR AIM

The promotion of events to highlight the diverse cultural heritage of the North East. APPL Foundation aims to facilitate a cultural platform where the different tribes can showcase their unique culture, where they represent not simply the culture of their individual tribes but of the entire North East region of India.

OUR IMPACT (2015-2017)

8 FUNDING
PROJECTS

1400
PARTICIPANTS

AUDIENCE OF
35000



SIRISH FESTIVAL

India is a land of diverse cultures and the tea communities of Assam are no different. Communities working and living at the tea estates are fondly known as Tea Tribes. They have migrated from various parts of India, namely Chota Nagpur, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal, and are now settled down with their families on the tea estates.

It is important for these communities to celebrate the uniqueness of their own culture and at the same time, assimilate into the Assamese culture. It is our mission to facilitate this cultural union.

Thus, arose the idea of Sirish Festival.







GROWING WITH EACH PASSING YEAR

Centering around the goal to promote local art, literature, sports and dances, we held tribal art and dance competitions, pole climbing and archery competitions. Further, special recognition was given to those members of the community who had made an eminent contribution to the field of literature and culture.



2016 – 2017

Held in Naharkatia in February, 2017.
In its third year, the Festival was attended by **over 35,000 people** over the course of the preliminary rounds and the final event.

2015 – 2016

Held in Powai in January 2016 for the second consecutive year, the festival saw a leap in the attendees **to 35,000 people**.

2014 – 2015

The first Sirish Festival took place in 2014-15 at the Hathikuli tea estate.
The festival welcomed participants from all tribes of the tea plantations. The first year of the program witnessed the attendance of **12,000 people**.



SIRISH FESTIVAL 2015-2017





CITATIONS AND AWARDS



Award for excellence in the field of Culture, 2015 was presented to
SHRI SAJAN NAYAK



Award for excellence in the field of Literature, 2016 was presented to
SHRI SANANTA TANTY
(Award accepted by his wife)



Award for excellence in the field of Literature, 2015 was presented to
SMT. PADUMI GAZLOO



Award for excellence in the field of Culture, 2016 was presented to
SHRI SUBIL BARG

Award for Excellence in the field of
Literature, 2017
SHRI SAMEER TANTI



Award for Excellence in the field
of Culture, 2017
SHRI RAM CHANDRA SASHONI



MISA POLO CLUB: RESTORING TEA HERITAGE

Established in 1888 as a social Polo Club for the Planters and British District Administration heads. British Planters started the club culture and encouraged social interaction through sports and other celebratory occasions. This Club was used by US Army when billeted in MISA during World War II. Since then, a nine hole golf course was added to the existing facilities of tennis, cricket and other indoor games.



Misa Polo Club is replete with an intimate history of the tea culture in Assam, since colonial times. Each artefact rakes up memories of an era gone by. The architecture, décor, furnishings and overall feel of the place has been restored keeping in mind its history and its significance to our lives today.

Today the Club offers:

Transit midway point for visitors to upper Assam to experience the grandeur of the past—especially with the realignment of the Asian Highway. It is also positioned as a recreational hub in the midst of nature's bounty. A modern Management Centre of excellence where skills on the playing fields supplement the collective exchange of ideas and learning at the Convention Centre Hall.



SPORTS FACILITIES



**9 HOLE GOLF
COURSE**



DRIVING RANGE



TENNIS



BADMINTON



VOLLEY BALL



BASKET BALL



BILLARDS



CROQUET



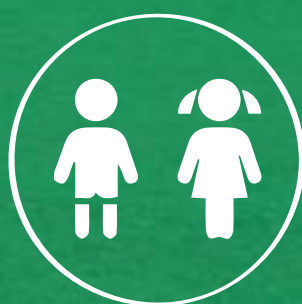
TABLE TENNIS



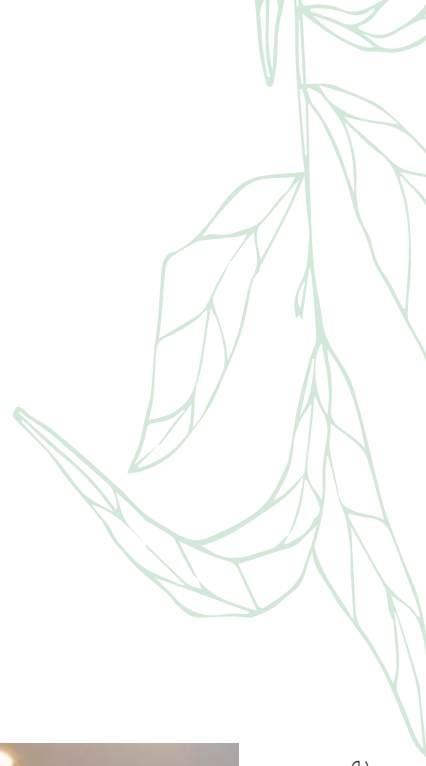
DARTS



CHESS



KIDDY CORNER



OUR TRUSTEES



RANJIT BARTHAKUR

Chairman



DEEPAK ATAL

Vice-Chairman



DHIRAJ KAKATI

Managing Trustee



AMITAVA RANJAN SEN

*Finance Trustee
from 2016*



ASHOKE BORDOLOI

*Finance Trustee
till 2016*



**MAJ. GEN. M.S.
SANDHU**

Trustee



RADHA CHAUDHURY

Trustee



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