

**2016-2017**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**RURAL WOMEN UPLIFTMENT SOCIETY**

## **About the Organization:**

Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) is a Church Based, Not for Profit, Gender just indigenous philanthropic organization founded by the development department of the Independent Church of India (ICI) in the year 1990. With full autonomy in administration and functioning, RWUS seeks to address the issues and concerns of the people without compromising their unique cultural, social and religious practices encompassing gender, Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) and environment as cross cutting theme.

## **VISION AND MISSION**

***Vision:*** To empower the people for justice and development.

***Mission:*** To empower grass root communities through capacity building, awareness raising, trainings, advocacy and lobby work, networking and alliance building and through support.

## **Thematic Area:**

Anchored on a mission to empower grass root communities,

RWUS has the following core thematic issue-

- ✓ **The right to food and Food Security**
- ✓ **Gender and Women in governance**
- ✓ **Capacity Building and Training**
- ✓ **Environment and Natural Resources**

## **CAPACITY BUILDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW:**

**Summary of Activities:** The project is going on for 3 years and implemented in 5 villages of Churachandpur district. Major activities are capacity building, advocacy and networking, gender and livelihood security. The project works towards strengthening Community Based Organization (CBOs) for self sustenance, economic development and effective right based advocacy and lobbying. To achieve this, the following programs were conducted during this period



- ✓ 1 day training on conflict management for SHG members participated by 23 members.
- ✓ 1 advocacy and networking on the impact of armed conflict on child development which was attended by 26 participants.
- ✓ 1 day workshop on Peace building attended by 24 participants.
- ✓ 3 days TOT on climate change adaptation and disaster management(32 participants)
- ✓ 1 day awareness workshop on Human Rights with special focus on ICDS participated by 20 participants.

- ✓ 1 day workshop on climate change adaptation and natural disaster management attended by 15 participants
- ✓ Mass campaign on FTA/Climate change ,human rights and peace Building(53 participants)
- ✓ 1 day awareness program on climate change(26 participants)
- ✓ 1 day awareness on Human Rights and peace building(25 participants)
- ✓ TOT follow up on Human Rights and international Humanitarian law(30 participants)
- ✓ Meeting for Food bank/Seed Bank(28 participants)
- ✓ 1 day awareness on climate change at community level(21 participants)
- ✓ Awareness on legal Rights and Entitlements of Women (21 participants)
- ✓ Exposure visits
- ✓ Press Meet on climate change
- ✓ Accompanying visit of women victims and meeting with concern women leaders/organization.
- ✓



### COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

**Summary of activities:** Capacitating and involving women in the promotion, protection and management of resources and environment in the primary goal of community based environment project. Since women bear the brunt of adverse climate change impact, their role is minimal and does not have any say in the management. Thus to increase their aware and built up capacity, the project conducted the following programs:

Summary of activities:

1. Mapping of village natural resources in 7 villages
2. Focus group discussion in 7 villages
3. Setting up of 7 pilot green model village
4. Creation of 30 cadres of experts in 7 villages



### STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN COLLECTIVE IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING:

**Summary of activities:** The project is implemented by Women in Governance-North East with the goal of strengthening women collective in governance and decision making. During the the year 2016, the following programs were implemented.



- ✓ 2 times Leadership training for women leaders(52 participants)



- ✓ Interface meeting on tribal customary law from gender perspective with tribal bodies and other relevant bodies(31 participants)
- ✓ Leadership training for aspiring women leaders (33 participants)
- ✓ Leadership training for young/second generation leaders
- ✓ Consultation with CSOs, CBOs, for women rights. (38 participants)
- ✓ 3 times Interface with relevant govt. authorities, line dept,. village apex bodies and also with women leaders from different organization
- ✓ Information sharing on policy/evidence based documents on women participation in institutions committees like SMC, MNREGA, Child protection committees.(250 participants)
- ✓ Consultation and FGD with existing women elected representatives to effectively participate in decision making(30 participants)
- ✓ 3 times Consultation meeting with CSOs and CBOs for women rights prog, in PRIs/ADCs (34 participants)



### **CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT**

Environment and climate change being one of the core focus area of RWUS, clean energy project was started in partnership with SELCO Foundation, Bangalore. The goal of this project is to promote environment through clean and renewable energy which can be easily access by poor families. The organization also tied up with Canara Bank for easy solar financing. In 2016-2017, 65 families adopted clean energy for their daily energy needs.



### **SMILE PROJECT**

SMILE project is a small initiative started by RWUS way back in 2010 with the aims to bring back the SMILE on the face of the orphan, widows and victims of disaster. The initiative started with contribution from the staffs and well wisher. It is a small gesture driven by the spirit of giving and care to the most often neglected people in the society. By providing small gifts to these deserving people, it conveys the message that they are not forgotten and that God works in a miraculous way and always provides through his people.



This year, RWUS provided 45 blankets to widows who are in dire needs. Most of these widows are elderly, who crossed the prime of their life and dependent on their family for their well being. Some of the beneficiaries are seriously sick and bedridden even when the gifts were given to them while some widows live all alone by themselves. Most of the beneficiaries are surprised upon receiving the blankets and quite some of them cried out as they received the gifts and praise God for having someone who cares about them. Most of the beneficiaries felt that they will never have such a valuable and warm blanket had it not been for the donors and RWUS who selected them.



The 45 beneficiaries are selected from 9 villages in Churachandpur district that are poor and elderly from different communities. As a direct impact of climate change, the winter becomes more extreme with each passing year and by mid January, there used to be a small amount of snow falling which makes more difficult for the poor to face the winter. As most of the people could not afford a room heater, charcoal is widely used. But the escalating cost of charcoal every year makes it unaffordable for the poor to light the charcoal every night. It is more so for the poor and widows who suffers from the chilly winter. Thus RWUS came with the idea of giving a blanket to warm them from the extreme cold.

*Mrs Paokhohling is a widow who lives in a small hamlet called Saheiphai village which is 5 kilometres from the town. She belongs to kuki tribe which is a dominant community in the district. There were about 40 household in the village. Originally, Ms Paokhohling is from Chandel district which is a neighbouring district. Unfortunately, an ethnic conflict during the 90s forced them to migrate to this village with her husband. She had 2 children who died in their early years and lived with her husband working in an upland field to make a living. She was happy and contented however poor she is. Unfortunately her husband passed away some years ago and now lived a life of solitary with helps from neighbours. She doesn't have any relative nearby and with her old age, it is impossible for her to do any kind of physical work. Thus she depends on the communities she lived with for their help in providing food grains and other essential commodities.*



*The hut she lives in is barely 8 feet x 6 feet with very few belongings. She has 3 small cooking pots and it is heartening to see that someone as old as her could live such a miserable and hard life. She sometimes collected wild broom from the nearby villages and sell it for a small amount.*

*When she receives the blanket, she was speechless and feels very emotional. She informed RWUS staff that she never had the wildest*



The small hut where she lives

*dreams of having such a nice and warm blanket to warm her body during the entire winter. She said “i am so elated and happy because of this blanket because i know it was God who provided me through unknown person form other places. I thank God and also thank the people who donate money to buy it. With this gift I fell so blessed and may the almighty bless you all abundantly”*

RWUS sincerely thank donors and well wishers who year after year continue to contribute money for this noble cause bringing a smile to the heart and face of the poor, needy and deserving people like widows, orphan and victim of disaster in Churachandpur and other parts of Manipur.

**Executive Board members:**

Mrs Hrilrohnem	: Chairperson
Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mrs Lalthiengzo	: Treasurer
Mrs Zosangkim	: Members
Miss Darthangmawi	: Members
Ms Levis Singson	: Member
Ms Chinneinuam	: Member

**RWUS Staff:**

Ms Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mr Samuel Lallawmzuol	: Prog Manager
Ms Deborah	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Melody Zairemmawi	: Prog Coordinator
Mr B.R. Sanglien	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Buongzakim	: Cashier
Mr Lalsiemthar	: Accountant
Mr Christopher	: Junior Accountant
Mr Ramnghakhla	: Driver

**RWUS is registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860 with registration No. 234 on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1990. It is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 with a registration No. of 19410018 on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1993.**

**The society is also registered under the Income tax exemption under 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961 with no. as RA214/12A/CIT/JRT/03 on April, 2003, at Jorhat.**