



ANNUAL REPORT-2017-2018

RURAL WOMEN UPLIFTMENT SOCIETY-RWUS



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**
- ✓ **Clean and Renewable energy**

Capacitating and promoting of local women to address and advocate issues on natural resources, environment and climate change affecting women in Churachandpur, Manipur.

Summary of Activities: The project involved capacitating local rural women on environment, climate change and natural resources which affect them by providing training and awareness, promoting women environment activist and advocating for policy influence at the local levels. Thus to increase their aware and built up capacity of local women to combat environmental related issues and communities to manage and utilize natural resources wisely for sustainable development, the project conducted the following programs:

1. Awareness, Training and Capacity building on Climate Change, Environment and its management, Globalization and its impact on Women were conducted in six villages (221 participants)



2. Social and Resource Mapping was conducted in six project villages
3. Assessment of Climate Impact on Women was conducted in project villages
4. Environment Campaign through printing and distribution of booklets and pamphlets
5. Advocacy at local level on environment through meeting with CBOs, poster campaign, cleanliness drive and distribution of dustbins.
6. Promotion of 30 Women Environment Promoters



Strengthening the role of women's collective in local governance and decision making in North East

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 year 2017-2018, the following programs were implemented.

1. Leadership training for aspiring women leaders and elected women representatives (40 participants)
2. Four times Consultations and Focus Group Discussion with existing women elected representatives to effectively participate in decision making (98 participants)
3. Leadership training for women on Personality development, Rights and entitlements and schemes related to women (28 participants)
4. Fifteen times Interface meeting with relevant Govt. authorities, line departments and village apex bodies. (176 participants)
5. Four times Consultation meeting with CSOs and CBOs for women rights in PRIs & ADCs (128 participants)
6. Two times Interface meeting Tribal bodies and other relevant bodies (49 participants)



People's response to climate change and capacity building on patriarchal structure and criminal justice system reform in NEI

Summary of Activities: The project involved awareness, capacity building and training for local people and to works toward response to Climate Change ,Gender/patriarchal and Criminal Justice System Reform within the Domestic and international law and the Government is made accountable to insure its constitutional obligations to provide basic services to the people. To achieve this, during the year 2017-2018, the following programs were implemented.

1. 3 Days ToT (Training of Trainers) on Climate Change and Human Rights (45 participants)
2. Five times Awareness programs on Climate Change (124 participants)
3. Five times Capacity Building on Human Rights and Peace Building (178 participants)
4. Exposure cum Exchange Knowledge program within in the State of Manipur
5. Study and Documentation on Climate Change conducted in project villages
6. District Level Consultation meeting on Climate Change and Manipur State Action Plan on Climate Change (56 participants)
7. Press Conference on Climate Change and Human Right Violation (31 participants-media & Students)
8. Two times Awareness on Legal Rights and Rights Entitlements to women (72 participants)
9. Economic Support – Financial support given to 5 widow farmers to strengthen their agriculture field and for their livelihood sustainability
10. Building of Food Bank/Seed Bank- Financial Support given to five SHGs for building Food bank & Seed Bank



Community Based Environment Project

Summary of Activities: The project involved awareness and capacity building on environment education with focuses on protection, promotion and efficiently manage land and natural resources through improved use of traditional knowledge and practices and its allied activities in order to enhance the livelihood opportunities and peaceful co-existence of forest peoples in Churachandpur, Manipur. To achieve this, during the year 2017-2018, the following programs were implemented.



1. Mapping of village natural resources (land and water), and aligned livelihood activities with disaggregated data
2. 14 Focus Group Discussions for women on biodiversity conservation and reviving traditional knowledge and practices in seven project villages
3. Setting up of 7 pilot Green Model Villages to raise awareness with other communities and stakeholders
4. Creation of a cadre of 30 experts/knowledge holders on traditional skills & knowledge
5. Documentation using participatory methodologies, and technology of traditional practices



Renewable Energy for Livelihood and Home Lighting



Summary of Activities: The project involved awareness and promoting clean energy by providing solar home lighting system to bring adequate and uninterrupted power supply to households that can bring a lot of differences in terms of better health, higher income generation and improving education. The organization partner with SELCO Foundation and also tied up with Canara Bank and Vijaya Bank for easy solar financing. In 2017-2018, 126 families adopted clean energy for their daily energy needs.

Case Study:

Ms Lalsanhim is a small marginal farmer from the village of Saidan. Her family possessed a small river bank farm where she grew vegetables and crops. Her husband works as a daily wage labourer working as a mason. When the husband gets work, they can manage pretty fine but there are times when there are no works for months.

Ms Lalsanhim works in her small farm throughout the year and



Lalsanhim in front of her house

this substantially contribute to the family income. She grows pumpkin and beans during the kharif seasons and leafy vegetable like mustard and broccoli during the Rabi season. The crop has provided income to help in meeting the living cost of the family and also help in providing education to their 3 children.

However, irregular electricity is a making problem as their children need to study every night. She has to make necessary arrangement to light up the home by lighting candles. This involves incurring expenses and the monthly expense on buying a candle is goes very high. Ms Lalsanhim also needs to bundle up her vegetables at night as she goes to the market early morning. Looking at the perpetual problem her family faces because of irregular power supply, she decided to adopt solar home lighting system and since then, she never look back. She said her children never have a problem of lights to study their books without the smokes and smells of candles and kerosene, and she can do many household works at night. She said normally they used to light up 3 bulbs for about 5 hours a night and this is amazing. It also helps in reducing a lot in their electricity bills.



Ms Lalsanhim makes a regular repayment of her loans and she is very happy to do it. She said she always give a priority to repay the loan EMI.

Executive Board members:

Mrs Hrilrohnem	: Chairperson
Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mrs Lalthiengzo	: Treasurer
Mrs Zosangkim	: Members
Miss Darthangmawi	: Members
Ms Carolyn Tusing	: Member
Ms Thanmawi	: Member
Dr. JL Songate	: Ex. Officio Member

RWUS Staff:

Ms Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mr Samuel Lallawmzuol	: Prog Manager
Mr B.R. Sanglien	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Deborah	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Melody Zairemmawi	: Prog Coordinator
Ms Buongzakim	: Cashier
Mr Christopher	: Accountant
Mr Ramnghakhla	: Driver cum Runner
Ms. Lalthangpui	: Support Staff
Mr. Lalringsan	: Field staff
Mr. Lalditsak	: Field Staff

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

