



ANNUAL REPORT-2018-2019

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

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, a network of women NGOs across NE with the goal of strengthening women collective in governance and decision making. During the year 2018-2019, the following programs were implemented.



1. Leadership training for aspiring women leaders and elected women representatives (40 participants)

2. Three times Consultations and Focus Group Discussion with existing women elected representatives to effectively participate in decision making (110 participants)
3. Thirty times Interface meeting with relevant Govt. authorities, line departments and village apex bodies. (166 participants)
4. One time District level Consultation meeting with CSOs and CBOs for women rights in PRIs & ADCs (50 participants)
5. One time District level consultation with CSOs and CBOs for Women's rights program(50 participants)
6. One time State level consultation with like-minded women groups and community leaders(33 participants)
7. One time State level leadership training for young/second generation women leaders(25 participants)
8. One time State level consultation on Gender Policy.(30 participants)
9. One time WinG Staffs capacity building/RBM Training(24 participants)
10. WinG North East Conference 2018 at Imphal 25th&

26th November, 2018. Women in Governance (WinG) North East India host a 2 day conference at Imphal on the 25th & 26th November, 2018 and the observance of the 16th Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which brought together (100 women) representing the various states of North east India in Imphal. Participants connected for sharing and discussion of their experiences on activism, the need and importance of women's participation in decision making with the various grassroots women leaders from across the North East States and women leaders from other states of India. The conference was gracefully inaugurated by the Governor of Manipur, her Excellency Shrimati Najma Heptulla where she highlighted the importance of women participation in decision making at various levels of grassroots, national and also international level and also the need to include/invites more of men's participation in such events as we need to engage meaningful conversations with boys/men about masculinity and the solidarity we look forward from men towards combating violence against women



WinG North East India also looks into women's contribution towards women role in decision making at grassroots level and issues that are vulnerable to violence and discrimination. As a mark of 16 Days of Activism against Gender - Based violence, WinG has organized a session

on the second day with grassroots women leaders where participants shares their experience of Activism and engagement towards raising awareness on women's rights and women in decision making.

Case study:

Ms Neikhochong, a single mother is originally hailing from Pallel, a small hamlet situated closed to Burma border, When she was just 20, a married man fooled her and elopes. Her life was at its best before all this happen and now her life was at stack. She cannot go along her will. she calm her heart that things will go on the best way, but that never happen, to make the matter worse she overheard that her husband was busy with another affair ,come home drunk and late. He sometimes takes her girlfriend to the house, this arose her anger, he continue with that behaviour with times, unable to bear the pain she left his home and come back to her brothers home, who already had been married, blessed with few children. She was forced to flee for safety during ethnic violence in 1992 as her village was burnt down. The whole neighborhood fled to Churachandpur district and she was among the internally displaced persons. As a single mother, her life is a story of struggle, sometimes finding it difficult to make ends meet. At present she lives in CananVeng, a quiet locality at the outskirt of Lamka town in her own small homestead land which she got as a gift from her brother. In return she takes an additional responsibility of looking after her aged mother and her brother's children.



Neikhochong is a local women leader. Her personal experiences as victim of gender violence and victim of ethnic conflict have made her mentally strong. Her thirst for peace and democracy is much stronger and higher than most ordinary women in her community and locality. In her locality she was the first women local church auditor and church deacon board member under Evangelical church of India. She shared that she experiences many difficulties as a women leader: as a single mother and bread earner of the family. Her pathetic conditions posed a difficulty to give enough time for social development activities. However she said. “ *If I am little economically secure than I would have done more of mobilizing women, attending meetings, trainings, awareness workshops and other women related activities, I am looking forward when my son start earning so that I can devote more of my time for bringing women together and strive forward to bring peace and security for women.* She added, “ *I was not so excited to attend awareness trainings and workshop programs at the initial stage, but after attending many training and awareness programs of WinG,I was so moved with the topics and issues discussed in the program and now I am interested in all WinG programs and decided to take part in as many as I can.* She also said “ *Alone we could do so little, the only way out for women to be in decision making process, bodies and engage in social and development aspects is to be in organized form and initiate joint venture.*

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 internationl 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 2018-2019, the following programs were implemented.

1. Five times Awareness programs on Climate Change (168 participants)
2. Six times Capacity Building on Human Rights and Peace Building (164participants)
3. Exposure cum Exchange Knowledge program within the town areas.
4. Five times consultation on Climate Change and Peace(167participants)
5. One time Mass campaign on Climate change, Gender& Peace(78 participants)



Case study:

Mrs. Zosangzuol ,a farmer and a part time weaver by profession lives in an outskirt village of Thingchom with her two son's ever since she got divorce with her husband in the year 2008. She is 42 yrs old and her main source of livelihood is farming. But, as only farming could not suffice her family needs she also weave traditional shawls to supplement her family income. Her children dropout their high school education due to their low financial status as she could only earns an upper limit of Rs 250-300/day and sometimes not even a single penny. As time pass by, she was not in a condition to purchase wool (which is one of the most important raw materials for weaving) as the price increase and It tends to be increase every after a week and on the other hand, the selling price of the products (Traditional shawl) remain static and the market price cannot be change .Hence, there will be no profit and therefore she quit her weaving business as she could not afford it anymore.



And with regards to support from any source, it was learnt that she could get just a moral support from her maternal relatives. As she quit her weaving business as she was not in a condition to purchase raw materials like wool which is required for weaving, her financial status comes down and she could not help it except practicing only her same unstable occupation which is farming.

Through observation, it was learnt that she is quite responsible to her works and active as well energetic to continue or do more business to uplift her economic status. She also claims by saying that she wants to start her weaving business again if she is in a condition to purchase wool in bulk could earn money as weaving really aids her economic status when selling off the weaving products in market.

Future plan: With the cash given to her as economic support, Mrs Zosangzuol will continue her profession as a weaver by purchasing raw materials required for weaving and she will extend her business. This will really uplift her low economic status and will able to support her children.

Renewable Energy for Livelihood and Homelighting

Summary of Activities: The project involves promoting alternative energy to rural household for regular power supply for home lighting and livelihood enhancement. Regarding this as a small step towards combating climate change, RWUS has slowly moved forward in spreading awareness and convincing the community to adopt clean energy. During the last 1 year, a total of 54 system comprising 40 watt, 100 watt and 200 watt Home lighting was provided.



Case study: Solar blower for blacksmith

Mr Rochanglien is a naturally gifted ironsmith, residing in Saikawt village of Churachnadvpur district in Manipur. He has been working as a blacksmith and earning a livelihood forging iron for others and producing vital household tool for many years now. The quality of work he did made him quite well known and popular and as such he is always flooded with orders. He works from home and manually blows charcoal day in and day out to make a living. However this involves time as it is slow and limits his capacity to produce more.



Knowing his situation, RWUS and SELCO approach and offered to help him solve this problem through solar blower. He is keen with the new system and accordingly a solar blower was installed at his workshop last year in the month of March. Using the system, Mr

Rochanglien felt that his work has been so much easier and faster and now he can even work at night as the system comes with a light bulb. With the ability to work both day and night, Mr Rochanglien looks forward to a better day as he can work faster which will ensure higher production.

Observation of International Rivers Day:

The International Day of Actions for Rivers was celebrated by RWUS in collaboration with ADC, Churachandpur on the 14th march 2019 which was participated by 81 women across the district. It was observed with a short program which at RWUS Training Hall and followed by action campaign through posters and cleaning drive of the Chiengkawn stream with the help of JCB excavator and Tripper Truck. Different CSO's/CBO's, WinG promoters, Women Environment Promoters and NGO's partners were among the participants. Printed and Press media were also among the participants and they play a vital role in the coverage of the program and in spreading awareness on the importance of Rivers/Stream and its protection through their local cable network and newspaper to the general public across the District.

The program was observed into two sessions where the first session was held at RWUS Training Hall with a Resource persons and special invitees. The second session was observed through action/social work in which people efforts were used for cleaning up the trash of Chiengkawn stream with the assistance of JCB Excavator and Tripper Truck to dump the trash collected by the participants and JCB Excavator. The program lasted form 10:30 A.M till 6 P.M.



Executive Board members:

MrsHrilrohnem	: Chairperson
Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
MrsLalthiengzo	: Treasurer
MrsZosangkim	: Members
Miss Darthangmawi	: Members
Ms Carolyn Tusing	: Member
MsThanmawi	: Member
Dr. JL Songate	: Ex. Officio Member

RWUS Staff:

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