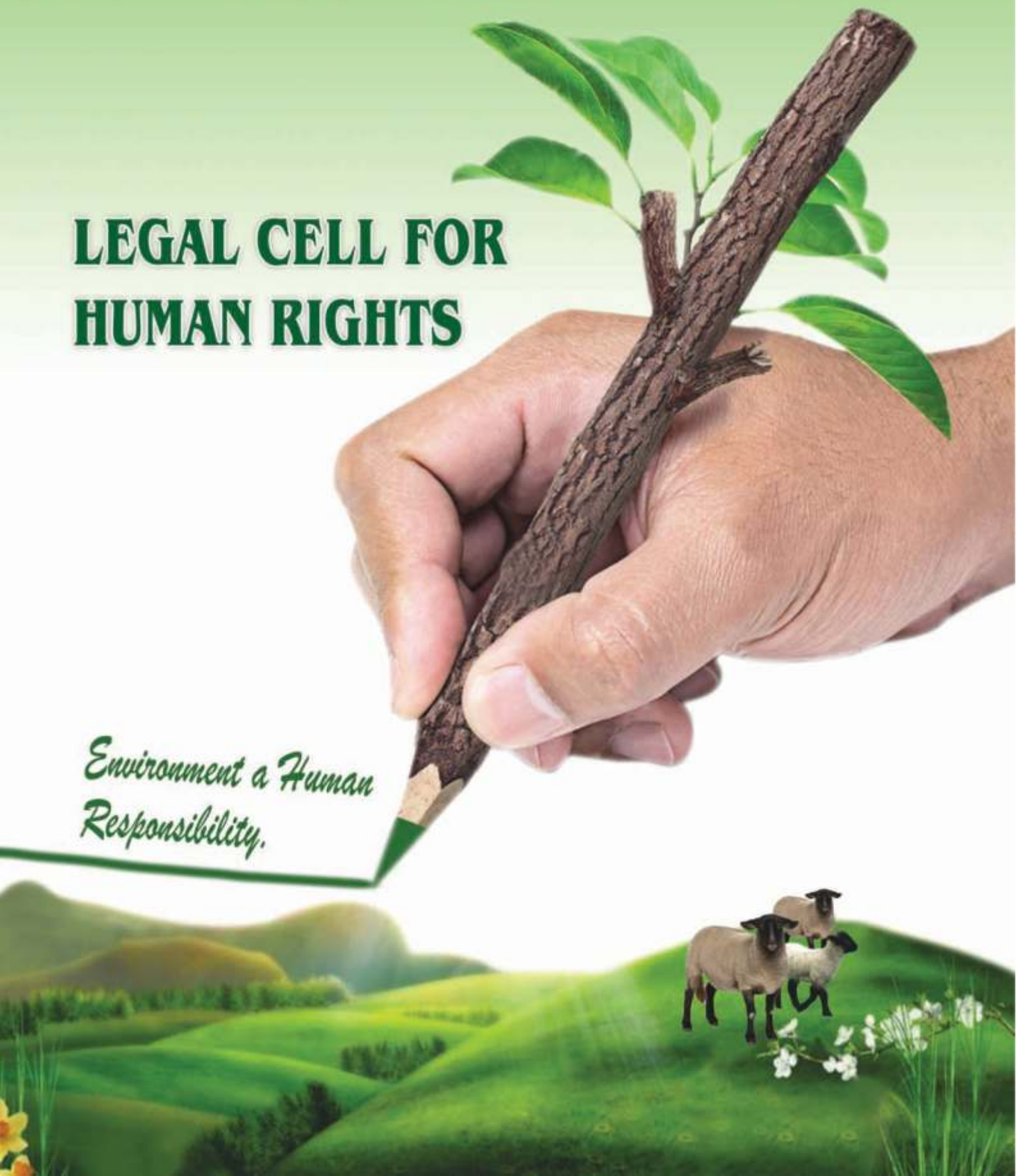




Annual Report 2015-2016

LEGAL CELL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

*Environment a Human
Responsibility.*



LEGAL CELL

For Human Rights

VISION STATEMENT

We, the members of LCHR, drawn from diverse ethnic and religious groups with rich cultural backgrounds, having professional expertise, are called to walk in the spirit of pioneers to realize the constitutional values in the society.

Among our people we discern a deep yearning for: human rights, justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, peace, ethnic reconciliation, the restoration of creation with ecological and climate justice, freedom from the ill-effects of liberalization; building up of well-knit families and human communities; the preservation of their ethnic identity, cultural and religious traditions.

We, being aware that our people are part of the global community, respond to these aspirations and make them our priorities.

We incarnate them in all our endeavours in the spirit of excellence, as a joyful team on a mission, with constant discernment, respecting every team member and collaborating with others committed to the same cause of building up India to realize its constitutional values.



President's Desk...

2015-'16 has been indeed a very fruitful and rewarding year for LCHR. From court-room litigations to out-of-court settlement, from spreading legal awareness to the remotest part of the North Eastern Region to internship to students of law and social work, LCHR in its short span of 9 years has traversed a meaningful journey cutting across religious, communal, linguistic and ethnic minorities.

Along with securing justice to the poor and the marginalized, LCHR has played a pivotal role in mobilizing people at the grass roots level, people's movement to strive for justice and peace in the society. Right to education of the children of the tea-plantation labourers is another prime area of focus of LCHR for the year. I am happy that their efforts have been successful in bringing about a marked difference in the lives of those who hunger for justice and equality.

It gives me immense joy to present to you the Annual Report 2015-2016. As LCHR along with its committed team members continues its journey towards 'Striving for Justice', I wish them the very best in their endeavours and pray that they may cross many more milestones in the years to come.



Fr. Arul Susaimanickam SJ
Chairman, LCHR

Director's Desk...

Article 21 of the Constitution of India enshrines the right to life and personal liberty and thereby it encompasses a host of human rights for survival, protection, development and participation. Though the Constitution of India guarantees these fundamental rights, frequent violation of these rights is witnessed around us especially among the vulnerable and weaker sections of society. Ignorance of the provisions safeguarding their rights makes them victims of subjugation, violation and exploitation. In securing justice to these, LCHR has been a trailblazer.

During the year 2015-2016, LCHR not only achieved newer and greater heights in its area of intervention but also it has been the vanguard in the advocacy for rights of children, women and minorities. The formation of cluster groups among the Para-legal persons in the tea-plantations is yet another level in the saga of access to justice. The impact of cluster groups in the tea gardens and legal cells in the Northeast is reverberating far and wide.

Various programmes and activities of LCHR sing the melody of innovation and zeal. As I place this Annual Report in your hands, I am filled with gratitude to our partners, well-wishers and to my committed team members who have been toiling to realize the vision and the mission of LCHR.



Ravi Sagar
Director, LCHR

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About us ...

Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR), Guwahati is a programme initiative of Prachodaya Trust. Being a civil society organization for the integral development of the people of North East India, LCHR visualizes itself as people's initiative for the protection and promotion of their inalienable human, socio-cultural and civil rights to restore human dignity.

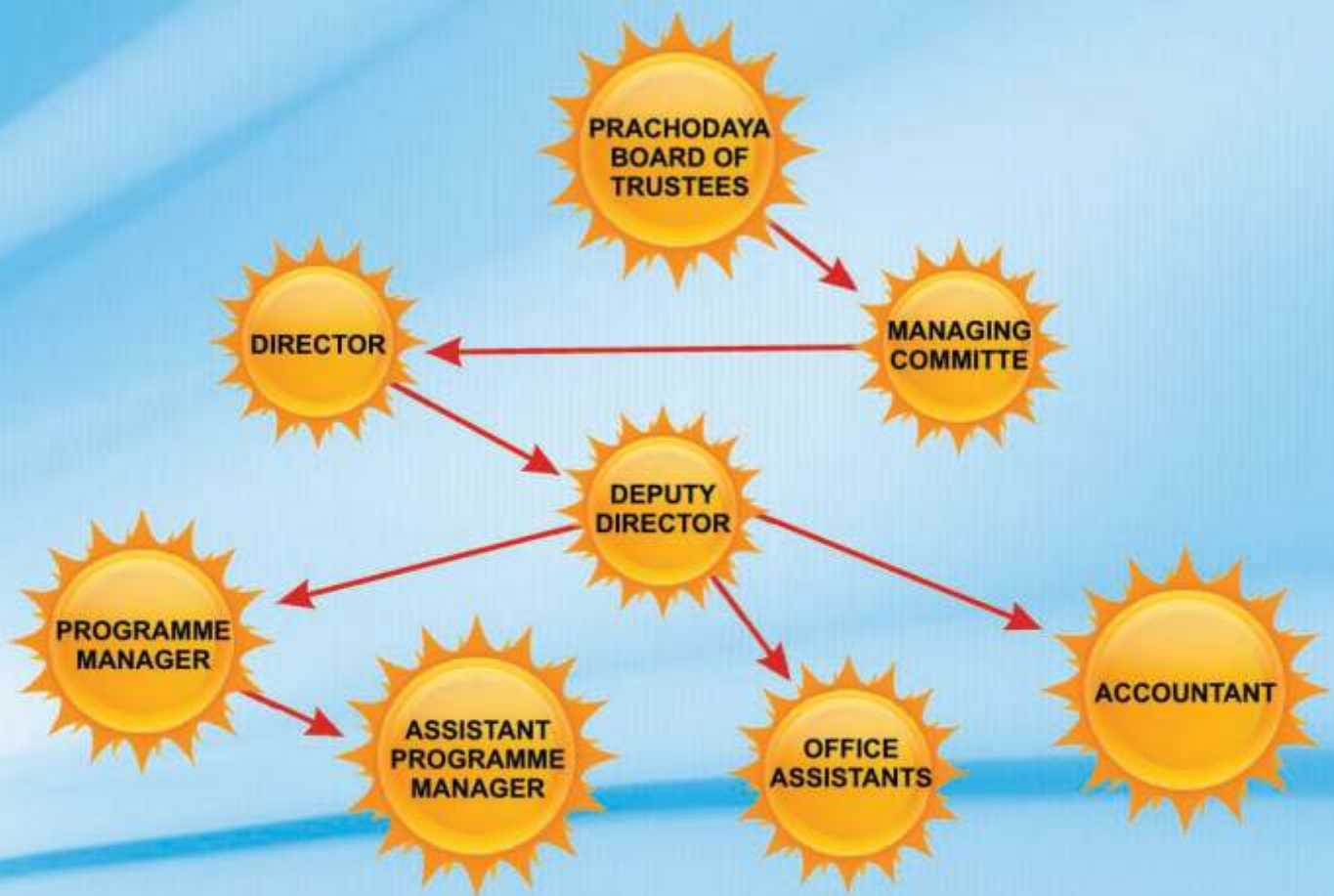
Vision ...

LCHR visualizes itself as a peoples' initiative for the protection and promotion of inalienable human rights and socio-cultural rights to restore human dignity and to uphold constitutional values by preventing violence, discrimination and marginalization and by preserving equality, justice, peace, liberty, fraternity and harmony among people with a preferential option and affirmative action, we strive to create a humane and just society.

Mission ...

The mission of LCHR is to empower the powerless in order to re-claim for themselves their inalienable human rights and human dignity, which has been distorted by inhuman structures by creating awareness, by disseminating legal information, knowledge and education, and by accompanying the weak, the poor and the needy in their struggle for justice. LCHR endeavours to empower the powerless to observe their duties, to approach the appropriate forums and to reconstitute their socio-economic, cultural, religious, human rights and civil liberties.

LCHR ORGANOGRAM



Introduction



Shobha K.P.
Deputy Director

I am extremely happy to be associated with LCHR for the last nine years. During this period the LCHR has been striving to carry out its vision and mission to reach out to the weakest sections of our society. It has been a marvellous experience to grow along with the people who are in need of our care and compassion. The LCHR with its legal expertise in litigation and in providing legal literacy has brought justice, peace and consolation to many needy people.

While bringing succour to individuals, families and even communities, we at the LCHR realise that there are many other issues that are global in nature. One such concern is climate change which is seriously affecting us. For example, the present drought in India is affecting more than 300 million people in India, a quarter of the population of the country. In Assam itself recent unseasonal rains and floods have brought misery to about one lakh people. Scientists may explain such natural disasters in various ways. But we know that the root cause is human

misbehaviour towards nature and environment. Though we know that all living organisms, the flora and fauna, are interdependent among themselves and with their environment and exist in a harmonious manner, we human beings have destroyed this harmony through our reckless selfish behaviour. Basically we fail to understand that the Creator has provided for satisfying everyone's need, not anybody's greed. This demands that we have to treat our environment gently and all our fellow creatures humanely.

Here we have a model in St Francis of Assisi. We read in his writings how he would burst into song while lovingly gazing at "brother sun", "sister moon." He used the language of fraternity in addressing birds and animals as sisters and brothers. He was always conscious that he was a member of the family of all living beings sharing with them a common abode and environment. This awareness made St Francis to sing songs of praise to the Creator. St Francis wanted others to experience the same closeness with other animals, birds, flowers and plants.

If we approach nature and our environment with this openness to awe, wonder, and praise, our attitude will be not that of masters, consumers and exploiters, but of caretakers, preservers and protectors. Motivated by this attitude we can work for a future with "climate justice". This new orientation can energise us at the LCHR to explore new possibilities in our endeavours to build a society based on justice, peace and love.

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LCHR INTERVENTIONS IN 2015-2016

Legal Literacy Camps

LCHR in partnership with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kamrup organized 5 legal literacy sessions on Motor Vehicle Laws, Assam Excise Act, Social Security Schemes and MGNREGA at Fatasil Ambari, Datalpara, Teldipot, Niz Gobardhan and at Hograpara in which over 250 persons participated.



An Awareness Camp on the Rights and Duties of Prisoners was organized by LCHR on March 12, 2016, in association with DLSA, Kamrup at Central Jail, Guwahati. Around 150 jail inmates attended the awareness camp in the presence of the Superintendent of Jail, the Jailor and the Assistant Jailor. The awareness camp was aimed at bringing awareness among them about their rights and duties.



Conciliation & Legal Assistance

LCHR through negotiation and conciliation successfully helped many individuals and families to settle their disputes amicably. A couple in their late fifties was caught up with court procedures for many years. As the days passed, they realized the futility of their litigation and they were willing to settle their dispute amicably. When their engaged lawyers would not hear their plea they came to LCHR for assistance. LCHR encouraged them to place a mutual petition before the

Principal Judge, Family Court, expressing their desire to settle their matter mutually. The Principal Judge not only passed the order of withdrawal of the case for mutual settlement but also appreciated them for the example they set before others.

Litigation

LCHR is also dealing with some cases relating to human trafficking in Gauhati High Court. Ravi Sagar has been the engaged counsel in one of the PILs filed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) before the Gauhati High Court. The prayer before the High Court is to direct the Government of Assam to implement the provisions of laws related to children, to register the cases of missing children, formulate guidelines for registration of all persons leaving for employment from Assam and to ensure proper functioning of child protection institutions.

LCHR Associates have also assisted litigants redress their grievances. Several women have been helped to claim their matrimonial rights. Poor people have been helped in litigation especially in land related matters. LCHR assisted 11 schools, among which 5 were from Karnataka, 2 from Tamil Nadu and 1 from Delhi, in obtaining Minority Status Certificate. 10 schools were granted the certificate and one was listed for further hearing in the month of August, 2016.

Training of PLPs



The second training on "Para-Legal & Advocacy Skills" for the PLPs of Chandrapur Development Block, Kamrup District was held from July 18 to 22, 2015 at JAGRITI, Guwahati in which 7 trainees participated. The training was inaugurated by Mr. Pranab Sharma, Advocate, Gauhati High Court. After their first training the PLPs made remarkable contribution for the promotion of social justice in their villages. They were urged to complete the training which would help them to improve their capacity further.

During this training the trainers focused on laws related to Land, PDS, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), laws related to women, provisions related to Free Legal Aid and right to education. Mr. Pranab Sharma, Advocate, Gauhati High Court, Mr. M.K. Borah, Additional Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita, Mr. Satya Narayan Boruah, Mr. Abinash Narzary and Ms. Preeti Rekha Gogoi from LCHR were the resource persons at the training.

Monitoring and Evaluation



On January 21, 2016 a group of 3 officers from NITI Ayog, Ministry of Minority Affairs, GoI, visited LCHR for the monitoring and field verification of the project called "Nai Roshni 2014 -2015" in which LCHR has trained a group of 125 women belonging to minority groups. They were briefed on the implementation of the project. On January 22, 2016 they visited Simelibari and South Mandakata villages under Bezera Development Block, Kamrup district, Assam and met the beneficiaries of the training. The team was satisfied on the implementation of the project efficiently.



Every month LCHR team visited the PLPs, who are undergoing training, for monitoring and evaluation, and to accompany them in their field work. The PLPs shared their field activities, their experiences and the problems faced during the course of action. They shared that they were able to help many people to apply for IAY houses, job cards and get the benefits

of various social security schemes of both the Central and the State Governments. All the PLPs were able to do some useful activities in their own areas. They also organized awareness sessions in which the people from the villages were gathered.

LCHR Team also conducted monitoring and evaluation meetings every month for the evaluation and planning of the activities of the cluster groups and their members in order to make them to work hard to access justice for the people.



The District Coordinators come to LCHR office every month for evaluation and planning of their activities. They are guided and supervised by LCHR Team while they in turn guide the PLPs as well as cluster groups.

Follow-up Training



A 2-day residential follow-up training for the PLPs of Boko Development Block under Kamrup district was conducted at North East Diocesan Social Forum (NEDSF), Kharghuli, Guwahati from 30th September to 1st October, 2015.



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At the inaugural function Hon'ble Mrs. Justice (Rtd.) Anima Hazarika, President of the Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission appreciated the activities of the participants, their motivation and commitment to help the people in the villages. Justice Anima Hazarika outlined the laws related to women, children, RTI, RTE, F.I.R, fundamental duties and constitutional rights. She said that "law is the most powerful weapon to combat corruption and injustice". Dr. M.K. Shrivastav, Assistant Professor of National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Guwahati spoke on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and local Governance system in Autonomous Council Areas of North East India.

Training for PLPs on Advocacy Skills



For the last 3 years LCHR has been Resource Team in "Capacity Building of Tribal Leaders through Para-legal and Advocacy Skill Training" in collaboration with Network of North-East Tribe (NNET). Over a period of 3 years, LCHR trained 88 PLPs from 5 partner organizations of NNET based in Tinsukia, Jagun, Chapar, Baganpara and Kumarikata. Through the trainings and field work they perfected the art of para-legal skills and advocacy. A 6-day review training for the trained PLPs was conducted at National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR), Khanapara, Guwahati from 30th August to 4th September, 2015 in which 36 participants attended.



The training was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Rtd.) B.D. Agarwal, Judge (Rtd.) Gauhati High Court. Dr. R. M. Pant, Director, NIRD & PR, Khanapara, Fr. Jose Karipadam, Project Coordinator, NNET and Ravi Sagar, Director of LCHR were present at the inaugural. Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Rtd.) P.K. Musahary, Chairperson, State Police Accountability Commission, Assam was present at the concluding ceremony.

The training module included sessions on RTE, National Social Security Schemes (NSSS), Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), Public Distribution System & National Food Security Act (PDS & NFSA), Consumer Protection Act (CPA), Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Criminal Justice System (CJS), First Information Report (FIR) and Right to Information Act (RTI).

Exposure and Internship



LCHR offers internship to the students of law and social work. They dwell on practical experience. Students from Guwahati as well as from outside take advantage of the internship programme. On July 24, 2015 a group of 9 law students from Jorhat Law College visited LCHR as a part of their exposure programme, to know about LCHR and its activities. On August 18, 2015 a group of 15 students pursuing their master degree in child rights from Assam Don Bosco University visited LCHR as a part of their observation programme. On September 29, 2015, 12 Students from Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam visited LCHR. On October 29, 2015 a group of 9 students from Mind India, Guwahati visited LCHR, as part of their exposure programme to know about LCHR and its activities.



Home affairs

The LCHR team had a 2-day workshop on January 24 and 25, 2015 to energize the spirit before entering into the activities of the forthcoming year ahead of them. The team spent lot of time with each other, relaxed, enjoyed and returned with much life and energy. LCHR celebrated its 10th foundation day on February 15, 2016. Fr. Arul Susaimanickam, the Chairman of LCHR visited LCHR office on March 14, 2016.



On February 16, 2016 LCHR conducted interviews for the post of Programme Managers and selected Mr. Hemanta Dahal, Ms. Margaret Thomas Deka, Ms. Pampi Bharadwaj and Ms. Mousumi Kalita. Mr. Ananta Daimari was selected as office assistant. LCHR bid farewell to Felcita D' Souza and Mamoni Dey Sarkar who served LCHR for over 5 years.



PLP Cluster Groups to access Justice

After training PLPs in para-legal and advocacy skills, LCHR realized the need of bringing together the trained PLPs to work for the issues confronting them. Hence, on November 1, 2015, LCHR launched a new programme namely, "Formation of Cluster-Groups among the PLPs and Training them to Access Justice in the Tea Plantations of Assam". It is aimed at bringing the scattered PLPs together into cluster groups in order to work for the protection and promotion of human rights. 18 cluster groups have been formed and are

trained on group management skills. They have chosen to work on rights of children especially on the right to education in the tea plantations. A series of activities have been planned systematically to achieve the objectives of the programme.

Orientation on Cluster Formation

LCHR has made 25 visits to the tea gardens in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Udalguri, Sonitpur and Nagaon districts, to interact with the trained PLPs who are actively involved. A team comprising of Ravi Sagar, Felcita D'Souza, Satya Narayan Boruah and Abinash Narzary has visited the tea gardens in 5 districts of Assam motivating the trained PLPs to form them into purposeful cluster groups to access justice.



The purpose of those meetings was to discuss with the trained PLPs not only the formation of cluster groups and its modalities but also prevailing issues among the tea garden labourers. After a series of discussions in five districts it was unanimously decided to work on the issue of right to education among the tea plantation labourers. The cluster groups will make the tea plantation labourers aware of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and other laws related to Children.



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Training of the Office Bearers

A 3-day residential training on group management skills was conducted for the Office Bearers (OB) of 18 cluster groups of the PLPs at NEDSF, Kharghuli, Guwahati from December 5 to 7, 2015. 42 OBs from 18 groups and 5 district coordinators from Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sonitpur, Udalguri and Nagaon districts of Assam attended the training.



Valerian Castelino was the Resource Person at the training. He dealt with the formation of groups and its modalities. He explained to them about the rules and regulations for better functioning. While clarifying the rules of book-keeping and maintaining the group accounts, he introduced to them different kinds of account books to be managed. Generation and management of funds including modalities of loan were also dealt in the training.

Training on Child Rights

Two trainings for the cluster group members were held on the educational rights of children. Chairpersons of Child Welfare Committee, Labour Commissioner, District Legal Cum Probation Officers and other members of child protection institutions participated as resource persons to enlighten the participants on the right of education and prevention of child labour.



The first training was held at Christashram, Mancotta, Dibrugarh from February 1 to 3, 2016. Mrs. Sewali Borborah, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Dibrugarh was invited to enlighten the participants regarding the role of CWC in providing free and compulsory education to the children.

The second training was conducted from February 5 to 7, 2016 at DBSTI, Tezpur to train the members of cluster groups on how to work with Child Welfare Committees and the tea garden management in implementing the provisions of RTE among the children of the tea garden labourers. Mr. Mridul Kumar Kalita, District and Session Judge, Sonitpur highlighted on Child Rights, Child Labour, Free and Compulsory Education under RTE and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences under POCSO.



Formation of 15 Legal Cells :

A Dream into Realty...

In response to the mandate, LCHR has taken initiative to form 15 legal cells in different parts of the North East India in order to access justice. Efforts have been made to gather human rights lawyers to form purposeful legal cells in those areas in order to tap the resources of legal competence among them in

the region. LCHR team outlined the need for coming together under a common platform in order to chalk out activities which will benefit the poor and the needy. This coming together has resulted in increased professional expertise, advocacy skills and widening network among the like-minded lawyers and organizations. This will also motivate them to take up the cause of the poor and the needy in their

own locality. LCHR team constantly assisted these legal cells to organize workshops and to encourage them in all their endeavours.

1. Agartala Legal Cell

The Agartala Legal Fraternity being enthusiastic of the idea of coming together, formed the legal cell group among themselves. During the first workshop held at JUST, Agartala, the members expressed that it would enable them to serve the poor and the needy in legal matters at a reasonable cost. They also found mutual support in the profession.

2. Aizawl Legal Cell

The first workshop of the Legal Fraternity of Aizawl brought a handful of lawyers but committed with a deep interest in forming themselves into a Legal Cell. Their coming together resulted in forming a legal cell to take up common issues and help the deprived sections of the society in legal matters.

3. Bongaigaon Legal Cell

In Bongaigaon, the first workshop was held at Chapaguri with the view to form a legal cell. The members of the legal fraternity are making all efforts to gather not only practising advocates but also students of law, judges and magistrates. They expressed their happiness in forming the legal fraternity which will enable them strengthen their professional ties.

4. Dibrugarh Legal Cell

The Dibrugarh Legal Fraternity eagerly welcomed the idea of forming a legal cell and suggested that the Legal Cell can effectively function apart from the conventional work of practising in the court by organizing legal awareness camps for the ignorant masses of the society.

5. Diphu Legal Cell

In February, 2016 LCHR visited Diphu to look into the possibilities of creating the legal cell over there. It was found that the time has not yet ripened as there are a few interested members. The handful of them felt that it would give them an edge in networking among the legal fraternity from the other States of North east India.

6. Guwahati Legal Cell

In Guwahati, the law graduates and advocates have given a very positive response towards the formation of legal Cell. They have expressed their

willingness and have come forward to make this endeavour a success. There is a big number of law students who are very keen to take advantage of this networking.

7. Imphal Legal Cell

The first workshop held at Mantripukhri, Imphal convinced the Imphal Legal Fraternity the need for coming together on a common platform and take up activities and privileges that can be undertaken and enjoyed by the legal fraternity. They are impressed that legal fraternity network in the northeast would widen their horizons.

8. Itanagar Legal Cell

Itanagar has vibrant, young and interested lawyers who welcomed the idea of LCHR. They said that it is their sacred duty to voice the voiceless and educate the ignorant in the field of law. They regretted for not reaching out to the villages where their own people are struggling with law related matters.

9. Jowai Legal Cell

LCHR facilitated the first workshop in Jowai in November, 2015. Appreciating the efforts of LCHR and the innovative idea of bringing the lawyers together to work for the benefit of the society in legal matters, the participants expressed their desire to do all that is necessary to implement this idea.

10. Kohima Legal Cell

After consultation and discussions, LCHR visited Kohima legal fraternity in February and March, 2016. To their advantage, the experienced lawyers in the group exhorted its members to work diligently and they are now growing from strength to strength. Participation of law students in the legal cell added a new dimension.

11. Miao Legal Cell

Legal profession in Miao, Arunachal Pradesh is in the bud. Students of Law often move to other parts of the North Eastern States and particularly to Guwahati for their graduation in law. Though formation of legal fraternity in Miao is at the infancy stage yet there lies huge potential towards the growth of the fraternity.

12. Nongstoin Legal Cell

In Nongstoin it has been found that the ratio of students pursuing law degree is higher compared to practicing members of the Bar and the Bench. Formation of legal cell in Nongstoin has better

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prospects in the years to come. Therefore, plans are afoot to make the fraternity more vibrant and functional.

13. Shillong Legal Cell

The big number in the members from the Bar and the Bench including the students of law are optimistic as to the formation of the legal fraternity in Shillong. They believe in advocates becoming the voice of the voiceless. The Shillong Legal Fraternity has conducted several legal awareness programmes and addressed various legal issues of the society.

14. Tezpur Legal Cell

The Tezpur Legal Fraternity accepted the idea of

formation of the legal Cell. They believe that they would get a platform to come together, share their legal expertise and help one another. They have ventured to conduct legal awareness programme in the rural villages on relevant topics to solve legal issues among the poor and the marginalized.

15. Tura Legal Cell

The Tura Legal Fraternity comprises of several members from the Bar and the Bench who are eager to form the network of legal fraternity and address the legal issues of their area. Plans are afoot to include more and more number of members to the fraternity. Their enthusiasm will unfold the dream.

My experience your inspiration

I am Bipul Sangma, PLP from Niz Gobardhan village, Chandrapur, Kamrup, Assam. I completed my training from LCHR in 2015. In this training, I came to know about the various schemes and projects available for the development of the rural people. In the training, emphasis was given to enable the participants to know the rules and procedures to get correct information from the government offices through RTI. I also learnt how to make RTI applications. To my pleasant surprise, I got reply to my first RTI application in which I had enquired about the "Indira Awaas Yojana" a housing programme for the rural people. I got a list of people who were awarded the housing facility. When enquired about it in the village, I found that the listed people have not got the houses. After informing the people concerned and the villagers, I wrote an application to the Block Development Office requesting it to provide housing facility to the listed people. I could not believe myself when these persons whose names appeared in the list were later called to the Block Office and were informed that their houses will be constructed soon. Martha Marak, Sunita Marak, Mukta Sangma, Sushma Barman and Sudon Das from Niz Gobardhan village in Kamrup got houses under "Indira Awaas Yojana" in 2015 with my intervention.



LCHR TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

- 5-day residential training on "Para-Legal & Advocacy Skills" for another batch of PLPs from Chandrapur Development Block in Kamrup District was held from July 18 to 22, 2015 at JAGRITI, Guwahati in which 7 trainees participated.
- 6-day residential Review Training for the trained PLPs on Para-Legal & Advocacy Skills was conducted at NIRD & PR, Khanapara, Guwahati from August 30 to September 4, 2015 in collaboration with NNET in which 36 participants from Tinsukia, Jagun, Chapar, Baganpara and Kumarikata attended.
- 2-day residential follow-up training for the trained PLPs from Boko in Kamrup district was conducted at NEDSF, Kharghuli, Guwahati from September 30 to October 1, 2015.
- 3-day residential training on group management skills was conducted for the office bearers of the cluster groups at NEDSF, Kharghuli, Guwahati from December 5 to 7, 2015 in which 42 Office

Bearers from 18 cluster groups and 5 District Coordinators attended.

- 2-day residential training on “Child Rights” was held for the members of cluster groups from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts at Christashram, Mancotta, Dibrugarh from February 01 to 03, 2016.
- 2-day residential training from February 5 to 7, 2016 at DBSTI, Tezpur was conducted on “Child rights” for the cluster group members from Sonitpur, Udalguri and Nagaon districts.

LCHR LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS

- On May 31, 2015 LCHR assisted the PLPs from Chandrapur Development Block to organize legal literacy camp on the Social Security Schemes, MGNREGA and IAY housing facility at Bherbari Community Hall, Chandrapur in which 38 people from the village attended.
- On June 27, 2015 LCHR assisted the PLPs from Chandrapur to organize legal literacy camp on government schemes on IAY housing facility and MGNREGA at Panbari, Chandrapur.
- On June 29, 2015 LCHR assisted the PLPs from Chandrapur to organize an awareness session at Ghuramara village on Social Security Schemes and MGNREGA.
- On September 26, 2015, PLPs from Chandrapur organized legal literacy camp at Gobali village with the assistance of LCHR on social security schemes, IAY housing facility, Job cards, Ration cards and the importance of Gaon Sabha.
- On October 24, 2015, LCHR assisted the PLPs of Chandrapur Development Block to conduct legal literacy camp at Barman Basti, Chandrapur on “Social Security Schemes and IAY Housing Scheme” in which 25 people from the village participated.
- On January 29, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp at Teldepot on Motor Vehicle Laws, Assam Excise Act and MGNREGA.
- On January 30, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp at Fatashil Ambari on Motor Vehicle Laws, Assam Excise Act and MGNREGA.
- On January 31, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp at Datalpara on Motor Vehicle Laws, Assam

Excise Act and MGNREGA.

- On March 12, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp on the Rights and Duties of Prisoners at Central Jail, Guwahati in which around 150 inmates attended in the presence of the Superintendent, the Jailor and the Assistant Jailor.
- On March 13, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp on “Social Security Schemes” at Niz Gobardhan.



- On March 20, 2016, LCHR in association with DLSA, Kamrup organized a legal literacy camp on “Social Security Schemes” at Hograpara in which 55 people participated.



LCHR RESOURCEFULNESS

Ravi Sagar:

- was one of the resource persons to address 600 students on “Preservation of Culture” at a 3 day National Convention of Young Apostles of Christ organized by Missionary Animation Centre at Little Flower School, Hatigaon, Guwahati on April 18, 2015.
- was the resource person in a consultation programme for the Principals of the Schools run by FMA Sisters at Auxullium Convent,

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Christianbasti and spoke on laws relating to school administration on July 23, 2015.

- was the guest lecturer and lectured on "Effective use of law in Pastoral Ministry" to the students of 4th year B.Th in Oriens Theological College, Shillong from August 31, 2015 to September 3, 2015.
- was the resource person at a training on "laws related to land and forest" at Borgaon under Sonitpur District for the animators of Tezpur Diocese on October 26, 2015 in which 72 trainees were present.
- was the resource person at a Regional Consultation of New Education Policy and Human Rights Education at NEDSF, Guwahati on October 30, 2015 and spoke on the Relevance of Human Rights Education to 36 Principals from various educational institutions.
- was the Resource Person on the topic "Recent legal provisions related to management of educational institutions" held at MSFS Provincial House, Narengi on January 21, 2016. Community leaders and principals from different places participated.
- was the guest lecturer on "RTE and its implications" in "In-Service Teachers Training Programme" at St. Paul's Institute of Education, Phesama, Nagaland on January 16, 2016 in which 105 teachers from various schools participated.
- was a resource person at a regional workshop organized by Karnataka Regional Education Commission (KREC) held at KROSS, Bangalore and spoke on "Educational & Cultural Rights as enshrined in the Fundamental Rights" on February 11, 2016.
- was a resource person at a regional workshop organized by KREC held at KROSS, Bangalore and spoke on "Right to Education & its implications" on February 12, 2016.



- was a speaker on the "Constitutional Mandate and its values" to the 46 participants during 2 day consultation on "Adivasi Issues" organized by PAJRA at Bishop's House, Tezpur on February 23, 2016.
- was a guest lecturer to speak on "International Human Rights Law" at TISS, Guwahati Campus on March 5, 2016. He Spoke to the students who have chosen Human Rights as their specialization.
- was the Guest Lecturer at NEF College of Management and Technology on March 10, 2016 and lectured on "Human Rights and Social Development" to the staff and students of Social Work.
- was a resource person and addressed the conference of the "Xavier Board for Higher Education" and spoke on laws related to Tax and Labour welfare to the 17 Principals of the Colleges in Northeast on March 12, 2016.

LCHR Team Members ...

- Satya Narayan Boruah and Mr. Sanjib Hazarika conducted an awareness programme at Chandrapur on 26 April, 2015 and spoke on the provisions of Right to Information.
- Satya Narayan Boruah and Ms Preeti Rekha Gogoi were the resource persons at a legal awareness programme held at Chandrapur Development Block, Kamrup district and spoke on Public Distribution System on May 31, 2015.
- Abinash Narzary and Ms. Preeti Gogoi conducted a legal awareness programme at Barman Basti, Chandrapur Development Block, Kamrup district in June, 2015 and spoke on MGNREGA, Social Security Schemes and the provisions of Public Distribution System.
- Satya Narayan Boruah and Ms Preeti Rekha Gogoi were the resource persons in an awareness session organized by the PLPs at Panbari, Chandrapur development block, Kamrup district on June 27, 2015.
- Satya Narayan Boruah was the resource person in an awareness session on Right to Information for the members of 7 primary committees of All Assam Tea Tribe Students' Union, Tinsukia on August 4, 2015.
- Abinash Narzary and Ms. Preeti Rekha Gogoi were the resource persons at the legal awareness

programme held at Ghuramara, Chandrapur Development Block, Kamrup District organized by the PLPs, and spoke on RTE, MGNREGA, PDS and various Social Security Schemes on August 29, 2015.

- Felcita D'souza was the resource person in a women empowerment programme at Kumarikatta, Baksa district organized by SMI sisters in which 130 people participated from 8 villages. She spoke on women rights, child rights, social security schemes, right to education and Right to Information Act on September 4, 2015.
- Satya Narayan Boruah and Preeti Rekha Gogoi were the resource persons in the legal awareness programmes organized by Bethany Social Service Society at Lalmati and spoke on social security schemes for the rural and urban dwellers of Kamrup district on September 10, 2015.
- On September 26, 2015, Mr. Sanjib Hazarika and Ms. Preeti Rekha Gogoi were the resource persons in a legal literacy session organized by the PLPs at Gobali, Chandrapur Development Block, Kamrup district. They spoke on Social Security Schemes.
- Ravi Sagar, Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary were the Resource Persons and spoke on Public Distribution System and Targeted Public Distribution to 80 SHGs members from Arunachal Pradesh on October 17, 2015 at Bhalukpong.
- Satya Narayan Boruah was the Resource person on the occasion of Children's Day celebration on November 14, 2015 in Tinsukia District. He spoke on the rights of children.



LCHR Participation

- Satya Narayan Boruah and Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita attended a discussion on "Peace Activists' Meet" at NEDSF organized by NESRC, Guwahati from

June 22 to 23, 2015 in which 56 participants from 7 states of North East India took part.

- Abinash Narzary attended a national seminar on "Media Conflict and Peace Building in North East India" at DBI, Kharghuli from July 23 to 24, 2015 organized by NESRC, Guwahati and Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar in which 60 participants including senior journalists and research scholars from various states of India attended.
- Abinash Narzary attended the stake holders' consultation on food fortification at Capuchin House, Juripar, Panjabari on August 18, 2015 organized by Consumer Voice in collaboration with CII-FACE & GAIN in which 25 participants from different colleges and non-governmental organisations of Guwahati attended.
- Abinash Narzary participated in a 2-day workshop on "Liberating Social Activism through Social Media" organized by WAY Foundation at Chandmari, Guwahati from January 18 to 19, 2016.
- Ravi Sagar & Shobha K.P. participated in a 2 day "Lawyers Meet" at Bangalore from February 13-14, 2016. The programme was jointly organized by Streevani, Pune, Indian Social Institute, Delhi and Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad.
- Shobha K.P. was selected from among 300 voluntary organizations around the world to represent LCHR in the "Hague Training Course for Human Rights Defenders on Security" (THTC) at HAGUE, organized by Justice and Peace, Netherland in collaboration with Mensen met een Missie (MM) from June 15 to 27, 2015. Participants from 18 countries took part in the training to support Human Rights Defenders across the world.



PEACE building where the permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) are situated. - Hague

Their experience our inspiration

I am **Megha Marak**, a trained PLP from Chandrapur Development Block in Kamrup district of Assam. I received first training on para-legal and advocacy skills from LCHR in February, 2015. I have filed many applications under the provisions of RTI Act to obtain information about the development projects taking place in our area.

I filed an application on September 22, 2015 to the Chandrapur Development Block seeking information about the total amount of funds released and the schemes undertaken at No. 3 Pachim Mayong Gram Panchayat during the financial years from 2012 to 2015.

I received the information on November 3, 2015 from the Public Information Officer (PIO) who stated that during the financial year 2013-2014 an amount of Rs. 1,20,000/- was sanctioned to the Gram Panchayat for the construction of a road from Ghoramarajanpar to Ganesh Mandir playground and Rs. 2,80,000/- for the construction of fishery at Ghoramara near Kaminidal in the financial year 2014-2015. The PIO also stated 100% physical progress and the entire amount was utilized for the construction of the road and fishery.

I am sure that the construction of the road has never taken place in that financial year. Further, the fishery was not constructed at the described place but a small pond was constructed in a private land which is about a kilometer away from described spot. Hence, after getting these information, I with the help of village people organized 2 meetings at Ganesh Mandir to discuss about the matter. The villagers, in writing, requested me to enquire more about it and requested me to approach the Government authority for the strict action against the Gram Panchayat.

Accordingly, I submitted a letter written by the villagers to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kamrup (Metro) district demanding to carry out fully the work of construction of the same road and the fishery and also to initiate action against those who are involved in this corruption. My letter was accepted by the office of DC and registered as case no. 7888/16 on March 9, 2016. The district officials ordered for verification report at the earliest.



I am **Shiblal Panika** a LCHR trained PLP, presently serving as Udalguri district coordinator. I help my villagers to write RTI applications to know the status of development projects and activities in my village. I have assisted people to open bank accounts. I wrote applications to the tea garden management to provide fire-wood to the labourers which was not provided for the last one year. I met

the Member Secretary of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udalguri to discuss with him to register the PLPs as Para Legal Volunteer under DLSA, Udalguri. I collected the required forms to apply for myself and other LCHR trained PLPs.

I organised a programme on May Day in which 300 people participated. Member Secretary of DLSA, Udalguri was the resource person. I work hard to settle land disputes among the villagers



without taking them to the court. Recently I helped a family to claim their provident fund arrears. I have helped 83 families to fill up NRC forms. I learnt about the availability of various welfare schemes to help my people. In the last two months I have helped 10 people to get birth certificates, and through court order to another 6 people.

I conducted several awareness meetings on RTE, NRC, Human trafficking, Plantation Labourers Act and witch-hunting and settled a few disputes relating to them. I discuss the problems related to the education of children in the plantations. I make several visits to various tea gardens to instruct scattered PLPs about the advantages of the formation of cluster groups. I tell my people about the need of raising their voice against any form of injustice, especially child labour.

Experience of Interns

I am **Aloli Assumi**, pursuing Masters in Social Work at NERIM group of Institutions, Guwahati. Hearing from the other friends, I was waiting to grab an opportunity to be part of LCHR as an intern. I love to share my 20 days of fruitful experience in LCHR. LCHR has taken keen interest in guiding me and to learn the new concept of Para Legal Persons and their activities which I was unaware of.

I had a wonderful learning experience during my maiden visit to tea garden (Seconne Tea Garden). Interacting with the tea garden workers, understanding their problems and the issues confronting them taught me the practical aspects of all that I am learning in the class room. I learned so much while being an intern in LCHR which I carry with me for the rest of my life as a priceless jewel.



I am **Writumoni Sarma**, a student at North Eastern Regional Institute of Management (NERIM) pursuing Masters in Social Work in the 2nd semester. I have joined LCHR as an intern for a period of one month from 20th April to 20th May, 2016.

LCHR provided me a great platform to experience something new and innovative. I got a taste for peoples' movement for social transformation. I learnt to sense the feelings of the poor, their struggles and the initiative they take to preserve their rights.

LCHR has given me an opportunity to engage in the protection and promotion of Human Rights. During the period of my internship, I visited a tea Garden in Nagaon district with the help of a PLP to know about the medical facilities available for the tea plantation labourers. I attended a meeting of PLPs. I was glad to meet those grass-root bare-foot lawyers who fight for human rights to uphold their human dignity. Even though I was an intern in LCHR just for a month, yet I consider it as a backbone experience of student life. This experience provided deep roots for shoots to sprout in the garden of my professional career of social work.

I am **Kangkana Medhi**, a student of MSW at NERIM group of institutions. I am privileged to do my internship in LCHR. I am grateful to LCHR for guiding me and giving me a chance to learn professional skills. I got an opportunity to be a part of useful discussions on various issues.

Attending a legal awareness programme with PLPs in a tea garden taught me both theoretical and practical lessons. It is a milestone in my career. I will strive to use the knowledge and skills I gained to achieve my career objective. Hope to continue to cooperate with LCHR in the future.

LEGAL CELL

For Human Rights

Photo Gallery



PRACHODAYA
JESUIT HOUSE, UZAN BAZAR
JAHAI GHAT, GUWAHATI

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
		<u>Project Expenses</u>	
Donation & Contribution	48,03,778.80	Training 180 Para -Legal Persons among the tea j	6,87,210.00
Interest	4,24,444.55	labourers in Assam	
Others	3,25,791.65		
		Formation of Cluster-groups among the para-lega	8,19,264.00
		among the tea plantation labourers in Assam(DKA-IV)	
		Training Para-Legal Personnel in Kamrup Distric	2,85,087.00
		In North East India	
		Creating Legal Cells in 15 Dioceses of Northeast	5,68,401.00
			23,59,962.00
		<u>LCHR Programmes</u>	
		Awareness & Training Programme	12,69,971.00
		Publication	84,350.00
		Seminar & Workshop	33,838.00
			13,88,159.00
		<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	9,95,248.00
		Loan Repayment	6,73,908.00
		Charity & Donation	1,000.00
		<u>Capital Equipments</u>	
		Computer	1,14,000.00
		Mobile Phone	18,274.00
		Books	1,474.00
		Equipments	1,990.00
			1,35,738.00
Total(Rs)	55,54,015.00	Total(Rs.)	55,54,015.00



[Signature]
Prachodaya

LEGAL CELL

For Human Rights

LCHR RESOURCE TEAM



Warm welcome to: Pampi Bharadwaj, Mosumi Kalita, Hemanta Dahal, Margaret Thomas Deka & Ananta Daimari.

Thank you for your service: Felcita D' Souza, Satya Narayan Boruah, Preeti Rekha Gogoi, Sanjib Hazarika, Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita, Supriya Dey Sarkar & Ajay Basumatari.



OUR PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge your partnership and your collaboration



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India

Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India



DKA/KFB Austria

Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar



Nagaland Jesuit Society (NJS)
Nagaland Jesuit Educational
Charitable Society (NJECS)



NETWORK OF NORTH EAST TRIBES (NNET)

Your generosity enabled us to strive for Justice

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly
resolved to constitute India into a
SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and
to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual
and the unity and integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty sixth day of November,
1949, do **HEREBY ADOPT**,
ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Striving for Justice



"The time has now come when the courts must become the courts for the poor and the struggling masses of this country. They must be sensitized to the need of doing justice to the large masses of people to whom justice has been denied by a cruel heartless society for generations."

(AIR 1982 SC 1473)

Legal Cell for Human Rights

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www.lchrassociates.com