

"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)

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President's Message

Annual Reports are by their nature retrospective; the past year has been tough and challenging for everyone across the globe due to pandemic which induced lockdown. The staff of Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) provided many services to the poor and the needy. They have conducted many awareness



programmes through webinars and other electronic means of communication during the lockdown period. I can proudly say that even when everyone was restricted to move out of their homes, the staff of LCHR were thinking of what can they provide to the society. It is when they came up with the 'Training Module on Child Rights'. I present to you the Annual Activity Report of LCHR for 2020-2021.Thanks to all our well-wishers, partners, collaborators and friends for their support and contribution. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our LCHR team for their commitment and dedication to carry on this service. I wish that efforts of LCHR and its partners continue to bear more fruits in the years to come.

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Dr. Melvil Pereira President, LCHR

Director's Message

'Human rights education is key to addressing the underlying causes of injustice around the world. The more people know about their rights, and the rights of others in society, the better equipped they are to protect them.' During the pandemic Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) adopted proactive approach to reach out to the people in need through various innovative programmes and trainings. The activities



concentrated were on protecting the rights of the migrants, laborers, women and children. Remaining true to its vision, LCHR endeavored to network with like-minded groups and organizations in making positive change in the lives of beneficiaries through its various programmes.

I am very pleased to present the Annual Report of LCHR 2020-2021. The report presents the commitment of LCHR to the cause of the poor and the needy and displays the support and collaboration of various partners and well-wishers.

I take this opportunity to thank all the partners for their support in the past year. I also thank Kohima Jesuit Region represented by the Regional Superior, Dr. Melvil Pereira SJ for the support and encouragement. My sincere appreciation to dedicated staff of LCHR who played a vital role in converting the plans into reality. I remain grateful for their commitment to the cause of the poor.

Owen Chourappa Advocate Director, LCHR

ABOUT LCHR

Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR), Guwahati, is a programme initiative of Prachodaya Trust. It is a civil society organization, for the integral development of the people in 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.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We, the members of LCHR, draw 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 endeavors 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.

OUR VISION

LCHR visualizes itself as a peoples' initiative. It is for protection and promotion of inalienable human rights, socio-cultural rights in order 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.

OUR 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 bv creating awareness. bv disseminating legal information, knowledge and education, and by accompanying the weak, poor and the needy in their struggle for justice. LCHR endeavors to empower the powerless to observe their duties, to approach the appropriate forums and to restitute their socio-economic, cultural, religious, human rights and civil liberties.

OUR FOCUS

LCHR shall focus on groups such as politically powerless, economically poor, socially backward, culturally unorganized, exploited and vulnerable sections of the society such as the poor, women, children, aged, minorities, physically and mentally challenged, tribal communities, SCs, other most backward and vulnerable sections of the society.

OUR AIM

LCHR aims to empower the weak, the poor and the powerless with legal knowledge and sense of justice to bring radical changes in society to create just social structures and live in a harmony and brother/sisterhood.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To join hands with the Government in framing pro-people policies in order to create public opinion through social advocacy.
- To awaken the rural masses through the dissemination of information about their rights and duties.
- To initiate a process of Alternative Dispute Resolution System through negotiation, arbitration and conciliation based on the principles of natural justice and other acceptable legal principles.
- To accompany the poor, the weak, the powerless and marginalized on a

preferential basis in critical litigations.

- To network with voluntary organizations and peoples movements.
- To publish leaflets, handouts and other materials for mass movements.
- To train volunteers as trainers in para-legal and advocacy skills for social transformation.
- To train young advocates in court procedures and legal matters.

LCHR MODE OF COLLABORATION

LCHR collaborates with any individual or group of goodwill that shares the same vision and mission and it shall make every attempt to collaborate with voluntary organizations as well as governmental agencies remaining rooted locally and addressing the issues globally.



IMPACT STORIES

Experience as a successful District Coordinator

I am **Arun Kumar**, a trained Para-Legal Person (PLP), presently serving as North Lakhimpur district coordinator. I have been receiving training from Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) since



2017. I have acquired legal knowledge on land laws, women rights, child rights, etc. LCHR had disseminated advocacy skills through which I am able to work for the people in the grass root level and have stood against violation of human rights. I have rescued five minor girls who were being trafficked and two minors from child marriage. Therefore, I would like to sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to the LCHR team for their constant guidance and support. And I hope to grow more by serving the society and preserve human rights.

Experience as a successful Para-Legal Person (PLP)

I, **Atuwa Urang**, belong to a lower class family of Khariyagaon in Tinsukia. Prior to attending training on 'Para-Legal and Advocacy Skills', organized by LCHR, I had witnessed



lots of problem faced by my villagers. I was not much confident to solve their problems. I did not have any knowledge about Public Distribution System, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 and The Plantations Labour Act 1951. Being a PLP trained by LCHR, I helped many people to get residential certificates from village headman, helped to open bank accounts and helped in filing applications under the provision of the Right to Information Act 2005. I am grateful to LCHR for selecting me as a PLP.

I am **Jiten Xalxo**, PLP of Bajaloni T.E. Tinsukia. My father Mr. Jitrai Xalxo is working in the tea garden. Prior to training on 'Para-Legal and Advocacy Skills', I was not



aware about rights and entitlements of a citizen. For the first time I heard about the provisions of The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 and The Right to Information Act 2005. After attending the training programme, I went to Tengapani Gaon Panchayat to know about welfare schemes for ward no. 05. I met the president of the panchavat and asked him what schemes were going to be implemented at ward no. 05. He told me that the panchayat had submitted proposals for construction and repairing of roads. He also told that he would inform me when he receives order from the higher authority. Further, the president requested me to bring the villagers to panchayat office to know about Government schemes. I am grateful to the Director of LCHR for his initiative and support.

Internship Experiences

I am Mongna Konyak. W, pursuing my LL.B. (Hons) at NEF Law College, Guwahati. I joined Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) as an intern on 16th February 2021 and from there on it was an exceptional five weeks journey. I got to learn new things not only expanding knowledge from books but also through activities like typing and arranging documents to obtain minority status certificate under The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act 2004 and making posters on child rights. The staff members were friendly, supportive and always willing to help in every possible way. As a whole I learned a lot. I would like to thank the Director of LCHR for giving me such a wonderful privilege.

I am **Hivi H. Awomi**, pursuing my BBA LL.B. (Hons) at NEF Law College, Guwahati. I would consider interning at LCHR a blessing and I would love to share my five weeks of fruitful experience. During my internship period I had visited Sessions Court, Chief Judicial Magistrate Court and Central Bureau of Investigation which helped me to learn the procedures of the courts. I am grateful to the Director and the staff of LCHR for guiding and giving me a chance to learn professional skills.



I am **Valentina Vilabeno Thanyu** pursuing LL.B. (Hons) at NEF Law College, Guwahati. I felt privileged to have interned at LCHR for five weeks. It had been rewarding and wonderful experience that allowed me to gain knowledge in the field of law. The overall vibe of the organization was relaxed and easy going but when it came to completing projects the staff were goal oriented professionals.

LCHR ACTIVITIES DURING 2020-2021 CREATING AND STRENGTHENING OF VIGILANT COMMUNITIES THROUGH LEGAL CAPACITY PROGRAMMES AMONG THE TEA PLANTATION LABOURERS IN ASSAM

PROJECT GOAL

The main goal is to create safe environment for women and children in the tea gardens of Assam. The said goal is achieved by forming new vigilant committees and strengthening them legally through training programmes and also by creating legal awareness among the people in 31 tea gardens and 13 villages from six districts of Assam viz., North Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Udalguri, Nagaon, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS PROJECT Training of Para-Legal Persons (PLPs): Three days training programme titled, 'Schemes for Migrants and Daily Wage Workers', was organized by Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) from 10th to 12th January 2021. A total number of 97 PLPs from tea gardens of the project districts benefitted.



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Awareness Programme: Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) has conducted awareness programme on 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009', 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006' and 'Child Labour' as public awareness.

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SL. NO.	ACTIVITIES/ PROGRAMMES/TOPICS	NUMBERS	PARTICIPANTS/ BENEFICIARIES
01	Training Programme 'Schemes for Migrant and Daily Wage Workers'	01	97
02	Street Plays (Child Labour & Child Marriage)	10	720
03	Awareness Programmes (Right to Education, Child Marriage, Child Labour, Government Schemes for Pregnant Women, Sponsorship Schemes for Orphan Students and Adult Suffrage)	47	2325

This year LCHR has made a different approach towards creating awareness after lockdown. LCHR has performed street plays on child marriage and child labour in the project areas.

LCHR has been distributing pamphlets on child marriage, human trafficking and child labour to educate the people as a supplement to reinforce teaching that is given verbally through awareness.

Monitoring: Monitoring is scheduled every month by the programme manager, which provides him/her opportunity to interact with the field staff/local people. According to the need LCHR team organizes awareness programmes on various social issues in respective project areas.

On October 2020, Ms. Mousumi Kalita (programme manager) with the help of Mr. Rinku Parida (district coordinator-Nagaon) visited Kondoli T.E., Barbari No. 09 Ward, Loongsoong T.E., Dejoo Valley and Kuthori T.E. and conducted awareness and survey on 'Ration Card'. Similar programme was held by the LCHR team along with Mr. Shiblal Panika (district coordinator-Udalguri) at Beteli T.E., Lamabari T.E., Dherai T.E. and Nonaipara T.E. in the month of November 2020.



On January 2021, Ms. Mousumi Kalita and Mr. Sudhir Kisku (asst. programme manager) visited Mahabir T.E. and Bolai T.E. in Dibrugarh district and with the help of Mr. Ashok Thakur (district coordinator-Dibrugarh) performed street play on 'Child Labour' and 'Child Marriage', along with awareness on 'The National Food Security Act 2013'.



Coordinators Meeting: This meeting is held every month to take stock of monthly progress made by PLPs under the direction of coordinators of each district. The district coordinators come to LCHR Office on a



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monthly basis for reporting and planning of their activities. They are guided by LCHR team while they in turn guide the PLPs.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF RURAL/TRIBAL WOMEN IN ASSAM

PROJECT GOAL

The aim of this project is to empower the poor and disadvantaged, in particular women tea garden workers and other structurally disadvantaged people to seek and demand justice services.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS PROJECT

Training Programme: The Residential Training Programme for Para-Legal Persons (PLPs) is designed to provide comprehensive legal knowledge to tackle issues and challenges faced by them in Tea Gardens/ Villages. One such training programme was organised from 8th to 10th February 2021 on 'Legal Empowerment and Accessing Justice by Marginalized Communities in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)' at North East Diocesan Social Forum (NEDSF), Kharghuli-Guwahati where 52 participants came from Udalguri, Baksa and Chirang. Topics of the programme were- How to conduct awareness programmes, Introduction to Street Play, Right to Information Act 2005, Role of PLPs, Public Distribution System with reference to National Food Security Act 2013 and Child Marriage and its adverse effect on society with relevant laws.



Awareness Programme: The objective of this project is to create awareness among citizens of their citizenship rights and also empower women and protect them from various kinds of atrocities, for instance- domestic violence, gender inequality, child marriage, etc. LCHR looks forward to disseminate legal knowledge by organizing awareness programmes on various laws. From this programme 6,978 beneficiaries acquired legal knowledge on 'The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986', 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006', 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009' and 'Women Rights'.



Monitoring: LCHR has visited thirty villages of the three districts under this project for field verification as a part of monthly monitoring. This is carried out to assess the performance of project and improve the current and future activities for fruitful impacts.



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Coordinators Meeting: This meeting is held every month to collect reports and look into monthly progress made by coordinator of three districts in conducting awareness programmes. In the meeting they detail about their activities, challenges faced, economic activities of the rural masses and also of various socio-political issues.



COMBATING CHILD LABOUR IN TEA GARDENS THROUGH INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND LEGAL AWARENESS

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this programme is to eradicate child labour and prevent child trafficking from tea gardens by setting up of Supplementary Education Centres (SECs). The said goal is being achieved through disseminating information, giving education and organizing legal awareness in seven districts (North-Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Udalguri, Nagaon, Golaghat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia) of Assam.

The SECs plays much larger role than just providing academic support. Through SECs a conducive and safe atmosphere for study cum revision to the school-going children up to age group of 14 years (std. I to VIII) is provided. These centres are aimed to support the parents in protecting their children while they are away working and perform important activity of helping the children with their studies, which the parents may not be capable of doing. The one hour of intense learning and revision in SECs has certainly prevented children from going to work as child labourers. The text books followed are those given to students in Government schools. The students are guided by an instructor of the concern area. Accordingly 54 SECs have been set up by LCHR.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS PROJECT

Training **Programme:** Two training programmes were organized for the Instructors of Supplementary Education Centres (SECs). The first training programme was on 'Child Rights and Monitoring Skills' at Mancotta-Dibrugarh and at Kharghuli-Guwahati from 16th to 18th November 2020 and from 16th to 18th December 2020 respectively. The topics of the programme were-'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 and Introduction on SEC taken by Adv. Owen Chourappa', 'Qualities of a Good Teacher taken by Mr. Suman Indwar' and 'Strategy of SEC Management taken by Mr. Adam R Marak'.



The second programme was on 'Training and Formation of Child Rights Committees' at Pastoral Centre Tezpur and at Mancotta from 29th to 31st January 2021 and from 1st to 3rd February 2021 respectively. The topics were-'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 taken by Fr. Ranjit Kujur (Principal of St. Xavier's Junior College Balipara)', 'Role of Child Rights Committee taken by Fr. Thomas Barla (Director- Gana Chetana Samaj Tezpur)', 'Issues relating to child labour with special reference to tea gardens of Assam taken by Mr. Adam R Marak' and 'Child Marriage and its adverse effects on society with relevant laws taken by Mr. Gyandeep Topno'.



7th Awareness Programme: On March 2021, an awareness programme on Right to Education was held at Rangagura T.E., in Nagaon. There were around 70 participants and similar programme was held at Missa T.E. Girja Line, Nagaon on 9th March where 60 participants gathered. On 8th March, street play on 'child marriage', with the theme 'child marriage a curse to the society', was performed as a part of awareness programme at Amlakhi T.E. Bali Basti, Nagaon on the occasion of International Women's Day. The purpose of the programme was to give public awareness to the people regarding child marriage, its ill effects on the society and children. A total of 30 children including SEC Instructors participated in the street play.



Formation of Child Rights Committees: Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) has trained the instructor of the SECs to form Child Rights Committees in their respective villages/lines of tea gardens. This initiative is taken to protect violation of child rights. The committees so formed would monitor the migration of children from their area. Out of 54 SECs 08 have formed Child Rights Committees in their respective areas.



Monthly Monitoring of SECs: A total of four monitoring and evaluation programmes were carried out from the month of November 2020 to March 2021 in the seven districts of Assam. LCHR aims to support the children to access quality education and spread awareness on laws to protect child rights. The staff of LCHR had also created awareness invariably along with monitoring.



SL. NO.	ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMES/TOPICS	NUMBERS	PARTICIPANTS/ BENEFICIARIES
01	Training Programmes (Child Rights & Formation of Child Rights Committees)	04	120
02	SECs	54	1245
03	Street Play 'Child Marriage'	01	150
04	Awareness Programmes (RTE, Child Marriage & Child Labour)	02	120

CREATING CHILD FRIENDLY AND CHILD SAFE VILLAGES IN OVER 1450 TEA GARDEN VILLAGES IN TEZPUR AND DIBRUGARH/INDIA

PROJECT GOAL

The goal is to sensitize people regarding protection of children from abuse and exploitation and encourage 100 percent enrolment in the schools. The said goal is being achieved by capacitating community organization and catechists/village leaders to play effective role by generating awareness.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS PROJECT

Training Programme: A training programme was organized at Christashram, Mancotta Dibrugarh-Assam on 'Child Rights & Other Ethical Issues', from 27th February to 3rd March 2021. Topics of the training programme were-Right to Education, Child Marriage, Child Labour, Juvenile Justice, POCSO and Human Trafficking.



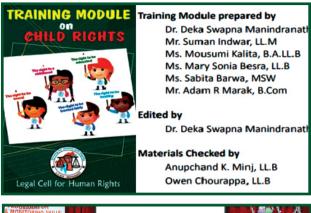
LCHR AS RESOURCE TEAM

Advocate Anupchand K. Minj, Deputy Director along with Ms. Mousumi Kalita (programme manager) went to North East Diocesan Social Forum (NEDSF), Kharghuli-Guwahati as resource persons on 13th December 2020 for the observation of 'Human Rights Day'. Both the resource persons briefly introduced to the youths various human rights.



PUBLICATION OF 'TRAINING MODULE'

'Training Module' was published on 16th December 2020 at North East Diocesan Social Forum (NEDSF) by Dr. Varghese Velickakam, Director-North East Diocesan Social Service Society (NEDSSS).





OTHER ACTIVITIES OF LCHR

Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR), observed 'International Women's Day', in North Lakhimpur, Udalguri, Baksa, Nagaon, Dibrugarh & Tinsukia. It was observed in support of women empowerment and to build confidence in them so that they can stand for their rights.



The staff of LCHR in collaboration with 'Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)', Guwahati stood at Dighalipukhuri as a protest for the release of Stan Swamy, a social activist. The event took place on 11th December 2020, as observation of Human Rights Day.



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A few legal achievements of LCHR are shown in the table below-

LEGAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF LCHR			
SL. NO.	ISSUES	NO. OF ISSUES RESOLVED	
01	Enrolment of dropouts in the Lower Primary School	100	
02	Domestic Violence	13	
03	Prevention of Child Marriage & Rescue of trafficked children	34	
04	Settlement of Land Disputes	08	

COVID-19 RELIEF

Distribution of essentials to people during nationwide lockdown:



Sarupathar (Golaghat)



Indrapur Kamrup (M)



Zaloni T.E. (Dibrugarh)

LCHR RESOURCE TEAM



LEFT TO RIGHT

Gyandeep Topno (Assistant Programme Manager) Suman Indwar (Programme Manager) Hivi H. Awomi (Office Assistant) Kyntiewlang Nongmin (Office Assistant) Owen Chourappa (Director) Sabita Barwa (Accountant) Mousumi Kalita (Programme Manager) Sunil Ghurni (Office Assistant) & Albert Kerketta (Assistant Programme Manager)

WARM WELCOME

Kyntiewlang Nongmin, Gyandeep Topno, Albert Kerketta & Hivi H. Awomi

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE







Sudhir Kisku (Asst. Prog. Manager)

Anupchand K. Minj A (Deputy Director) (F

Adam R. Marak (Prog. Manager)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2021

PRACHODAYA JAGRITI, 3RD FLOOR, GMCH ROAD <u>CHRISTIAN BASTI, GUWAHATI</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Donation & Contribution Interest Received	1,14,58,864.63 9,55,854.5	Project Expenses Creating faith-based legal cells in 15 Dioceses of North East India to access justice	1,98,141.00
		Combating Child Labour in tea gardens through information, education and the establishment of 10 learning centres and children's parliaments in Dt. Sonitpur, Assam/ India (Kindermissionswerk Phase II)	21,96,229.00
		Creating & Strengthening of Vigilant Communities through Legal Capacity Programmes among the Tea Plantation labourers in Assam (DKA V)	18,95,914.00
		Creating child friendly and child safe villages in over 1450 tea garden villages in Tezpur and Dibrugarh/India (Kindermissionswerk Germany)	55,511.00
		Capacity Building of Rural/Tribal Women in Assam (Misereor Germany) <u>LCHR Programmes</u>	13,63,459.00
		Publication	35,500.00
		Administrative Expenses	9,52,526.92
		Charity & Donation	32,000.00
		Capital Equipments	
		Library Books	940.00
		Balance for the Year 2021-2022	56,84,498.21
Total(Rs)	1,24,14,719.13	Total(Rs.)	1,24,14,719.13





Our Partners

We gratefully acknowledge your partnership and your collaboration





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COLLABORATION WITH





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