



INVOLVE
INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATED FOR
INCLUSIVE EMPOWERMENT

Annual Report

2022-2023

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Message from the Secretary

It is a known fact that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step, and INVOLVE, though a small step, it is in the right direction.

When the intention is genuine and people working with you are good people, amazing things can happen.

I certainly feel that we have had to overcome hesitation, obligations, and reservations to decide to venture out on this adventure, wherein we seek to reach out to many communities to try find a way to become their ally in the domains of education, inclusion, entitlement, conservation and preservation of nature.

Fortunately, the baby steps of the present year, promises to become youthful strides this coming year because we are now officially recognised by the government, we have a valid bank account and a permanent account number; most importantly we have amazing people with us, and I certainly cannot wait to see how we navigate through the course of this amazing new year.

I will also take the opportunity to thank all members of the organisation for their patience, Treasurer Mr. Samir Chettri for his enthusiasm and inputs, and our President Mr. Ratan Sherpa, without whose support and guidance, we would be a non-entity. I will also extend a note of gratitude to the faculty at Naxalbari Nepali High School that has kindly allowed us to work in tandem with them to reach out to a bunch of enthusiastic students.

On the bylines, our volunteers, namely Miss Maxima Bhagat and Ms. Mira Tamang, have been instrumental in getting our organisation up and running in their respective communities, and are constantly working with government agencies towards ensuring inclusive entitlement, especially through Duare Sarkar Programmes organized by the Government of West Bengal.

Lastly, let us involve ourselves in improving lives.

Truly yours,



*Arpan Rai,
Secretary*

Aim

INVOLVE seeks to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development at the grassroots. It promotes the empowerment of communities dependent on the tea industry and local forests in districts of North Bengal, India. The key focus areas are education, environment and enhancing access to entitlements. INVOLVE aims to strengthen participatory approaches, convergence and linkages wherein community members can seek their solutions, nurture innovations and grow as catalysts of change. We value inclusiveness both within INVOLVE and among our partners. We aspire to be diverse and pluralistic and engage with varied opinions and beliefs, socially and culturally.

Vision

Tea garden, Forest based and other communities in disadvantage become drivers of their own development, enhance their wellbeing and live in harmony with the natural environments.

Mission

To work with communities as co-learners and support growth in education, access to entitlements, environmental initiatives and other emerging themes for their socio-economic development

Who we are and where we work

We at INVOLVE are a group of diligent individuals that work in different milieus of the society, and have come together to work for the communities in disadvantage since 2007 in some little way or the other and got registered as Society in 2023. We seek to gradually work towards realising progress that evolves ingeniously through participation and voluntary contribution. We are currently working in the adjacent areas of Siliguri, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri. Our initiatives focus largely on strengthening Community access to various Government schemes and entitlements through awareness and social engagement activities.

Upholding gender transformative approaches

Appreciating diversity

Ensuring inclusion

Promoting environmental sustainability

Ensuring transparency and accountability

We work with communities in the tea gardens and forest areas of North Bengal . We facilitate community-based processes through our theme-based programmes primarily in education, and environment. These participatory processes build on strengths and encourage communities in accessing various schemes and services (i.e. their entitlements) and become active agents for their development.

Activities

1. Getting the organisation registered- 6th January 2023
2. Receipt of PAN Card 20th January 2023
3. Finalizing the logo of the organisation- 17th February 2023
4. Naxalbari Sports Day- 10th February 2023
5. Interaction with school students- 22nd February 2023
6. Bank Account Opening- 1st March 2023
7. Celebrating Women's Day- 8th March 2023
8. Creation of social media account - March 13th 2023
9. Celebrating World Water Day- 22nd March 2023

1. Getting the organisation registered- 6th January 2023

No organisation can become a legal unless it is recognized by the state and government. Therefore, despite the pressing demands of our otherwise busy schedule we managed to get ourselves registered, and thanks to the modern digital application, Egiye Bangla, work associated with registration happened without much hassle and on 6th January 2023, we became a registered society under West Bengal Society Act, bearing number- S0033107.

2. Receipt of PAN Card 20th January 2023

For any financial transaction a PAN Card becomes mandatory and without a Permanent Account Number we would have been a mercenary organisation, thus, to ensure that no such thing would arise we managed to get ourselves a Permanent Account Number AACAI4269G.

3. Naxalbari Nepali High School Sports Day-10th February 2023

Being committed to promoting sports at the school level, we took the initiative of supporting Naxalbari Nepali High School in organizing its Annual Sports Day. We provided support through our volunteer in organizing the event to the teacher and students of the NNHS.



4. Finalizing the logo of the organisation- 17th February 2023

All social or professional organizations and institutions are recognized by their logo; our logo too would want to become a globally recognized icon that seeks to encapsulate within its arc the values of the organisation, namely empowerment, inclusiveness, participatory practices, and sustainable education.



5. Interaction with school students- 22nd February 2023

Staying true to its word and commitment we took the opportunity to interact with Madhyamik Candidates of Naxalbari Nepali High School Students few days before their examination. Although, we did not have fancy things to give, besides some stationery items, the students very graciously accepted our tokens of encouragement.

6. Bank Account Opening- 1st March 2023

Being in possession of a proper banking account is of paramount importance to us because all financial transactions is to happen through either UPI or cheque, therefore the fact that we managed to open an account at Union Bank Branch at Salbari was a significant calendar event for all of us. The details have been mentioned below:

7. Celebrating Women's Day- 10th March 2023

Deciding on a woman achiever to observe International Women's Day, 8th March, was rather a unanimous decision, because a young girl from Fapri (outskirts of Salugara, Siliguri) has been creating ripples at the national level with her athletic prowess. So, keeping in mind Miss Priya's growing success and influence, we decided to felicitate Miss. Priya Chettri, as our first women's day recipient on 10th March 2023 at own residence at Fapri



her

8. Social Media Visibility-13th March 2023

Being visible on social media helps any organisation remain relevant and current in the digital age, thus to keep our friends and well-wishers in the loop about our initiatives and programmes, a social media account on Facebook (META) is active @Involve Involve and we have a page too @Individual Associated for Inclusive Empowerment.



9. Celebrating World Water Day 22nd March 2023

The importance of water should not be lost on any of us, and to remind each one of us, our volunteer at Mechpara Tea Garden, Kalchini organized a small gathering of young people to convey this message.

Way forward

We are preparing to work with small livestock growers to help promote economic sustainability and encourage entrepreneurial spirit among people living in close proximity to forests and tea gardens. We have already earmarked a small project near Keshtopur, Hatighisha Block and remain hopeful that we can contribute positively to such enterprises. Involve will be working in Mechpara Tea Garden in Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District, Shikarpur Tea Garden in Rajganj Block of Jalpaiguri district through its Tea Garden Development program. Two volunteers will be working extensively with the vulnerable community for inclusion in the various government services and they will work on creating awareness on Education and Environment with the Children. The two-tea garden will be our knowledge lab for coming days, the findings of the two tea gardens will help us in replication in other vulnerable tea gardens of Darjeeling, Siliguri and Doars tea belt.