



A COLLECTION
OF SUCCESS STORIES
FROM THE FIELD

Volume - 1

Compiled by:

AIDA, CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

On 6th December 2023, Child Rights Club members of Jolil and Neisatuo colony have willingly initiated to help the team in preparing placards for the Walkathon. They were not only engaged in preparing the placards for the campaign but even contributed bamboo sticks for the placards which were finely chopped and tied together with the used cartons making it more attractive and visible for others to understand the objective of the campaign. It was not even a day that they completed their final examinations they rushed to AIDA office to lend their helping hands for the preparation.



The interest and enthusiasm in them made them let go off their personal interest and to cultivate the value of responsibility, team spirit and group cohesiveness. The leaders of both the groups inspired their club members to utilize their time and talents for the greater cause in making our cities a safe space for the children by initiating with small steps at a time.

OPPORTUNITIES DON'T HAPPEN, IT NEEDS TO BE CREATED

The title mentioned above greatly portrays children from different Child Rights Clubs who have helped Child Friendly Dimapur day in and day out for the success of the Annual Convention 2022. They made their best effort to create a vibrant atmosphere in showcasing their talents and acquired knowledge in making their club a unique one through their conduct. The members and the Child Rights Facilitators always aspire to create a pleasant and meaningful ambience with their simple gestures. On the eve of Annual Convention 2022, the Child Rights Club members and Child Rights Facilitators from different colonies such as Neisatuo, Sangtamtilla, Kacharigaon and Signal Angami took an initiative in decorating the hall for the function.



Prior to the event, the Child Rights Club members from Neisatuo made a special effort in preparing paper flowers for decorating the back drop of the stage and prepared handmade badges with satin ribbon and chart papers for the dignitaries and special invitees for the event.

The children those of who were involved in making the badges were appearing exams, despite of that, with much zeal and willingness they put an extra effort to make the badges. In doing so they were contented and satisfied as they volunteered to do so rather than waiting for an opportunity to contribute or participate. They too were delighted to welcome the dignitaries with their hand crafted badges and witness the flowers adding more colour to the ambience during the event.



“WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS AWAY”

On 14th November 2021, Child Friendly Dimapur in collaboration with Childline Dimapur, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Christian Hr. Sec. School organized a dance and singing competition for specially abled children and other children under the age of 18 to commemorate Children’s Day at Covenant hall, Christian Higher Sec. School, Dimapur. Around 500 individuals gathered to observe the day. Through this program, the organizers intended to provide equal opportunity for all children despite their uniqueness.

Smt. Hotolu, SDO and DCP Dimapur, Zone –II, Munesh IPS, were the special guests during the event. Special songs were presented by local artists of Dimapur (Mr.Sunep Lemtur, Mrs.Nungshitula Pongener, Ms. Eva Jamir and Mrs. Lino Awomi).



This program was indeed a launching pad for Child Friendly Dimapur as it has taken initiative to create awareness on the rights of the children as well as identifying like-minded people to work in collaboration with towards realizing child friendly cities. During the event, Child Rights Club members from Netaji, K. Sachu, Naga colony, Northern Angami & Naharbari participated in singing and dance competition (40 girls and 11 boys & 2 Child Rights Facilitators were present).

In view to provide refreshment to all the participants during the event, Child Friendly Dimapur has locally raised fund from likeminded people, friends, families, well-wishers from different walks of life and has successfully raised Rs.10,500/- for the cited reason.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

On 12th March 2022, 8 Child Rights Club members, along with Child Rights Facilitator from Jolil Colony attended the Child Rights Club leaders training programme organized by Child Friendly Dimapur, AIDA.

After attending the training, the club members began to think analytically on the status of health and hygiene in their locality. Having assessed the scenario of their locality, the children themselves decided to organize a cleanliness drive within their locality.



The Child Rights Club leaders have taken the initiative to mobilize and gather all the children of Jolil and cleaned their locality.

On the very day, the club members after cleaning their localities then flocked in to help one of the Child Rights Club leader and his family in carrying the bricks to the construction side where the leader's house was constructed.

This sense of belongingness and good gesture in the children has made the Child Rights Facilitator believe that the sessions and trainings that were undergone by the children have changed the perspective and attitude of the children in numerous ways.

During the team's visit to the locality, the adults from the locality shared about the children's initiative on how they worked hard to clean their colony which was indeed a good initiative taken by the Child Rights Club members in the locality.

The children later decided to organize a creative activity and create awareness via cleanliness drive, install bamboo dustbins and make sign boards on Health & Environment.

“Help us to plant, protect and restore the environment” this echoed in the minds of Child Rights Club members while attending the session. During the meeting and sessions, children often shares that they don’t have much trees in their localities which eventually leads to pollution. While realizing the importance of planting more trees in their surroundings they suggested that they want to commemorate World Environment Day by planting more trees. They urged Child Friendly Dimapur team to get saplings to plant in their surroundings as a remedy to pollution as well as protect the environment. Noting the concern shared by the children, Child Friendly Dimapur has approached Dimapur Forest Department seeking for the saplings.

Considering the request, Dimapur District Range Officer approved the proposal and has provided more 300 ornamental saplings without any charges.

In view to focus on the challenges faced by the children as well as adults in Dimapur and Chumoukedima, Child Friendly Dimapur has organized a plantation drive on 4th and 5th June 2022 with the active participation of youth, adults and Child Rights Club members from different localities and Institutions on the theme “Only one Earth”.



EXPRESSING GRATITUDE



Mrs. Abida Begum and Mrs. Ruby Begum are Child Rights Facilitators of Child Friendly Dimapur, AIDA. They have been a great support to Child Friendly Dimapur since the inception of Child Friendly Dimapur. They are housewives, mothers of two children, active and are open to learn. They are constantly following up with the Child Rights Club members of Jolil and Hangsing colony. On 11th September 2022, under their guidance the Child Rights Club members from Jolil and Hangsing had organized a teacher's day program for the Child Friendly Dimapur team to express their gratitude.

Despite taking care of their own families with tons of responsibilities, they both managed to mobilize and facilitate the children very well for teacher's day celebration. They taught drama, songs, dance and different activities to the children which were performed during the teacher's day celebration.

Active participation of the children and the Facilitators throughout the program has solely projected their affectionate love and care for the team. The team had encountered blissful moments i.e. baking cake on their own, setting the stage with lots of DIY, decorating the venue was truly captivating. Without a pinch of help from the team, both the Facilitators and the children managed to organize such a wonderful program which has truly depicted their leadership skills and great coordination in them.

While speaking on the eve, the Facilitators shared how the children managed their school and tuition timings for the practice (singing & dancing). With these the team has witnessed that the children are capable of handling any constraint & responsibilities assigned to them under the right guidance of Child Right Facilitators.

BE AWARE, BE CLEAN

On 21st January 2022, a session on “Health and Hygiene” was conducted for the Child Rights Club in one of the locality in Dimapur. After the session, they shared about the unclean ground in their locality and discussed on the possibilities to deal with it. After the discussion, they then decided to clean the ground by mobilizing their fellow friends to collaborate in cleaning up the ground as they wanted their locality to be clean and eco-friendly. Cleanliness is not just about being clean or keeping our house clean; it is also about keeping our environment and surroundings clean. By doing so, we are generally living a healthy life which eventually leads to our mental peace.



In view to create a clean and healthy environment, a cleanliness drive was initiated by the Child Rights Club of Northern Angami, Waford on 29th January 2022 with the assistance of Child Friendly Dimapur team and Child Rights Facilitator. The children succeeded to mobilize their friends for the cause and altogether, 30 children (14 female and 16 male) took part in the cleanliness drive.

Thus, through this cleanliness drive, the children has succeeded in creating awareness in their locality on the importance of having clean and healthy environment.

MAKE YOURSELF SEEN AND HEARD

Child Friendly Dimapur, AIDA along with Faculty member and students of St. Joseph University, Social Work Department organized a poster campaign in Godwin Hr. sec. School, Chumoukedima. In the process of planning, the students along with the Assistant Professor volunteered to prepare the content of the program and get the approval from the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chumoukedima for pasting posters under his jurisdiction; on the other hand Child Friendly Dimapur has taken the responsibility to prepare posters on the theme, “Child Rights”. It was fortunate enough to get a sponsor for printing the poster for the campaign (Mr. Manoj, a business man from Dimapur).

As planned, the awareness program was conducted on 26th October 2021, at Godwin High School, Campus, Chumoukedima on the theme, “Child Rights” followed by poster campaign in Chumoukedima Gate 2.



On the eve, while addressing the children, Ms. Katia T. Chakre, Project Coordinator, Child Friendly Dimapur lamented that not all children are privileged to enjoy equal rights.

She therefore encouraged the children not to misuse their rights and lend their helping hands to their neighbors in times of need by reaching out to the concerned person. A play on child labor was enacted by the students from St. Joseph University

during the awareness program, depicting an effective message of Child Rights violation in our current scenario.

The Headmistress of the school was very interested with the concept of Child Friendly Dimapur and thus permitted the team to come and orient the children in Godwin Hr. Sec School and do the needful proceedings to form Child Rights Club in the school.

After the awareness program, exhibition of the posters on Child Rights and violation of Child Rights were projected in the school campus,



the youth (St. Joseph University students) explained the posters to the students of Godwin School.

The participants then headed to the Chumoukedima Gate 2 and pasted the posters in and around the public places to create awareness on the rights of the children. Around 100 children and youth participated.

A KIND SOUL



As the annual convention was getting closer, all the team members, Child Rights Club members, Child Rights Facilitators, and AIDA support staff were preparing for the great event. At the same time as everyone was busy with their assigned tasks among all the tasks getting transportation facility for the children was the greatest hurdle for the staff as the children need to be brought from different localities for the function.

There have been several attempts to, but none of those approaches succeed and at this juncture, timely intervention and support of Mr. V.A. Jose, one of the Civil Society Forum members

who was also the school supervisor, Christian Higher Secondary School, came to the rescue.

He informed the team that he had arranged a bus for the convention without any charge. With his involvement in times of need, the team managed to bring around 30 children from different localities in Chümoukedima area for the Annual Convention without any challenge. The children came and attended both the sessions without any tension about the transportation to get back home, the children attended the entire program with much ease as the bus was arranged right on time to take them back to their respective localities safe and sound.

If Mr. Jose did not intervene on time, the children would have least possibility to attend the programme which they would definitely be sad about as they have longed for this day for quite a long time. His gesture for what he has done for the children was a clear expression of his love for the children.

EVERY CHILD MATTER

Child Friendly Dimapur organized a children creative activity cum Mother's Day celebration on 14th May 2023 in Public Ground on the theme, "Every Child Matter". Organizing this program gradually became a mass initiative as the Caring Community Group (CCG) members of Public Ground locality along with the other adults actively involved in setting up the venue, carrying bamboo poles, chairs and shamyana in setting up tent for the programme. It was indeed a challenging day for all as it was raining since morning but, despite the constraint, good number of adults and children turned up for the program.



During the program, the Caring Community Group members collected bed sheets and curtains from their houses and helped the children in decorating the stage, assisted the children in wrapping their sarees and other traditional attires for their performances. They encouraged the children to showcase their talents by actively participating in the program. Later, the mothers too joined the children during the dance performance to cheer and motivate the children making it more memorable for all to cherish.

After the program, the Caring Community Group members, other adults and the Child Rights Club members with full enthusiasm helped the team in dismantling the tent and putting back the chairs (collected from the neighbourhood), setting things in order and cleaning off the places in no time. The unity and coordination of the community leaders, Caring Community Group (CCG) and the children at the end of the programme motivated the team to be more effective.

Students & the teaching faculties from St. Joseph University, Social Work Department (Master of Agriculture Rural Development 2nd Semester) were actively involved in youth creative activity on Photography Competition cum exhibition which was conducted on 4th May 2023 on the theme, "For Every Child" was to bring to light rights of the children based on the 4 Cardinal rights of children.

Despite their hectic academic schedules, the students managed to prepare the flyer after their class hours and mobilized youth from the various departments. Furthermore, they could mobilize 40 individuals to participate in the photography competition and more than 100 individuals participated in the exhibition.

During the event, they spoke about children's rights, and the winners shared the stories behind the picture that they have clicked, mainly emphasizing on the rights of the children.



Mr. Jonathan, Asst. Professor, St. Joseph University facilitated the students all throughout (planning till execution). Furthermore he shared that this collaboration and execution of the program has brought the students together and has helped them to work as a team.

While sharing on their experiences, the students has expressed that they have learned the rights of the children and that each individual has a role to play towards creating a safe environment for all children.

TINY TOES, BRAVE HEART

This is a story about a girl named Ms. Daisy, one of the Child Rights Club members at Singrijan Hr. Secondary school. She, along with the other club members was trained on the rights of children and the importance of protecting and advocating on the rights of the children. She was passionate about her rights and had a deep understanding on the issues that children face in her locality. She was an inspiration to her peers. The best thing about her is that she encourages her club members to speak out and not allow fear to control them in any way. As the British actor Steve Pemberton once said: “Courage is not only about finding bravery for us. It is also about helping others find theirs.”

Daisy's influence has made the club members so strong and courageous that they do not allow anyone to take advantage of them. They now stand against bullies, confident and determined to face challenges. Despite their difficult circumstances, Daisy and her peers worked together



a safe and nurturing environment in which children could play, learn, and grow.

She was earlier very hesitant and a timid girl, yet she gradually overcame her fears with regular mentoring by the Children Mobilization Officers. She is now confident and is able to speak in front of the crowd. She has also made an appeal to the Duty bearers, adult and youth during the campaign launch program towards creating a clean and safe environment for the children.



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