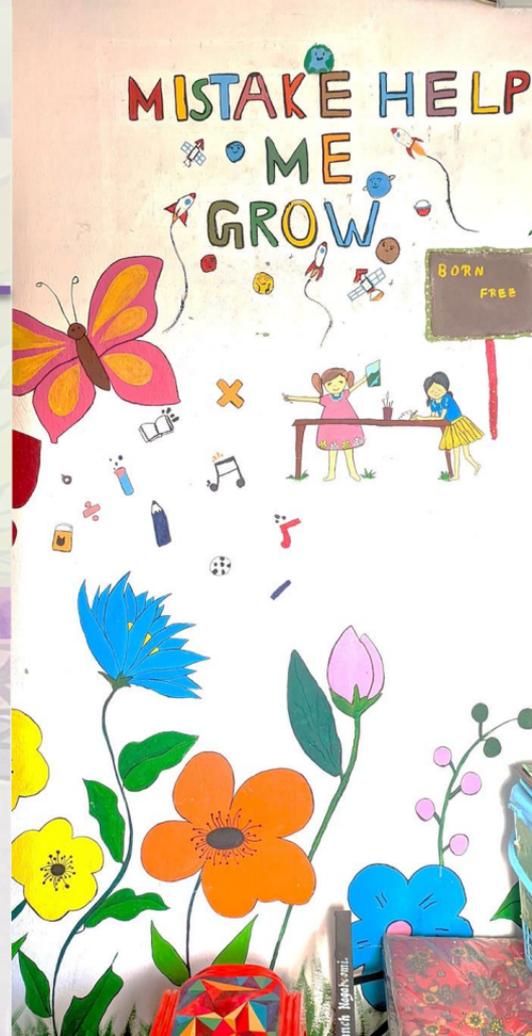


COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM THE FIELD

VOLUME - 2



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AIDA- CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR



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Cover Page:

Art by Child Rights Club members during the
Children Creative Activity.

Message from the Executive Director

I am happy to introduce Volume II of our Collection of Stories from the Field. This edition presents the inspiring journeys of individuals and communities committed to driving positive change. Each story reflects the resilience, creativity, and dedication of those who work tirelessly to make a difference in their surroundings.

In this volume, you will find powerful narratives focused on raising awareness about non-discrimination and fostering inclusive environments. These stories highlight how individuals advocate for equality and create spaces where everyone feels valued.

We also celebrate the nurturing of potential within our youth, showcasing how mentorship and support can empower the next generation. From transforming Dimapur's landscape to building child-friendly spaces in schools, the stories illustrate the remarkable impact of young people taking action in their communities.

Collaboration shines throughout these pages. The

success of various initiatives, such as cleanliness drives and community projects, demonstrates what we can achieve when we come together. By working collaboratively, we can build bridges and strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Moreover, the stories of youth empowerment reveal how young voices are being heard and valued. Their passion for environmental action and advocacy is a powerful force for change, inspiring others to join their efforts.

As you explore these narratives, I hope you feel the same sense of inspiration that I do. Together, we can continue to promote inclusivity, nurture potential, and create lasting change in our communities. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to making a difference.

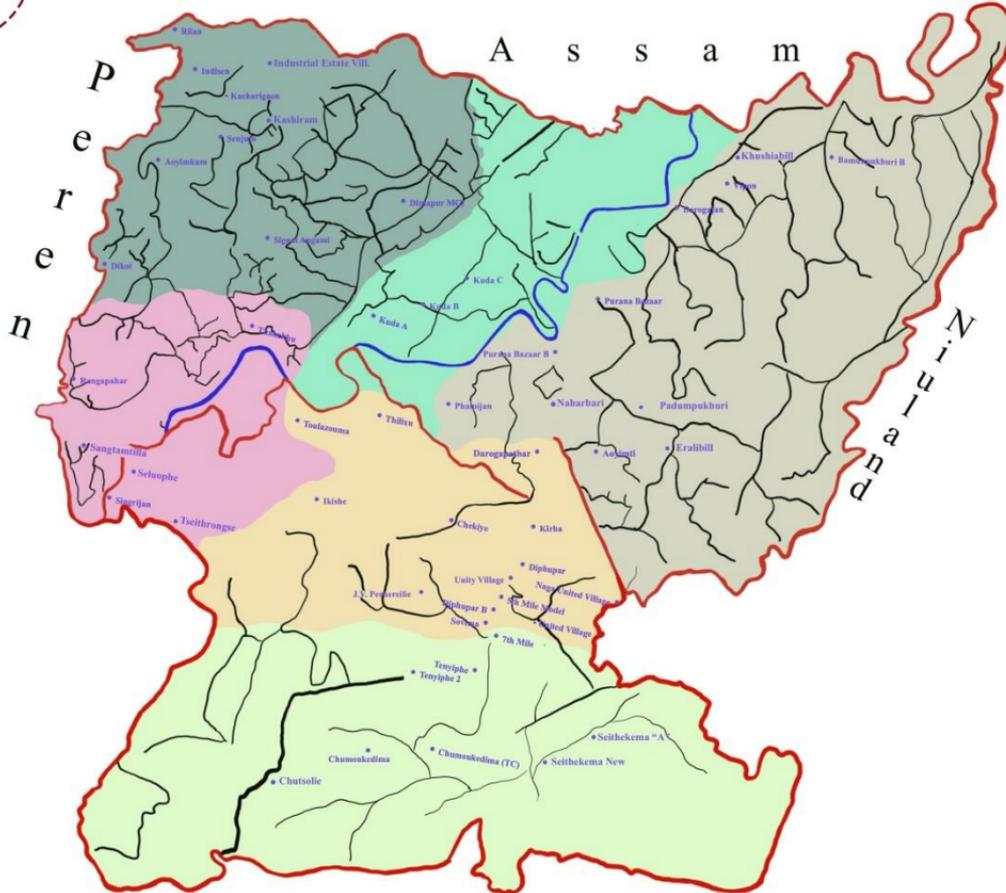
Warm regards,

Fr. Roy George SDB
Executive Director, AIDA



AIDA-CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR

Project Areas : Dimapur and Chumoukedima



- Purana Bazaar Area
- Kuda Township Area
- Rangapahar Area
- Dimapur Municipal Area
- Diphupar Area
- Chumoukedima Area

Raising Awareness on Non-Discrimination

The Child Rights Club members of Satemo underwent a transformative journey in understanding their rights, particularly the 4 Cardinal Rights of the Child as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This enlightenment was facilitated through various sessions and activities conducted by Child Friendly Dimapur-AIDA. Empowered with this knowledge, the club members recognized the pressing need to combat discrimination, which unfortunately saturate their daily lives.

In collaboration with the Child Rights Facilitators, the club members embarked on a collective brainstorming session to explore avenues for raising awareness within their community.



Child Rights Club members enacting the play

Fuelled by their creativity and determination, they formulated a plan to utilize their talents for a greater cause. On 21st August 2022, the Child Rights Club members of Satemo organized a significant event with the support from Child Friendly Dimapur-AIDA at the PHC-sub centre with an objective to shed light on the discrimination faced by children

Raising Awareness on Non-Discrimination

in their everyday experiences. The program showcased a collection of performances, including dances and songs meticulously prepared by the club members. The event drew an audience of over 150 individuals from the locality.

It was a day of celebration and triumph not only for the club members but also for their supportive parents and the wider community.



The crowd gathered during the play

However, it was the touching play centered on the theme of "Non-Discrimination" that truly stole the spotlight.

The event drew an audience of over 150 individuals from the locality. It was a day of celebration and triumph not only for the club members but also for their supportive parents and the wider community.

Through their collective efforts and unwavering commitment, the children succeeded in achieving their goal of raising awareness on the rights of the children among their peers and community members.

Nurturing Potential and Advocacy in Seluophe

"Opportunities don't happen. You create them" – Chris Grosser. This resounding truth echoes through the story of the children of Seluophe, members of the Child Rights Club, whose journey from vulnerability to empowerment was sparked by the unwavering dedication of Ms. Vetheitsolu, Child Rights Facilitator of Seluophe.

Inspiration knows no bounds, and for these children, it came in the form of Ms. Vetheitsolu, a respected resident of Seluophe and a teacher by profession has a strong passion for children and devotes a lot of time and effort in fostering their development within the community. Through her gentle guidance and genuine interest in their well-being, she instilled in them the belief in their

own potential and inner gifts. Ms. Vetheitsolu dedicated herself to nurturing the Child Rights Club members during their formative years. With her guidance, they blossomed into dependable individuals, treating each other with respect and dignity—a testament to the profound impact of her ongoing encouragement and mentorship. She makes every effort to make use of the children's skills and abilities while also getting to know them from their perspective.

Empowered by their newfound understanding of their rights, the children took the initiative to raise awareness in their neighborhood, organizing a talent event under the theme of "Best Interest of the Child." Through speeches, fashion shows, and traditional

Nurturing Potential and Advocacy in Seluophe

performances, they showcased their talents while advocating for the rights of children.

On April 28th 2022, the community center of Seluophe was transformed into a stage of



Children posing for lens after the talent event

empowerment and advocacy, as the children took center stage, their voices ringing out with passion and conviction.

Together with Ms. Vetheitsolu and the Child Rights Club members illuminated the path towards a future where every child is treated with dignity and respect—a future they are determined to create, one opportunity at a time.

The seeds of change have been sown, and with nurturing care and unwavering commitment, they will continue to flourish, inspiring generations to come.

A Tale of Collaboration and Action

In honor of "World Environment Day", Child Friendly Dimapur-AIDA embarked on a mission to cultivate a greener future for the children of the community. The initiative sprouted from a dialogue within the Civil Society Forum meeting, where members collectively recognized the importance of planting trees to foster a healthier environment for generations to come.



CFD team picking saplings from the nursery for the plantation drive

The team then drafted a letter for seeking permission for the saplings to the District Forest Range Officer and met the Officer-In-Charge for the said reason. Mr. Bendang Imsong, Forest Ranger assisted the team to get the approval from the concerned Range Officer. The team was thus provided with 300 ornamental saplings from the Department on the 1st week of June 2022. Till date 750 saplings were provided by Dimapur District Forest Department.

The saplings were distributed to the Child Rights Club members and youth in different localities and institutions which were planted in their respective localities and Institutions towards creating a clean and healthy environment.

The Inspiring Journey of Ms. Innajungla

Ms. Innajungla, a beacon of hope and dedication, has touched the life of many young minds in Government High School Thahekhu through her unwavering commitment to empowering children and fostering a nurturing environment. Her journey is a testament to the profound impact of dedicated educators and Child Rights Facilitators in shaping the lives of young individuals.

Driven by a passion for holistic development, Ms. Innajungla embarked on her career as a teacher with a vision to go beyond traditional educational approaches. Recognizing the importance of creating a secure and supportive environment for every child to thrive, she became a channel for change within her school community.



Ms. Innajungla on the left: Group interaction with the Child Rights Club

One of Ms. Innajungla's ground breaking initiatives was the "Wall of Mural," a vibrant showcase of students' unique abilities, aspirations, and achievements.

This colorful and interactive mural served as a source of pride and inspiration, instilling a sense of confidence and belonging among the students.

The Inspiring Journey of Ms. Imnajungla

Ms. Imnajungla's influence extended far beyond the confines of the school walls. She initiated counseling sessions to address the personal and family challenges faced by some students. Her compassionate approach created a safe space where students felt comfortable sharing their struggles, leading to tangible solutions and support.



Child Rights Club members painting wall murals

Through her keen observations and genuine care, Ms. Imnajungla became a lifeline for students navigating difficult circumstances.

Whether it was connecting families with resources, providing emotional support, or offering academic assistance, her unwavering dedication transformed lives and left an indelible mark on the community.

With her creative projects and compassionate approach, she has empowered countless young individuals, leaving behind a legacy of hope, resilience, and limitless potential. As the "Wall of Morale" continues to expand with each triumph, Ms. Imnajungla remains a source of inspiration for all who believe in the boundless possibilities of every child.

Paving the Way for a Cleaner Future

On the 26th of July 2023, the Civil Society Mobilization Officers spearheaded an important session on 'clean and safe environment for children' at Junction Colony in collaboration with the Caring Community Group (CCG). This initiative was not only aligned with the campaign theme of 2023 but also aimed to raise awareness about the significance of cleanliness and its profound impact, particularly on the well-being of children.

As part of the youth and Civil Society Organizations' campaign for 2023, themed 'one step towards creating a clean and safe environment for children', the session highlighted the importance of collective action in fostering a healthier and safer environment for all.



Initiating a cleanliness drive in their locality

During the interactive session with CCG members, the team proposed the idea of organizing a cleanliness drive in their locality to demonstrate their support for the campaign. Encouraged by the discussion and motivated to make a difference, the members unanimously decided to take action and

Paving the Way for a Cleaner Future

pledged to organize a cleanliness drive in their locality. True to their word, on the 17th of August 2023, Mrs. Amina, a dedicated member of the CCG, rallied a group of eight enthusiastic individuals from their community to lead by example.

Armed with determination and a shared vision for a cleaner future, they tirelessly cleaned the



areas surrounding their homes and the entrance of their locality, symbolizing their commitment to creating a safe and hygienic environment for all residents, especially children.

Through their proactive efforts and collaborative spirit, the members of Junction Colony's Caring Community Group have taken a significant step towards realizing the campaign's objectives and fostering a culture of cleanliness and responsibility within their community.

Their actions serve as a shining example of the power of grassroots initiatives in effecting positive change and building a brighter future for generations to come.

Children and Youth Transforming Dimapur's Landscape

Warren Buffet once said, "The smarter the journalists are, the better off society is." This sentiment rings true for the esteemed journalists of Eastern Mirror, Dimapur, Nagaland, who play a vital role in shaping public discourse and raising awareness on critical issues through her article.

On the 24th of July 2023, a journalist from Eastern Mirror witnessed a remarkable scene unfold on the walls of Forest Department near the main road in Dimapur. As children and youth enthusiastically painted the concrete wall, their artwork breathed life into the surroundings, serving as a powerful reminder on the importance of caring for the environment.



The subsequent article published in Eastern Mirror on 25th July 2023, highlighted the transformative impact of the mural, spanning a remarkable 35 feet.

Children and Youth Transforming Dimapur's Landscape

Through their art, the children and youth aimed to inspire bystanders to take small actions that could collectively make a significant difference in creating a cleaner and safer environment for children.

The vibrant wall paintings not only beautified the area but also conveyed powerful messages advocating for a clean and safe environment. The initiative served as a means for behavioral change, encouraging residents to adopt good hygiene practices and embrace a healthy lifestyle.

Grateful to the journalist's dedication and interest, the article reached a broad audience through Eastern Mirror's Instagram page and printed newspaper.

The message of creating awareness on children's rights, with a special emphasis on collective action for a cleaner and safer environment, resonated with readers across the city.



News piece of children and youth's initiative published in the Local daily

Building Child-Friendly Spaces in School

In the heart of a school community, a passionate educator named Ms. Temsunenla embarked on a journey to empower her students and create a nurturing environment where every child feel valued and heard..



Child Rights Club members posing for a photograph after the Poster competition

Recognizing the need for child-friendly spaces where students could freely express themselves and understand their rights, she set out to inspire a transformation.

Through interactive sessions on child rights, Ms. Temsunenla initiated conversations that ignited a passion for change within her students. Inspired by her enthusiasm, they eagerly embraced the opportunity to design and create child-friendly spaces within their school.

Together, they decorated the hallways of the school with vibrant posters and wall art, each piece reflecting the values of respect, inclusion, and empathy. The impact of their initiative didn't stop within the confines of their school walls.

Building Child-Friendly Spaces in School

Empowered by their newfound knowledge and advocacy, the students reached out to neighboring schools, encouraging them to join the movement for child-friendly spaces. In this atmosphere of acceptance and cohesion, once-silent voices found a platform to be heard.

Ms. Temsumenla's idea, coupled with the students' creativity and determination, transformed the school into a beacon of hope and inspiration for many.

Their collaborative effort proved that even the smallest acts of inspiration can lead to remarkable positive change in the lives of young minds.

As the echoes of their initiative reverberate through the halls, they serve as a reminder of



Child Rights Club members participating in painting wall murals

the transformative power of education and the importance of nurturing environments where every child can thrive. Together, they have laid the foundation for a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow, one child-friendly space at a time.

Building Bridges through Creativity

The Children's Creative Activity holds a special place in the hearts of club members, offering them a platform to showcase their talents and connect with their community. As the event approached, anticipation mounted, with children eagerly preparing music, dance, and drama performances to amaze their audience.

Held at Puranabazar, weeks of rehearsal and preparation culminated in a celebration of creativity and community spirit. Adults recognized the significance of providing a conducive environment for the event, ensuring it ran smoothly without disruptions. Their efforts to secure a nearby venue demonstrated their commitment to supporting the children's endeavors and fostering a stress-free atmosphere for expression.

During the program, parents and community members played a pivotal role in ensuring the event's success, going above and beyond to set up tents and gather chairs, creating a welcoming environment for all. Their unwavering support and dedication highlighted the importance placed on nurturing children's creativity and well-being.

The program's success was a testament to the collective efforts of the community, showcasing the power of unity and support in fostering children's dreams. Through their love, support, and encouragement, parents and community members not only celebrated the children's achievements but also learned the importance of guiding them towards fulfilling their aspirations.

Empowering Voices of the Young

In the heart of one of the locality under Dimapur District, members of the Child Rights Club stand united, driven by a shared purpose: to make every child feel safe and secure in their community. Their journey is marked by courage, resilience, and a determination to challenge the status quo.

They courageously share their experiences, shedding light on the harsh realities faced by many, particularly girls who feel insecure moving freely within their own locality. One member bravely recounted a traumatic encounter, highlighting on how she and her mother was being molested.

Guided by the unwavering support of Children Mobilization Officers and Child



Children sitting under the tent prepared by the adults of the locality

Rights Facilitators, these children find strength in solidarity.

Empowering Voices of the Young

Empowered by knowledge and self-confidence gained from attending sessions on Child Rights, they now stand tall, ready to confront injustice and advocate for their rights.

In their own words, breaking the silence was not easy—it required courage and support. But united as a club, they pledge to fight for what is right and protect one another from harm.

Their commitment to mutual support and solidarity transcends boundaries, as they vow to stand up for any member of their community, regardless of club affiliation.

These children understand that real change begins with challenging ingrained attitudes and perceptions.



Children posing for photo after the creative activity

Through their unity and determination, they are paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future where every child can thrive without fear or insecurity.

Empowering Youth for Environmental Action

On the 25th of August, 2023, Child Friendly Dimapur, AIDA orchestrated an inspiring event: an inter-college extempore speech competition held at City Law College, Burma Camp, Dimapur. With the participation of around 80 students and faculty members from



Judges handing over the trophy & certificate to the winner

colleges across Dimapur and Chümoukedima, the competition provided a platform for young minds to voice their perspectives on creating a clean and safe environment for children.

Amidst the spirited atmosphere, 25 students from different colleges engaged in thought-provoking discourse, sharing their views and strategies for building empathy and fostering a sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship.

Adding to the significance of the event, Mr. Mhонjan Humtsoe, President of Team Better Dimapur, graciously sponsored cash prizes for the winners. In a gesture that exemplified commitment to environmental sustainability, encouraging

Empowering Youth for Environmental Action

them to plant a tree as part of the campaign to make Dimapur greener, cleaner, and healthier.

In his address, Mr. Humtsoe emphasized the pivotal role of youth in effecting positive change amidst the current environmental crisis. He urged the youth to embrace their responsibility in shaping a better future, emphasizing the importance of proactive engagement rather than passive waiting.



Participants witnessing the competition



Participants posing for a photograph after competition

The competition not only showcased the eloquence and passion of young speakers but also served as a catalyst for action, inspiring attendees to take concrete steps towards environmental conservation and advocacy.

Through initiatives like these, the seeds of change are sown, empowering youth to become agents of transformation and guardians of a sustainable future.

Neisatuo Caring Community Group's Inspiring Contribution

The Neisatuo Caring Community Group (CCG) stands as an example of community-driven initiatives and unwavering dedication to the welfare of children. Despite facing challenges, their commitment to making a difference has left an indelible mark on the community. Here's a glimpse into their inspiring journey:



CCG members on the left assisting CFD team during the walkathon

On 23rd September, 2023, the Neisatuo CCG played a pivotal role in assisting Child Friendly Dimapur team by volunteering all throughout the walkathon themed '*one step towards creating a clean and safe environment for children.*' Their proactive involvement extended beyond participation, through their readiness and willingness to assist with event logistics, ensuring a seamless experience for all participants.

Furthermore, on September 30, 2023, amidst the bustling campaign activities, an exhibition and sales day aimed to rally support for the 2nd annual convention for children's rights. While other Caring Community Groups (CCGs) were unable to attend due to prior commitments, the Neisatuo CCG exemplified their support by actively

Neisatuo Caring Community Group's Inspiring Contribution

participating in the closing ceremony of the campaign program. Eight of their members graced the occasion, showcasing their unwavering dedication to the cause.



CCG members performing during 2nd Annual Convention

Despite being able to attend the exhibition, the Neisatuo CCG made a significant contribution by presenting a generous donation to the children's fund for the annual convention.

Their selfless gesture underscores their strong commitment in promoting the rights and well-being of children, even amidst busy schedules and competing priorities.

A Journey with the Guidance of Child-Friendly Dimapur Team

Ms. Ampiana is a one of the Child Rights Club member from Satemo, who had a keen interest in knowing the various rights and also need for learning her academic studies. Her aspirations for furthering her education, however, were put on hold by social norms and economical constraints that gave preference to boys' education over girls'. For a short while, Ampiana was able to attend a private school in spite of her family's financial struggles. Nevertheless, she was compelled to leave school before completing her studies due to financial problem during the Covid 19 as her father was not keeping well therefore the family faced financial insecurity. Ampiana remained unhappy but still longing for an opportunity to achieve her academic goals.



While attending the session by the Child Friendly Dimapur team, Ampiana shared her desire to continue her studies and the team decided to meet her parents and convince them to send her to school.

A Journey with the Guidance of Child-Friendly Dimapur Team



The staff felt that Ampiana had potential and contacted her family to help re-enroll her in school by providing advice and support.

Through the initiative of Child Friendly Dimapur team, Ms.Ampiana was granted an opportunity to continue her schooling.

It was indeed challenging for the Headmaster to enroll another students into the Class (Class 8) since he already has 100 students in a small classroom, yet having considered the case, the Headmaster permitted to enroll her to the school.

Her family was reluctant at first, but they finally agreed to it reconsidering Ampian's future. At present she is doing her studies in grade 8 in Sarbura Govt. High School, Kashiram.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Good partnership plays a great role in the implementation of development programs. Reliable and strong support of all our funding partners, donor agencies, individual donors, friends and well-wishers have played a very important role in the activities of AIDA. Reaching out to the most needy and disadvantaged in society and especially in the project areas (Dimapur & Chumoukedima) would not be possible without the big supporting hands of our partners. AIDA acknowledges gracefully the valuable contributions of everyone in shaping a better future in partnership.





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