



SOIR-IM

The Swedish Organisation
for Individual Relief

Annual Report 2015





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OUR PARTNERS

Appropriate Technology India

In Uttarakhand's Chamoli district we work with our partner Appropriate Technology India to economically empower women, through livelihood augmentation, and promote gender issues. Our work focuses on forming and strengthening self-help groups, making dairy enterprises commercially viable for the mountain women, establishing marketing and financial linkages, and building capacities of women on gender and health issues.

Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany - Northeast Province

In India's north-eastern State of Assam, we work with our partner organisation to help the migrant population. Our aim is to make primary education possible for children of migrants and empower women with alternate livelihoods. Covering slum pockets in Silchar and Guwahati, our focus is to provide skill training for women, form self-help groups, enrol never-enrolled children and school dropouts in mainstream schools, and collaborate with duty bearers.

Disha Social Organisation

By initiating income-generating activities we are helping marginalised women in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh become economically independent and lead a better quality of life for themselves and their families. With our partner Disha Social Organisation we are setting-up income-generating activities and creating awareness of social security schemes among rural women.

Kiran Society

With our partner Kiran Society, we are promoting inclusive education by helping children with disabilities and marginalised girls join mainstream schools in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Our intervention is also aimed at helping parents of children with disabilities understand the education and rehabilitation needs of their children. To make inclusive education a reality, we are working with schools, educational authorities, health care and administrative representatives.

Reaching the Unreached

Helping women fight exclusion and marginalisation has been our main focus in Tamil Nadu's Theni and Dindigul districts. Together with Reaching the Unreached, we are empowering once marginalised women become financially independent. The women empowerment initiative here is also bringing together women to become active participants in the development of their community.

Social and Resource Development Fund

Our self-reliance program with the Social and Resource Development Fund, aims to reduce the marginalization and exclusion of the Tibetan refugee population in India. The economic empowerment component will seek to increase entrepreneurship and employment among women, men, and youth. Vocational training, entrepreneurship, and career counselling will be the focus of the education intervention under this program.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

Partner	Component	Budget
Appropriate Technology India	Economic Empowerment	1,750,000
Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany - Northeast Province	Education & Economic Empowerment	4,180,000
Disha Social Organisation	Economic Empowerment	1,450,000
Kiran Society	Education	5,358,000
Reaching the Unreached	Economic Empowerment	2,000,000
Social and Resource Development Fund	Education	3,146,000
Social and Resource Development Fund	Health	1,500,000
Tribal Education and Environment Development Trust	Economic Empowerment	5,500,000
Maximising Employment to Serve the Handicapped	Fair Trade	2,444,845
Sarba Shanti Ayog	Fair Trade	2,500,000

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

WE PROMOTE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALISED GROUPS, WITH FOCUS ON WOMEN, TO FACILITATE HOUSEHOLD INCOME SECURITY.

SOIR-IM supports small-scale income generating projects as well as savings and credit mechanisms for individuals, groups and organisations. Through capacity development, individuals can generate and take control over their own income so that their status is elevated and the whole household can benefit. Income generating projects should be sustainable for the individuals as well as for the environment.

2015 at a glance...

Targets	Achievements
To increase the capacity and skill of marginalized women and men which will enhance their economic empowerment.	339 women and men have increased their capacity and technical skill
Number of marginalized women and men who have access to savings and loans.	2,677 women and men have access to savings and loans.
Self-help groups functioning	199 self-help groups functioning



“I hope my story can be an inspiration to other young women in my locality.”

A year ago, Namita Das was a student at a tailoring centre. Today, she is a trainer at the centre, teaching other young girls the art of tailoring.

The tailoring centre is run by our partner Bethany Sisters in Silchar, Assam.

Namita’s father is a rickshaw driver and her mother works as a domestic maid. Namita was keen to help her family. She enrolled herself at Bethany’s tailoring centre for a 6-month course. And once she completed it she became a trainer at the centre.

“The tailoring centre is a big boon for many young girls like me; we cannot afford to learn to stitch in a private centre as the fees are unaffordable. Such vocational training will go a long way in helping women and their families,” says Namita.

In her locality, she is also the most popular tailor. She not only stitches well, but she also asks people to only pay what they can afford. “It’s my way of helping my people,” she says.

Namita would like to continue to teach more young girls and expand her tailoring enterprise.

Twenty Nine year-old Vinodhini, today, runs a successful agricultural and dairy enterprise in Viralipatti village in Tamil Nadu. From the training, by our partner Reaching the Unreached, she learnt healthy cattle rearing practices and better farming techniques. Her enterprises were started through loans from her self-help group. She sells 13 litres of milk every day. Each litre is sold for about Rs. 24 to a local milk company. Her drumstick enterprise is also booming. A good season can fetch her more than Rs. 100 per kg.



"I am not only a wife and mother but also an entrepreneur."



"My family enjoys a better quality of schools. I have opened a bank account use to fund their higher education," says

life. My children study in private for my sons. The money from this I will Vinodhini.

In 2015...

"I learnt a new skill. To make handicraft products."



Jodha Begum, Guwahati, Homemaker

In 2016...

"I want to start my own enterprise with the skill I have learnt."

EDUCATION

WE PROMOTE ACCESS TO GOOD-QUALITY BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR MARGINALISED GIRLS AND BOYS.

SOIR-IM support aims at improving access to education for all girls and boys based on their own preconditions. We focus on children who do not have access to education because of poverty, disability, ethnicity and/or gender inequality. Through the experience of our partners, they and SOIR-IM gain important knowledge that is used to raise public awareness.

2015 at a glance...

Targets	Achievements
Enable about 2,800 marginalised children from SOIR-IM's project areas to attend school.	3,646 marginalized children are going to school.
Increased awareness among parents on importance of education.	1,066 parents have increased their participation and involvement in issues relating to their children's education.
Encourage communities, teachers, parents, and children to actively promote and support marginalized girls' and boys' education.	20 new groups (parents' groups, children groups, community based organisations, disabled persons organisation) created. These groups actively promote and support marginalised girls' and boys' education in SOIR-IM's intervention areas.
Improved quality of education through conducive and supportive learning environments and child friendly teaching for marginalized boys and girls in IM intervention areas.	111 teachers have improved their teaching methods, 200 special educators in place, 10 schools implement inclusive education concept.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, stories from the field



According to the 2011 Indian Census, there are 20.42 lakh differently abled children between 0 and 6 years in India. Around 71% of them live in rural areas. Harsh Singh is one of them. He and his family live in Pradha village, in Uttar Pradesh's Mau district. At 6 years, Harsh Singh was unable to walk, had poor speech, and excessive drooling. Some called it "bad fate," and others "abnormal."

A few years ago, Harsh and his mother attended a camp by SOIR-IM's partner Kiran. And there they found their answer to Harsh's condition - Cerebral Palsy. In the past few years, Kiran has supported and worked closely with Harsh and his family to improve his condition.

One surgery, dedicated physiotherapy and numerous exercises later, Harsh is catching up on the lost years. Recently, the now 11-year-old, Harsh was enrolled in a private school; his first. He studies in Grade 1. With the help of orthosis Harsh is not only able to walk but also run and play.

Sanju, Biku, and Sandha study at the Bethany Promotional School in Silchar, Assam.

The brothers were in primary school when their father died. Their mother started to work to support the family. The brothers took turns to look after their baby sister and were not able to attend school regularly. Slowly, they discontinued their studies.

Thanks to the Promotional School, started by our partner Bethany Sisters, the children will soon be enrolled in a formal school and can continue to study.

The Promotional School is aimed at tutoring school dropouts and never enrolled children before enrolling them in a regular school.





Tenzin Lhamo, Thinlay Wangmo, and their classmates are all smiles on completing a game on concentration at the Central Tibetan School, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand. A series of awareness and counselling programs are planned to enable Tibetan Children to become independent and confident. This is possible due to our partnership with the Social and Resource Development Fund.

The counselling sessions are a good outlet for many Tibetan students to openly share their concerns on a broad range of issues. Counselling on career guidance is also helping many young Tibetans make informed choices on pursuing the right professional courses.

HEALTH

SOIR-IM's work in this area is to bring about improved health and knowledge on preventive health measures among individuals from marginalised groups through awareness raising.

2015 at a glance...

- 52 medical staff received health communication training in the design and implementation of health awareness talks and in behaviour change communication methods. The training has helped strengthen the health education and outreach skills of the staff.
- 2,000 sexual health booklets published and distributed. This has helped increase awareness on sexual health and safer environment among school children.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

SOIR-IM has contributed with technical and management capacities to the partner organisations, in order for them to be articulated, constructive organisations open to dialogue in society. The partner organisations in their turn have strengthened the target groups they work with.

In 2015, we...

- Conducted partner training meetings on model building and results-based management
- Supported partners to develop their internal control system and improve their legal compliance

SPONSORSHIP

Below is a summary of the sponsorship support during 2015

Types of receivers	Target groups	Types of support	Individuals reached
8 schools and children groups under NGOs and foundations, and 15 Tibetan schools run by NGOs, foundations and under the management of CTA Tibetan Children's Educational and Welfare Fund	Orphans, abandoned, HIV/AIDS affected, tribal children, children with leprosy parentage, refugee children.	Hostel maintenance, midday meal/extra diet, teachers' salary, general running costs, school fees, and books.	3,677
7 school clinics	Newly arrived refugee children, 2nd and 3rd generation refugee children, TB patients	School clinic running costs, TB treatment	2,976
7 Tibetan Old People's Homes, 3 NGOs' leprosy colonies and elderly support	Refugee elders, elders with leprosy and impoverished elders	Old People's Homes running costs, medical care, nutrition, individual weekly financial stipends	286

The characteristics of SOIR-IM

SOIR-IM has three characteristics that shall guide our work and pervade the organisation.

Compassion - We show interest, knowledge, respect and openness when meeting people. All human beings should be treated equally, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and disability. We give marginalised and discriminated groups priority in our work. Our work is made possible thanks to the compassion and commitment of people around the world to uphold human rights.

Empowerment - Our aim is to support women, men, girls, and boys so that they can empower themselves. We strive to support sustainable solutions and it is our ambition that our partner organisations become independent.

Presence - Good results are dependent on proximity to partners and participants in our programmes and a good knowledge about the local context. SOIR-IM interacts closely with our partner organisation.





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