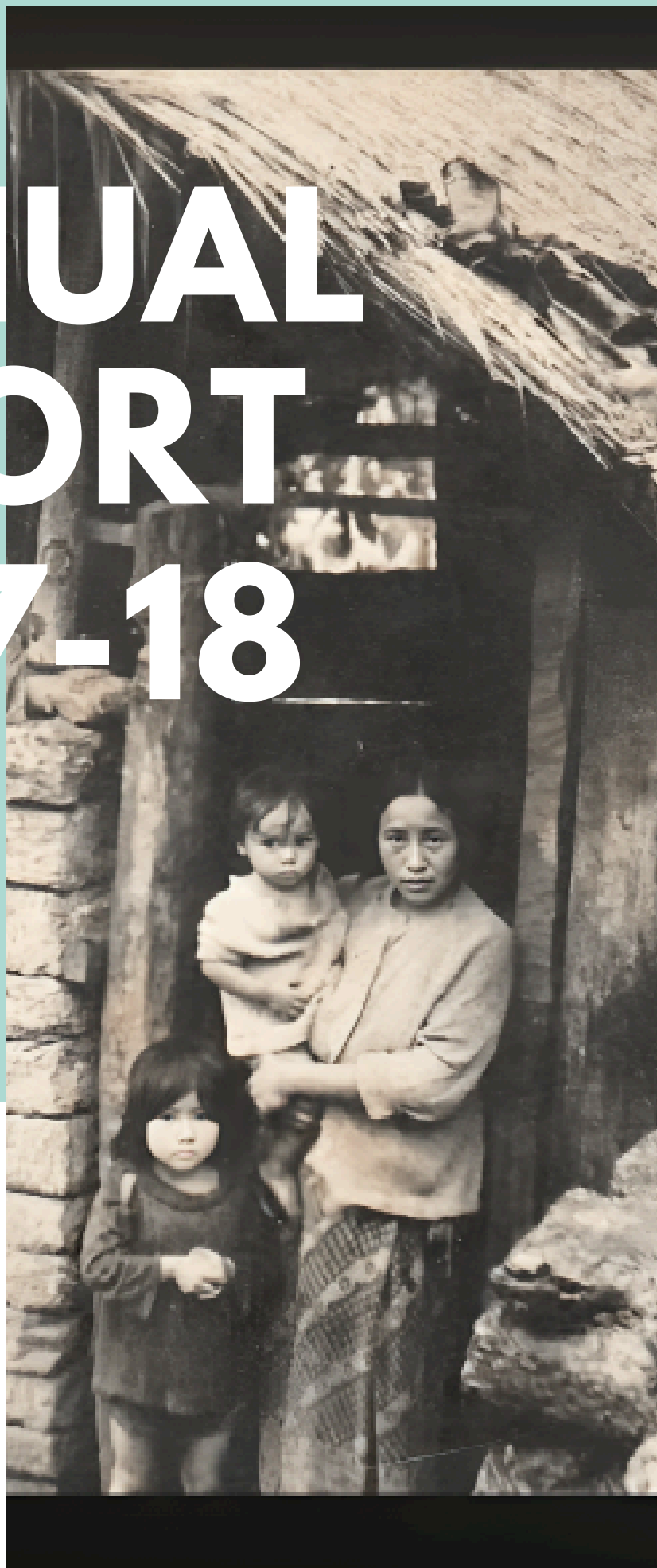


ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



**Hayden Hall
Institute**



RELIEF AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES DURING THE 104 DAYS STRIKE

Hayden Hall could not keep abreast of the yearly planning due to the indefinite strike. Throughout the strike days Hayden Hall was semi-open. As help for food was requested from many far-flung places especially by the tea gardens the Hayden Hall team got the opportunity to visit new areas and extend their service to the people. In most of the areas distribution of food was accompanied by health camps. As ration was limited the neediest were identified by the community. The communities were also made aware of the developmental programmes of Hayden Hall, like post school study, paramedic training and health care. We networked with community-based organisations and NGOs, 'hoping that this linkage would provide new avenues to develop the communities. The communities themselves came together in the time of dire need.

The 104 days' closure also brought out the goodness in people. It was always heart stirring to experience the hospitality of every community we visited; they welcomed us and shared with us whatever little they had. Some animal lovers fed the street dogs every day without fail. Hayden Hall plans to bank on the positive response of the people and work out a feasibility plan for areas where extension work of Hayden Hall could be implemented.

AREA AND NUMBER OF RATION RECIPIENTS

Sl No	Name of the Area	No. of people who received the Ration
1	Happy Valley & Singamari	181
2	Mineral Spring Busty, Lebong , Darjeeling	55
3	Functional Literacy Department	35
4	Ghoom, 3rd Mile, Rungbull, Kallej Valley, Rumbuk	544
5	Pandam	129
6	Mangalpuri	58
7	Bazaar Area, Station & Rockwood	143
8	Educational Department	93
9	Trti-Ratna Gram	9
10	North Point (School Workers)	33
11	Lepcha Busty	47
12	Pandhura	132
13	Singtam	260
14	Individual	79
15	Front Municipal Chairman	6
16	Mother and Child Program	520
17	Darjeeling Initiative	120
18	Arya Tea State & Bhaktey Busty	108
19	Kankebong, Sumbuck, Raigion, Sammangoan	101
20	Bathasia/ Thumpha, Sangule/ Mhagam, Gurudum	21

Sl No	Name of the Area	No. of people who received the Ration
21	Gelongtar	122
22	Plungdung	101
23	Chota Pubung	74
24	Dilaram (Shanti Goan)	52

Total Households: 3023, Total kg of Rice: 15115

Total N. of Places: 57

OUR PROGRAMMES

Mother and Child Health Care

Message from the HOD: May our work reflects the mission of the organisation to promote the rights of all the marginalised women and children with compassion and love.

Visit to Arya Tea Estate: The staff of Hayden Hall visited Arya Tea Estate on 31 August, 2017 on the request of the Manager Mr. Roy and the community. We visited the area to survey people who had been identified to receive the food packages. The community members accompanied the team. They visited 2 villages namely, Gouri Goan and Gudam Dhura.

Medical Camp for the Children: On 12 November Mother and Child Health Care Department of Hayden Hall organized a medical camp for children. Dr T. Sherpa, a pediatrician from Sadar Hospital, Darjeeling, had volunteered to check the children attending the camp. 73 children were registered for the camp where the most common disease was cold and cough.

Healthy Baby Show: On 14 November the Mother and Child Health care department organized a healthy baby show for children under 5 years. The mothers of the MCH programme were invited with their children to be part of the show. The special guest for the day was Dr Neetu Sharma, who checked the children and graded them according to their health status, Best mothers were acknowledged and all the participants were awarded a piece of bathing soap and a certificate.

Refresher Course: The refresher course for the new paramedics (Community Development Workers) began from 29 October and ended on the 4 November. 52 paramedics from Kalimpong and Darjeeling were present for the training. The main aim of the training was to give them a proper orientation and also give them new training which would help them in their area of work. The 7 days training comprised of two days' sessions on physiotherapy by Dr Sister Sachita and Sr. Suchita. Self counselling, communication, networking with the government, ante-natal clinics, SWOT analysis, self-management classes and meditation, The community health workers appreciated the training as they had learnt new health care techniques and were able to recapitulate whatever they had forgotten. The class on Physiotherapy was a new subject and they understood that many illnesses could be treated through physiotherapy. The group games in between the sessions helped break the monotony and gave them lessons on communication.

Busty Visits: Dawa Lepcha, one of our Community Development Workers (CDW) visited busties and conducted meetings with the centre in charges and other community development workers. He visited Lolay, Nimbong, Tanyang, Suruk, Tandraybong, Maria busty and Sakyong. Nimbong, Sakyong and Suruk were able to form Community Development Groups with the centre-in-charge.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Message from the HOD: "EDUCATION THROUGH PERSONAL CARE" was the theme of education department of Hayden Hall for 2017. All the members of the department tried their best to work on this theme throughout the year and as a result so many children were able to go to schools. Hayden Hall is not only educating the children but also helping them to live better lives and to become better human beings. I am so proud to be part of this institution and will try to give my best to the work I am entrusted with.

Teachers Orientation: The quarterly teachers' orientation to our volunteer teachers were given by Mr. Peter Lepcha (Senior Master, St. Paul's School, Darjeeling) Mr. Lepcha emphasised on the role and responsibilities of teachers and how to stay positive in their work and in their dealings with the students.

Child Protection Policy: As part of the implementation of the child protection policy in Hayden Hall, the volunteer teachers were given a workshop on the policy.

Annual Prize Distribution: The Annual Prize distribution Ceremony to felicitate the meritorious students of 2016 was held on 8 April 2017. More than 82 awards were given away, for Good Behaviour, Cleanliness, Attendance and Good Effort. 17 mothers whose children stood 1st in their respective classes were felicitated for their contribution in making their children successful. The prize distribution also included folk dances performed by the students.

Talent Hunt: A talent Contest was organized with the belief that education is to bring out the best in a child. The Annual Talent Competition was held on 22 March, 2017. It paved way for the students to exhibit their various hidden talents of singing, dancing, painting and drawing. Around 60 students from Class 5 to 10 participated in the day long programme.

Career Guidance: Career Guidance for senior students of our evening programme was organised. The resource persons shared their experiences and also gave information about their respective careers and departments.

Visit to Siliguri Study Centres: Five study centres were started in 2015 Hayden Hall in collaboration with HLDRC in different places where they operate. The survey was done by Rev. Fr. Lalit and Rev. Fr. Paul D'Souza. These centres have been started for under privileged children of different

tarai Tea Garden areas. These study centres are run by ten volunteer teachers. Around 155 students, from different government schools (from KG to class 12) are attending these respective centres.

Children's Day Celebration: On 13 November Hayden Hall coordinated with Darjeeling Zoo and arranged for 7 primary schools of Darjeeling town area to visit the zoo on the occasion of Children's Day. Almost 93 students along with 30 Teachers visited the Zoo on that day. The Zoo authorities were generous to waive the entrance fee and organize a guided tour and a movie on wild life for the children. The day ended with packed lunch and mementoes presented by the zoo to all the children and teachers present.

On the same day the education department organized Children's day programme at Hayden Hall for students attending the after school study.

The Teachers put up a thoroughly enjoyable variety show for the Children

On 14 November under the sponsorship of Inner Wheel and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, England, Hayden Hall arranged a train ride for 54 Children of our after school program.

Strive Pre-School outing: On 15 November, 22 students along with three teachers and one mother went to visit Chowrasta and the surrounding area. It was a sunny day and they enjoyed running around and admiring the horses. Juice and snacks were provided by Hayden Hall.

Kalabari Visit: Mrs. Sujata Lepcha and Mrs. Mana Limbu went to visit three places in Kelabari - Totapara Mission Line, Dhonda Simla Busty, Kalabari Mission Line.

Around 86 children from different schools attended classes every day in their respective centres. Three teachers are supported by Hayden Hall. Unfortunately these centres do not have proper classroom facilities for the students.

Teachers' Orientation: A three days orientation programme for 32 teachers involved in the study centres in the plains and the hill areas was organized at Hayden Hall. Mrs Sujata Lepcha gave in brief information on Hayden Hall. Mrs. Bimala Rai, from Ramkrishna Primary Teachers Training Institute, Darjeeling, was the resource person and she gave 4 sessions on teaching skills. Her teaching techniques were based on group discussions and demonstrations. On the second day Ms Babita and Mrs. Binita gave a session on Child Protection and Child Abuse.

14 December, Graduation Day for Children from Strive: 36 Students graduated from strive and have joined various schools in the town for 2018.

The graduation ceremony was held in E.P. Burns Memorial Hall. On the same day the children along with their parents celebrated Christmas. For the first time Graduation Day for children passing out from Strive was held at Hayden Hall. 25 Students were in the crèche. 17 students were promoted to Strive pre-school for the session 2018.

Sl No	Name	Total Number
1	Creche	30
2	Strive	45
3	Evening Study	304 (Including HH Scholarship)
4	Scholarship (Hayden Hall)	
	Old	129
	New	58

Sl No	Name	Total Number
1	Out Station Teachers	42
2	Out Station Study Centres	35
3	Out Station Scholarships	14
4	Hayden Hall Teachers	22

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY DEPARTMENT

Message from the HOD: As I observed the activities throughout the year in FL Department, I feel a sense of satisfaction. I can say that we have been on the right path to achieve our aim for 2017-18, "WomenEmpowerment". This is more than apparent in our women, their confidence - one of our mothers from the program could stand in front of the crowd and speak to tell people not to use poly bags to protect the environment on the occasion of Environment Day 2017. Likewise, some of the weavers reached out to the schools and colleges and could explain about the use of handicrafts and they took the permission for the stalls during school's exhibitions from the schools and college authorities.

I am heartily thankful to the Esteemed Social Institute, Hayden Hall, for encouraging such activities for the women and really proud to be a pan of this Esteem Institution.

Paralegal Training on Domestic Violence: On the 22 April, 2017, Miss. Poonam Rai spoke to the ladies of the Income Generation Department on the important issue of domestic violence and how to recognize and respond to it. She highlighted the various forms and nature of Domestic violence, whether it is physical, emotional or mental. The importance of recognizing signs of such violence was stressed. The abuse needs to be recognized in order to be tackled, resisted, and then reported to the concerned authorities.

Exhibition: This time the ladies from the FL Department decided to exhibit and sell their hand-made products in different schools of Darjeeling on 25 April. Dividing themselves into two groups they visited ten schools. The response was overwhelming.

On 31 May 2017 the weavers were made aware of Depression by Mr. Bivek Pradhan (Intern from Bangalore). He explained the different types of depression, the symptoms of depression, and how to help a person with depression.

Spiritual Orientation (5 February 2018): Mr Denis Lepcha, the resource person, in his presentation dealt with the different developmental stages of a child right from attachment to the mother to adulthood. He explained that attachment with the mother was so crucial a stage that it can influence the child in becoming the kind of person he or she is going to be. He drew attention to roles and responsibilities of the parents. Emphasizing

on forgiveness in the family he said that in a family the mother plays the most important role.

EVENTS

World Health Day: Mental health is integral to our well-being and is as important as being physically healthy. The growing incidents of mental health issues are a reflection of the reality that confronts us today. That is why the theme for this year's World Health Day campaign was, Depression: Let's Talk.

In Hayden Hall the World Health Day was celebrated on the 6th and 7th of April in. On the the programs were mainly for our mothers. The speaker of the day, Mr. Emmanuel, a counsellor at Kripa Foundation, highlighted how substance abuse can lead to depression and vice versa. On 7 April, II schools and colleges were invited for the workshop "Depression- Let's talk" held at Hayden Hall. The speaker of the day was Dr. K.A. Saha, Psychiatrist at the district hospital, Darjeeling, and Mr. Dhiraj Gurung, Counsellor at Kripa Foundation. There were 174 students present for the talk.

Sabbatical and Farewell: Fr. Paul D'Souza, Director of Hayden Hall, went away for 6 months for a well deserving sabbatical. He was bid bon voyage by the Hayden Hall family on the I June. During his absence, Fr. Stanley Varghese, Administrator of Hayden Hall, was appointed as the Acting Director.

Teresa, a volunteer from Germany was given farewell by Hayden Hall. She was engaged in the Education Department teaching the Strive children and helping the students in the after school study programme. Hayden Hall acknowledges her one year selfless service and wishes her fair well in her future endeavours.

SWOT Analysis: On 3rd June the staff of Hayden Hall had a session with Marissa Dunne, who is a consultant in the social Development Sector. This session basically focussed on the SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) Analysis. They were divided into groups to focus on the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat that existed in the organisation. Mrs. Marissa would help Hayden Hall in the future planning.

International Labour Day: International Labour Day was celebrated at Hayden Hall on 1 May 2018 by felicitating our support staff, acknowledging their selfless efforts to the organization. We started the programme with a prayer and then an introduction was given about International Labour Day.

Then we felicitated our support staff - Mr. Udip, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Ratan, Mr. Mark, Mrs Sunita, Mrs Suvatra and Mrs Shanti. We also felicitated Patricia who had come all the way from USA to help us in setting up our data base programme called Sales Force. She was thanked for her support and help.

World Environment Day: Hayden Hall celebrated Environment day with the rest of the world on 5th June 2017. The International theme for the year was "Connect with Nature." The main objective of organizing the programme was to create mass awareness about the environment and related issues threatening the world and our Darjeeling Hills.

Mr. Roshan Rai was the main spokesperson for the programme he focused on "zero waste" management and he also highlighted that dumping waste from one area to another was not the solution to keep the environment clean. It was merely like shifting a problem from one person to another. A skit by the DB tech students who showed various ways and means by which an individual can protect the environment from pollution, Mr. Nayan talked about sustainable development, biodiversity and how individuals could protect the environment. The last session involved a group discussion among the school students and the main objective of this discussion was to form environment clubs in their respective schools.

St Ignatius Feast Day: Hayden Hall celebrated the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, on 31st July 2017. The celebration started with the lighting of the lamp by Fr Stanley followed by garlanding the portrait of St. Ignatius. Mrs Binita said a short prayer and Mr Cassian Dukpa read a passage from the scripture. The hope is that the celebrations will motivate the staff to "Move from Good to Magis" and make such an occasion meaningful. The celebration was simple due to the indefinite strike. The day ended with a delicious brunch cooked by the staff.

World Elderly Day: World Elderly Day was celebrated on the 14 October, the senior citizens who are part of our Programme for the Senior Citizens i.e. BURNS CLUB, and Food Support Programme for the Elderly and the Sick, were felicitated. After welcoming them an entertainment programme specially designed for the elderly was performed by the students and the staff of Hayden Hall. Their faces were lit up with joy when they heard the songs of their era. Mr Rohit from Brahma Kumari's Association gave a talk on the stages of life of an elderly person and how those stages could be handled with a positive attitude. Having catered for both their worldly and spiritual needs the old and the young danced to Nepali songs. As winter

was approaching Hayden Hall distributed warm clothes to them. The programme came to an end with lunch.

Children's Day Celebration: "Let your Light Shine" was Hayden Hall's theme for Children's Day 2017. We wanted to share our belief that every child has a light within, which needs to be discovered and explored. Every child is an individual with the same human dignity and rights and her/his light would shine when she/he express positive her/his qualities. The main purpose of the programme was to stress the importance of change from within and also to create this awareness in the adults. The four days programme started on 11 November and ended with a healthy baby show on 14 November 2017.

World Food Day: On the occasion of World Food Day, 16 October, Hayden Hall conducted an awareness seminar for the Staff. Three interns from Visva Bharati University, Akansha, Anmol and Aditya were the resource personnel. A power point presentation by the interns focused on what is World food day and why is it celebrated. They gave an overview on food wastage which takes place in the world and India. It was necessary to ponder on how this wastage could be stopped as there were many people who could not even afford a square meal a day. Food wastage could be prevented if a habit to finish the food on the plates was made and the hope is that this habit is passed on to the children.

On Discernment by Fr Patrick Pradhan : On 21 November the staff of Hayden Hall had a day's session with Father Patrick on Discernment (sort out). As Hayden Hall is working with the vulnerable and marginalised the responsibility of the staff to plan for others so that they benefited both materially and spiritually is a challenge. Awareness of the social reality which is not merely based on information but on empathetic understanding can only bring the desired result of a "just order." The sessions focussed on how in life we can sort out what gives us temporary pleasure and what gives life-long pleasure. We have the freedom to choose and we become what we choose. How we practice discernment depends on the image we have of God, a loving God or a God of retribution.

Diwali Celebration: On the 17 October Hayden Hall celebrated Diwali, "the festival of lights". The celebration began at 5:30 in the evening by lighting the diyas at the entrance of Hayden Hall. This was followed by a traditional singing by the weavers of Hayden Hall. Prayers were offered by three religious groups, Hindus, Christians and Buddhists, highlighting the

importance of light in all the religions signified in: the Hindu Mantra from the Upanishads, "Asato Ma Sadgamaya, Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya", meaning Keep me not in the bondage of this world but lead me towards the Reality of the Eternal Self, Keep me not in the Darkness but lead me towards the light (Spiritual Knowledge); Buddha's enlightenment with Nirvana and light and liberation from the world; and Christ's declaration "I am the Light of the World." Once again there was the traditional singing of Deusi and Bhailo by the Volunteer teachers and the Functional Literacy Department weavers. The Diwali celebration came to an end with a grand dinner party.

Blood Donation Camp: Lack of awareness regarding donating blood is the root cause of empty blood banks in Darjeeling. To address the problem, before the blood donation camp on the 10 October, 7 Health Workers of Hayden Hall were trained by the Sadar Hospital staff. With the gained knowledge they made the people aware of the issue so their fear of donating blood could be erased. On 24 November the awareness programme was followed by a blood donation camp in Hayden Hall in collaboration with the district hospital. 204 people had come to donate blood in which the college students participated in large numbers.

Blessing of Father E P Burns Memorial Hall: On the 18 December Father E P Burns Memorial Hall was inaugurated in Hayden Hall. The old carpet weaving room had been renovated as an Auditorium/Conference Hall. The Hall would service the need for a proper conference hall in Hayden Hall. Fr Stanley Joseph blessed the hall with a short prayer.

Planning for 2018 with Mrs Marissa Dunne: On the 1st and 2nd December the entire staff of Hayden Hall went to Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara, for departmental planning for 2018. Mrs Marissa Dunne, who is a consultant in the social development sector, moderated the process. In June she had held a session on SWOT Analysis which became a big help in the planning for 2018. Two days were spent on brainstorming to come up with a Goal, an objective and strategies to achieve the objectives and also to budget the activities of each department. The session was fruitful and each department came up with their Goal, Objectives and Strategies. Due to limited time the staff worked on the planning in Hayden Hall and followed it by a departmental presentation to the staff. The final planning was sent to Marissa. Her feedback on the planning and budget was discussed with the staff by Fr. Stanley. The rectified planning was sent to

Marissa so that she would be able to send the final draft of the planning.

Winter Camp: Winter camp started from 2 January for 12 days. There were 305 students from 13 different Government schools of Darjeeling attending the camp. The inauguration ceremony held in the hall started by lighting of the Lamp by Fr Paul, Fr Stanley, Miss Radha and other guests. Every day there were different activities like music, art, Zumba, painting, singing, different forms of dance (folk dance, Italian dance, Modern dance etc.) , spoken English, value education, badminton, karate, football, acting etc. Food and tea were served to the students and others on all days.

Resource persons from different schools and other institutions like Good Will Centre (Kalimpong), Brahma Kumaris, Darjeeling Shine, Xavier Sangitanjali (Siliguri), Anugaaaya (Darjeeling), DLR Prerna (CHAI), Mr. Kuki, Mr. Denis Lepcha, Mrs. Lukey Gurung , Mrs. Sushma Pradhan, Mrs. Reena Raya, Mr. Ajay Darjee, Mrs. Shradda Rai, were there to help and guide the students through various activities.

For the function held on the closing day, 13 January, Fr John Wilfred Lobo, the Provincial of Darjeeling Jesuits, was the chief guest. All the art work of the students was put on display in the hall. The ones practising dance performed on the stage all that they had learned. The students who were regular for classes were awarded. Each one got a winter camp kit.

Trip to Digha: In the month of January 2018, the office staff and the paramedics had gone for a short trip to Digha, a popular sea resort town in West Bengal. They spent three nights at SINDHU TARA TRAINING CENTRE –under the care of Seva Kendra Kolkata. An orientation programme for the staff was part of this trip. Mr Denis Lepcha, a teacher at St Roberts School Darjeeling, gave the inputs. The orientation was aimed at a fresh start for the year with a renewed motivation and energy.

Mr Denis Lepcha taught us a song the composition of which was inspired by the work of Hayden Hall. He used the visual media to communicate, showed us some videos related with our work. He also shared with us his life experiences to help us to get more connected with the work we are into. So often he reminded us that we are not a government organization and that is what makes the difference in the work that we do.

Workshop on Strengthening Partnership with Civil Societies/NGO on the issue of Anti-Human Trafficking and Victim Support Network: On 13 February we were invited to participate in a workshop on strengthening partnership with civil societies at Shakti Vahini, Siliguri. The main objective

of the meeting was to get to know about the NGOs directly or indirectly engaged in anti-human trafficking in order to establish some order of collaboration between these.

They suggested that Hayden Hall could support in rehabilitating the survivors of trafficking and help the children and the adolescents unite with their families. They also requested us to organise family visits and skill development courses. It was decided during the meeting that the Anti human Trafficking Network in Darjeeling, now non-functional, will be revived.

Training on Counselling Skills: A team of five staff, Bhumika Pradhan, Sujata Lepcha, Binita Mothay, Babita BK and Bhim Mainali, had an opportunity of attending a three day training on counselling skills from 22-24 February at WAASTA, Siliguri. Ms Taru Lahdemaki from Helsinki, Finland, was the resource person for the training. She has been working as a qualified Counsellor for the past six years and has worked in Asian countries like Cambodia. The skills we learnt during these days could help us to a great extent in our work at Hayden Hall. Moreover, the training has helped us develop our own selves and our skills.

ICDS Meeting: On 16 February the staff met with the ICDS at Hayden Hall. There were more than 70 workers and helpers together with 4 supervisors and the CDPO. The CDPO said that collaboration is much needed as both of us work in the same field and if we support each other surely we will be able to bring about a change in the community. She also said that if our community health workers find any case of domestic violence, malnutrition, and child abuse, they can always inform the Anganwadi Workers who would report to the CDPO and immediate help could be given. At the end of the meeting Mrs Binita Mothay raised the question about how the two could collaborate. She said that it did not need to be answered on that day, that all could keep thinking about it.

International Women's Day 2018

"Women are the largest untapped reservoir in the World", Hillary Clinton

International Women's Day, 8 March, is a global day celebrating womanhood and achievements of women in every sphere of life. This day also marks as a call for gender parity. This year the theme for the day was "Press for Progress". We celebrated International Women's Day at Chowrasta with over 700 women from the ICDS, SHG, mothers from our programme and the local NGOs.

अन्तरराष्ट्रिय नारी दिवसको मञ्चबाट उठ्यो

नारी सशक्तिकरण अनि समान अधिकारको माग

दार्जीलिङ, ८ मार्च (निसें): अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय नारी दिवसको मञ्चबाट नारी सशक्तिकरण अनि समान अधिकारको माग उठान गरियो। दार्जीलिङ नगरपालिकाको अध्यक्ष पदमा प्रथमचोटि एक नारी चयन भएको तथा स्थानीय नारीहरूले विविध क्षेत्रहरूमा प्रगति गर्दै आइरहेकोमा नारीहरूले गर्व महसूस गरे। दार्जीलिङको एक प्रतिष्ठित संस्था हेडन हलको तत्वावधानमा आईसीडीएस, एसएचजी, एनजीओ अनि विविध सघ-संस्थाहरूको संयुक्ततामा यहाँको चौरास्तामा आयोजित अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय नारी दिवस समारोहमा नारी विशेष कार्यक्रमसँगै स्वच्छ भारत अभियान, मानव तस्करी अनि नारी तथा छोरी उत्पीडनबारे सन्देश दिइयो।

हेडन हलबाट निकालिएको नारीहरूको मौन न्यालीले क्लब साइड, रोबर्टसन रोड, चौरास्ता रोड, गोर्खा रङ्गमञ्च भवन हुँदै चौरास्ता पुगेर समारोहमा परिणत भयो। न्यालीमा सहभागी नारीहरूले नारी अधिकार अनि महत्त्वबारे उल्लिखित प्लाकार्डहरू प्रदर्शन गरेका थिए। साउथ फिन्ड कलेजका विद्यार्थीहरू, दार्जीलिङ साइनका बाल कलाकार अनि



चौरास्तामा आयोजित नारी दिवस समारोहमा उपस्थित नारीहरू। फोटो : दर्पण

सिलगढीका नृत्याङ्गनाहरूको रंगारंग कार्यक्रमबीच स्वच्छ भारत अभियानमाथि भानु-पाला टोलीद्वारा मञ्चन गरिएको छोटो नाटकले समारोहमा थप रौनकता ल्यायो।

मुख्य अतिथिका रूपमा उपस्थित दार्जीलिङ नगरपालिका अध्यक्ष प्रतिभा राईले छोरीचेलीमाथि हुने


शारीरिक उत्पीडनको घटना कम भएर जानु पर्ने तथा यस्ता उत्पीडनका पीडिताहरूलाई नयाँ जीवन दिलाउन मनोवैज्ञानिक विशेषज्ञहरूको टोली गठन गरिनुपर्ने सरकार अनि गैरसरकारी संस्थाहरूलाई अपील गरिन्। उनले भनिन्, पुरुषहरूको सफलताको पछि नारीहरूको हात रहेजस्तै नारीहरूको

सफलताको पछि पुरुषहरूको हात रहेको हुन्छ। पुरुषहरूसित नारीहरूको कुनै प्रकारको प्रतिस्पर्धा छैन। नारी सशक्तिकरण अनि समान अधिकारका साथ पुरुषहरूसँगै हातेमालो गरेर वर्तमान नारीहरू अघि बढ्न चाहन्छन्। आयोजक पक्षबाट हेडन हलका राधा कार्कीले पनि नारीहरूलाई

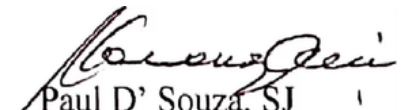
सम्बोधन गर्दै वर्षमा एक दिन नारी दिवस पालन गरिनुको उद्देश्यबारे बताइन्। समाजमा दुःख-पीडा भोग्ने, भेदभावमा पर्ने नारीहरूमा पनि पुरुषहरू जस्तै सामर्थ्य रहेको उनले बताइन्। नारीहरूको घरको कार्यको कुनै मूल्याङ्कन नहुने मत राख्दै, वर्तमान समयमा नारीहरूको अवस्था सय वर्षअघि जस्तो नरहे तापनि पुरुषहरूको तुलनामा नारीहरू दुइ सय वर्ष पछाडि नै रहेको लगायत प्रत्येक क्षेत्रमा नारीहरूको भूमिका महत्त्वपूर्ण रहने भएकाले उक्त योगदानको सही मूल्याङ्कन हुनुपर्ने उनले जोर दिइन्।

प्रतिष्ठित साहित्यकार दिवागत इन्द्रबहादुर राईको निधनप्रति एक मिनटको मौन धारन गरिएको कार्यक्रममा एआईडब्ल्यूसीका मूलसचिवा गृणकेसरी प्रधान, आईसीडीएस निरीक्षक डा. नितु शर्मा, रीना राया आदि अतिथिहरूका रूपमा उपस्थित थिए। कार्यक्रममा आईसीडीएसको महत्त्वबारे कर्मचारीहरूले नाटकद्वारा बुझाइयो भने स्वनिर्भर दलको पक्षबाट गायत्री थापाले हाल जिल्लामा स्वनिर्भर दलहरूसित ३८ हजार नारीहरूसलन रहेको जानकारी दिइन्।

Ms Prativa Rai, Chairwoman of Darjeeling Municipality, presided over the function as the chief guest. There were many other guests too, the supervisors of the ICDS, District Programme coordinators from the District Rural Development Cell, and representatives from the Inner Wheel, Presidents & Secretaries of the ama samaj's of the two catholic parishes. Women's Day gave us an opportunity to bring together all the women of Darjeeling engaged in working for the empowerment of women. International Women's Day celebration became a platform for women to speak about their rights and to be informed about government schemes that have been there to "press" for change leading to progress.


Wilfred Lobo, SJ

President


Paul D' Souza, SJ

Secretary