



FAITH FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013- 2014

The Journey

It was a dream of four young women to address and change the situation of vulnerable women and children in their communities. The realisation of their dreams and their calling became their purpose in life. Passion driven experiences pushed it further. It led them to abandon their safe and comfortable spaces and thus, this was how Faith Foundation was conceived by Maniung Niangti, Darhmingliani Hloncheu, Barida Laloo and Shannon Massar

A dream turned into a reality when Maniung Niangti, one of the co-founders received an award from Bosco Institute. The award in the form of seed funding helped them to kick start the organisation. It motivated them as an organisation to move further. The first step they were able to take is to set up their working office space. The next step was officially inaugurate the organisation with the blessings of their well-wishers and loved ones. The Youth Involve Award opened many doors. It was a boost to their morale; it was a source to their motivation and there has been no turning back. The first year of their journey was a year of planning, building strategies, testing, making mistakes and learning with fresh experiences. It was also a year of building and strengthening their connection within the organisation and with others. It brought pain and joy but in the end it was all worth the risk taken to build this organisation.

FAITH FOUNDATION: *Background*

Faith Foundation was registered on the **3rd of April 2013** under the ***Meghalaya Societies Registration Act XII of 1983 (No E.16/5 of 2013/24)***. The organisation is driven by their extensive experiences in the social development sector and their local understandings of vulnerable and exploited communities. Their programs are interventionist and are designed to bridge the gaps which have thus far been overlooked by other organizations. Faith Foundation aims to bring new strategies to the intervention model and does not replicate what existing programs and services provide.

VISION: *RESTORE – RECONNECT – EMPOWER - FREEDOM*

Aims and Objectives:

- To empower marginalized young girls and women and reduce their risk and vulnerability to substance abuse, sexual abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation and HIV AIDS.
- To work on preventive strategies and address root causes of the issues.
- To provide services that aims at the holistic development of the individual through economic, psychosocial and legal support.
- To build strong networks and linkages and engage local leaders and members in the communities, government bodies, NGO service providers and law enforcement agencies in addressing the issue.
- To support advocacy in terms of policy and legal reforms.
- To conduct Rights Based and Participatory programs.
- To conduct Research work
- To set up a sustainable social enterprise

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST YEAR

First Case Intervention

This is a story of two sisters age 10 and 7 who were separated when their parents separated. The elder sister was living with the father and the younger sister with the mother. When their mother died, the custody of the younger sister was given illegally to a woman who is an acquaintance of the mother. After a year of their mother's death, the elder sister was kidnapped and illegally detained for a night by the same woman who had the custody of the younger sister. The girl was brought back; the father feared the life of his daughters sought the help of the organisation. Many suspects this woman to be a trafficker and it is unsafe for both the children. Faith Foundation along with a community based organisation *Shishu Shiksha Ghar* intervened in the case of these sisters who were at risk of being trafficked. The woman was arrested and both the sisters were placed in the safe custody of a Government run Shelter Home temporarily. These children would not be safe and there would be no future if they were handed over to the father because of his economic condition and the unsafe community where they lived. With the consent of the father, these sisters are now placed at children's home under the legal provisions of the JJ ACT. They are back in school and their future looks bright. Faith Foundation continually follows up with these children.

"International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking"

Faith Foundation celebrated *International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking* on the 26th of June 2013 in collaboration with the social work department of St Edmunds College in their campus. The program included a talk on the issue of drug abuse and the effects and consequences of drug abuse. A comics art competition was conducted on this theme and the competition was judge by a panel that consist of an artist, a faculty and an individual from the social development sector. The students of the social work department also prepared street plays and demonstrations were made at public places at Bara Bazaar, Motphran and Don Bosco Square Laitumkhrah.

"Voices of Recovery"

The Organization in cooperation with the Shillong Alcoholic Anonymous fellowship (AA) organized a two day program called Voices of recovery. The first day was an awareness program on the disease of Addiction, co-dependency and the hidden reality of Alcoholic/Addict women. The participants were college students, friends, families, NGO, rehabilitation centers, AA, Narcotics Anonymous (NA), AI-Anon members and new comers. The second day was on a complete recovery program only for AA/NA members and people who were still using and drinking, to celebrate their Sobriety, their recovery, to pass on the message that addicts do recover and to attract new comers to recovery and Sobriety.

"Life Skills cum Quilt Making Workshop"

The organisation conducted a pilot program on life skills and quilt making workshop for two weeks with adolescent girls (26th August – 6th September 2013). The girls were school drop outs and came from high risk communities and were at risk to a host of exploitative practices: sexual abuse, early child marriage, teenage pregnancy and the flesh trade. This program was sponsored by "Youth Empowerment Space" an initiative by Fr Jerry Thomas, Director of Bosco Institute, Jorhat. Through this program needs and problems of the girls were identified and with the involvement of the girls the organisation was able to plan for long term. The organisation still continues to conducts life skills and other workshops with the girls once a week and it plans to reach out to more girls and extend the program to other communities.

Overview of Activities 2013 - 2014

Faith Foundation presently works on prevention. However it also provides direct intervention services. The first year the organisation built networks with schools, communities, Child care Institutions, Social Work colleges community based and national NGO's, Alcoholic Anonymous fellowship, hospitals, police department, government bodies like the social welfare department, agriculture department and the child welfare committee. The organisation extends its services and programs via the linkages and networks built in line with their area of expertise in related areas. The organisation also runs a centre and counsels women who are in recovery from addiction as well as those who are co-dependants of the disease of addiction.

ISSUES/THEMES	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION	TARGET GROUP
Human Trafficking	Awareness program organised by the NGO "National Domestic Workers Association Movement"	Women who are migrant domestic workers.
	Awareness and training program organised by organisation Shishu Shiksha Ghar, an organisation working on education.	Teachers of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan School of the organisation.
	Awareness program organised by the Social Work students of St. Edmunds College at Anjali community	Parents and community members.
	Awareness program at St Margaret girls School	School children of classes 8 – 12.
Child Sexual Abuse/ Personal Safety Education Program- It is a school-based curriculum that empowers children to participate in their own protection. It provides age appropriate information and language. It is a personal body safety program for children and designed through the GOOD TOUCH/ BAD TOUCH concept.	Awareness on child sexual abuse and orientation on the personal safety education for children at St Margaret's girl's school.	Parents of primary school children along with the teachers of the school.
	Awareness/ sensitisation program on Child Sexual Abuse. Training on Personal Safety Education Program. This was organised by the interns of the college placed with the organisation.	Social work students
	Conducted a Personal Safety Education Program organised by SOS Children's Village under their Family strengthening program.	Adolescent group girls from the village.
	Awareness program on Child Sexual abuse and personal safety education organised by SOS Children's Village under their Family strengthening program	Self-help women group at the village whose children are also beneficiaries of the Family Strengthening Program.
	Awareness program on the issue of child sexual abuse at Bosco Institute Jorhat	Master students of Social work.
Substance Abuse	Awareness program at St Margaret's Girl's school.	School children of classes 8 – 12.
	Awareness program at SOS Children's Village	Children of the SOS village
	Awareness on the disease of addiction/alcoholism and co-dependency in collaboration with AA fellowship.	Community at Sohra.
	Awareness program organised by the SOS children's village under the Family Strengthening program	Youth from the community of Mawlyndep village.
HIV AIDS	Awareness/ sensitisation program on HIV AIDS and Stigma and Discrimination at Sein Jaintia School	Class 10 students (girls and boys)
	Awareness/ sensitisation program on HIV AIDS and Stigma and Discrimination at SOS Children's Village	Children (girls and boys)
HIV AIDS, substance abuse, human trafficking and personal safety education program (a child sexual prevention program)	A meeting/ awareness and orientation program was organised at Don Bosco youth centre. The aim was to network and look for possibilities of working together and to include our programs in their school schedule.	Principals and teachers, care takers and care givers of child care institutions

STAFF DEVELOPMENT –

- ❖ Staff members attended a program on substance abuse- organised by the Alcoholic Anonymous fellowship, Shillong.
- ❖ Darhmingliani Hloncheu and Maniung Niangti attended the Narcotic Anonymous Convention at Dimapur, Nagaland.
- ❖ Maniung Niangti and Darhmingliani Hloncheu attended a one month Basic Certificate course on Substance Abuse prevention organised by the Regional Resource Training Centre Kohima Nagaland.
- ❖ Katia Chakre and Maniung Niangti attended a Basic Counselling workshop organised by Bosco Institute Jorhat, Resource person – Dr. Barbara clinical psychologist, Austria.
- ❖ Katia Chakre attended the Workshop 'Get Real' by Pravah at Bosco Institute, Jorhat.
- ❖ Maniung Niangti attended the Unmanifesto campaign organised by the Community Youth Collective at Guwahati.
- ❖ Maniung Niangti and Shannon Massar attended a meeting and interaction session with organisation "Journey With Meaning" at Shillong with the youth from different parts of India involved in this program.
- ❖ Katia Chakre attended a workshop on 'Entrepreneurship' at Bosco Institute, Jorhat.
- ❖ Maniung Niangti became a part of the "Changelooms" fellowship program, an initiative by Pravah organisation Delhi.

Profiles of the Founders of Faith Foundation

Mrs Shannon Dona Massar has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, and a Masters in Social Work from SNDT University, Mumbai. She has worked with several reputable NGOs in Mumbai like Justice & Care, Save the Children India, SOSVA under the Aastha Project of Family Health International and has extensive experience in the field of trafficking in rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration and HIV AIDS. She has taught in the Social Work Department at Martin Luther Christian University in Shillong, Meghalaya and worked as Program Manager of State Child Protection Society under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

Ms Darhmingliani Hloncheu has a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from North Eastern Hill University Shillong. She has work experience with an organisation called North East India Drugs and AIDS care in the management of administration, accounts and programs.

Ms Maniung Niangti has Bachelors in Hospital Management from West Bengal University and a Masters in Social Work from Bosco Institute, Jorhat. She has worked in reputable hospitals name Global Hospitals Hyderabad, Nazareth Hospital and Higher Power Foundation Bangalore. She has experience in the field of Counseling and management of substance abuse programs.

Mrs Barida Laloo has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from North Eastern Hill University and a Masters in Social Work from Mangalore University. She has experience in the field of HIV AIDS while working with North East India Drugs and AIDS care. She has also taught in the Social Work Department in Women's College Shillong.