

*“The act of Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.”*

Dearest Maussi Gerry, Uncle Leo and Sam,

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

Much love and greetings from Sisters of St Joseph Sevika of Nandanagar.

Here we come with grateful heart to express our live experience amongst us, loving Thea Didi, the representative from Dutch Foundation and Robert bro the great facilitator and motivator.

As per scheduled plan with WhatsApp, emails and zoom calls once again they could successfully fix to visit together along us, to see and bring new interventions in our mission to keep sustainable, alive and active with creative techniques methods of reaching out to the poor and needy peoples.



On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at 8:30 am Saturday they landed to India and then to Indore, Nandanagar. Due to longer root by train travelling, we began our journey same day afternoon for Ponkodihi, Odisha. For the follow up of the previous plan that was designed for its direct observation, monitoring and guiding further.



On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Sunday at 8:45 pm reached Ponkodihi mission. Next day on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Monday as per pre-plan visit we had short preparatory meetings followed by presentation on shift from Solar lamp to Solar pump with panel by Sr. Urmila Tigga. Then we proceeded for the field visit at Tirlakocha village

where farmers say thanks to the solar pump for the irrigation. It was nice welcome by farmers along with their families showed their expression of gratefulness, openness and happiness for the new practices of agriculture.



After the observation of the location and the pumps we had nice interaction with the farmers. They showed their curiosity in learning sitting under the tree in scorching hit in the noon. Thea Didi and Robert bro facilitated them by asking

questions on their shared experiences, impacts, record keeping on expenses and results and calculations of extra revenues credit to the solar pump. And he introduced them new ideas and



techniques on irrigation, water storing, systematic pipe lines and green house for seedlings. There Sr. Sushma Toppo also reminded them for organic fertilizers and vermin compost for the healthy crops.

Thereafter, we had presentation on impact of uses of solar lamp in education for children at home after the sunset, utilization of lamp by mothers and others at home presented by Sr. Urmila.





Then we visited some children's family for the evaluation of the children who have lamp at home and not in the boarding to know the difference in their progress.

The day went well new with ideas and new approaches for the development. Credit to the solar lamp having light



had shifted from lamp light to panel pump for the irrigation.

14<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Tuesday was great achievement day for us through the kind support and help by Dutch Foundation. Day of inauguration of the boarding for girls and vocational training centre for the multi developmental activities in the presence of Thea Didi and Robert bro and blessing by Bishop Kishore



Kumar Kujur, Bishop of Rourkela Diocese, Sr. Ansumala Kerketta SJS Superior General of St Joseph Sevika Sanstha. Day was indeed to rejoice and be glad in gratitude for the success Inspite of the pandemic of covid-19.

Followed by colorful cultural program and meal for everyone who witnessed the ceremony. Tribal dance by youth and children was the inspiration to facilitate more on skill development by directly asking them of their interests and choices that they wish to learn from the centre. All women, youth and children were part of it and could tell that they think about.

On that occasion not only catholic people were part of but all irrespective of caste and religion. Few ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) in the community who creates awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning with health practices also were there to present their views and so we had beautiful conversation with them amidst hectic schedules.



The day was a day of blessings and day of thankfulness towards the contribution for the development of the mission in Ponkodihi to our beloved members of Dutch Foundation. It was possible just because of your kindness because it's said that "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." And so tree has already spreaded to give

opportunity for the skill development through various practical trainings that could give very next day impacts.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June Wednesday we moved towards a village called Kusumdihi where we have begun the sanitation project and piloted for the solar pump for the irrigation. And that 5 brothers became leading farmers to motivate many more farmers because of their extra crops, horticulture and in growing seasonal vegetables commercially.

At first we met a leading farmer name Mr. Sudhir Toppo who has planted 250 fruit trees (mango, guava, cashew, lemon and a medicinal tree) in 2.5 acres of land and expects within 3-5 years he would be earning extra revenues from the same.





After having practical dialogue with him we also have seen the latrine built in the same village and spoken to them of its impacts in their life, health, family and in the society.

And then we addressed the gathered villagers all men, women, youth and children based on their challenges they face with regards of adoption of the advance agriculture for the extra crops. They said wild elephants, marketing and water scarcity are the main challenges.

Robert bro and Thea Didi presented their views and Sr. Emilia and Sr.Susana tried to speak to them in their local language one by one. For the elephants it was suggested;

- To go for rotational guard ship of the village
- Bee farming for dual purpose, indirectly chasing as well as honey collecting
- Public hearing as a community with proper applications, photos for public support

Marketing;

- Cultivation in varieties of vegetables or fruits
- Research in the market for the most public demands in different seasons
- Marketing contacts with dealers/supplier/sellers
- Collective planning for transportation to the city market for the high values

Water problem;

- Learn from the ideal farmer Mr. Sudhir Toppo by approaching to the government schemes for bore well, solar panel-pump for the irrigation when they fall under the provisions
- New pipe lines putting is on the process for the water supply from the municipality
- As a farmer group write application and present in the respective department and be persevere for follow up until then you get it

Asked general opinion about the vocational training centre at Ponkodihi, they were positive about their growth through the centre. Life skill development would be the best opportunity with regard to advance agriculture, horticulture, intercrops cultivations and marketing to earn extra profit from the field.

After listening to us 3 more farmers from the village were motivated to follow the process for extra revenues; namely Nuas Xess, Elias and Silbirius

Then saw impacts on solar pump for irrigation of brother of Mr. Joseph was great. All 3 brothers do



cultivation pumping through solar pump. They cultivate seasonal vegetables and fruit trees gain extra income for the wedding, health care.

On the way back we also saw and spoke of beneficiaries of latrine. It was nice so many people in the family are



using that and are safe from general sickness.

As we returned back to Ponkodihi house we saw fashion designing trainees and trainers impacts during 3 months of learning. All 10 trainees were happy and wants to continue in the same field by getting orders and working in the centre.

They have learned color combination, immediate repairs of machines, 5 designs blouse, jhabla, baby frocks, petticoats, salwer-suits, kurta-payjama, hand bags, mobile purse in designs, crafts, knitting and many others drafting, cutting and stitching with proper finishing.



Thea Didi and Robert bro brain stormed on sustainability of their learned skills such as;

- Marketing and branding of their stitched product
- Continuity of the work by regular practice
- Self-dependency
- Linkages with govt schemes for machine to have at home individually
- They can be supported for machine with people building approach of 50% of repayment of the total cost

Afternoon we had together visit of boarding with observation of things which is existing and lacking for the better function and self-learning through visible pictures. Followed by brain storming on vocational training program to be conducted priorotically by Robert bro.

- Mushroom farming commercially in 3 different mission stations (Sr.Sushma Toppo would identify, motivate and train them for the same)
- For a SHG group application is submitted but not yet approved

3 vocational training needed based on observation, meeting and talking with people

| Criteria               | Subjects/topics   | Members suggestions  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Life Skill development | Marketing (fashion designing)   | Sr. Urmila, Sr.Suchita, Sr.Ansumala                                      |
|                        | Computer basic  | Sr.Urmila, Sr.Mariam   |
|                        | Coaching language for 10 & 12 grade   | Sr.Suchita, Sr.Mariam  |
|                        | ITI (Mobile, solar lamp, pump, electronic repairing etc)  | Sr.Suchita, Sr.Sushma, Sr.Emilia, Sr.Susana, Robert bro, Sr.Sushila Tete |
|                        | Awareness on marriage to adult boys and girls   | Sr.Mariam, Sr.Ansumala   |
|                        | Agriculture (Marketing, intercrops, quality production, record keeping for calculation of extra revenues) | Sr.Sushma, Sr.Ansumala, Sr.Susana, Robert bro., Sr.Sushila               |
|                        | Quality production for business   | Sr.Emilia, Sr.Susana   |
|                        | Career guidance to select interested line   | Sr.Emilia, Sr.Susana, Sr.Sushila   |
|                        | Mother and child care   | Thea Didi  |
|                        | Nutrition(1000 days program)  | Thea Didi, Robert bro  |
|                        | Need based program  | Thea Didi, Sr.Susana   |

Next brain storm query was

Who will give the training?

Vocational training for driving, computer and nursing, plumbing, carpentry could be linked with SVDs Fr.Petrus Kullu (Upaya, Ramabahal)

Agriculture training by Sr.Sushma Toppo

ITI could be by Mr.Bikas from Nuagaon

Likewise, day ended with very much enriching experiences.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Thursday there was 3 programs

- Meeting with a leading farmer for turmeric by Robert bro, Sr.Urmila and Sr.Suchita
- Meeting in a village Tamda toll by Thea Didi, Sr.Emilia, Sr.Sushma, Robert bro, and Sr. Urmila
- Management with summer camp by Sr.Kiran Angela and Sr.Susana



All managed well by respective team then conclusion of summer camps by all.

Meeting with a ASHA worker.

Just after lunch meeting with agriculture departments.(Mr. Satyanarayan and Mr.Devendra)

Then left for Nuagaon reached in the evening so didn't work.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Friday began with outside visit of the play school, livestock, ponds and agricultural field.

Then presentation on community activities and on play school activities by Sr. Asren, Sr. Mukta, and Sr. Kiran Soreng based on holistic approach.



Well prepared and presented through power point was appreciated by all.

Then Robert bro summarized the content with brief explanation by using the whiteboard with draft. All understood the concept and had discussed about its future

plan was to develop the school.

We focussed on holistic approach of education through the play school Nuagaon.

Child :

- part of family
- pre-nursery
- change agent
  - nutrition
  - hygiene
  - life skill
- nutrition
- peer groups-teacher
- saving account-micro-finance 2% of net profit
- exchange of ideas and methods having evaluation and tender corrections



Challenge to be overcome was to have better infrastructure of the set-up of the school and ground and visible learning through paintings and an advance playground for holistic growth of children, youth, farmers, women and the community.

Sanna – education and nutrition through school and boarding school



From Nuagaon travelled to Sanna mission reached there in the evening, after dinner we had discussion on Sanna School. Sr. Kiran Kullu presented brief report on progress of school narrating from the historical development every year since then.

Based on reports our eyes were on the strength of the school after 6<sup>th</sup> grade reduced every year due to inconvenient for boys' accommodation as per government instructions.

Solutions we sort out that;

- One could be of transportation facility piloting for a year and expenses could be sponsored by Dutch Foundation
- The other alternative possibility was to approach to priest at Sarai tolly where priests have accommodation for boys and from there transportation facility to be made. For which community sisters are given homework to have dialogue about it.

Sisters were given thoughts to think about it response to the suggestions.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, on Saturday the day began with opening ceremony of the school in creative ways, welcoming to the new students by lighting the lamp, opening speech by principal Sr. Kiran and welcome dance by students and teachers.

Sr. Emilia, Thea Didi and Robert bro were given opportunity to address the gathering and present their views for the school and children.

Main points for the encouragement and development were from;

- Children are future pillars



- Children future is in their hands
- Quality education would improve standard of living
- Better job opportunity with different life skills

As we, facilitated Thea Didi asked what could be the most needed equipment's for them that is lacking in their effective mode of education

- Thea Didi's compliment on school was "I had heard about it, seen through some photos' but now I am proud of seeing the progress of the school and happy of being part of inaugural ceremony for this academic year 2022-23."
- A 10<sup>th</sup> grade student responded immediately was advance technology for studying like smart board, computer lab, advance science labs, standard library and more of playing

equipment's.

- Thea Didi responded to it that yes she would present the ideas to the Dutch Foundation and after hostel and school building is ready they would think about it. Since it was her interest and choice to visit Sanna school for an example for other mission stations.



Since we didn't visit Madhwa mission station sisters were there to see and present their community activities reports based on boarding school.

It was nice meeting together with Sr. Miliani and Sr. Ursula Kerketta. Sr. Sudha helped them presenting reports and had discussion on the same.

Boarding school could be learned from any other mission stations and more focus was agriculture. They are given suggestion to motivate 5 farmers a group to take government schemes benefit through solar pump for irrigation, record keeping practices like in Ponkodihi through the help of Sr. Sushma and Sr. Vimla Kujur.

Intercropping, drip irrigation and fruit plants by using solar pump and panels. Expenses could be divided into 1/3 for each Dutch Foundation/ Wilde Ganzen and SJS. For us sisters' suggestion is, if we try to get from govt with subsidy with our motivation could be our contribution.

Then we continued at Sanna school and boarding observation together as a team with Thea Didi, Robert bro and all sisters. Suggestions after side seen were;

- Painting in the wall like Palia school
- Pillar in the mid of the class room obstacle for student concentration
- Appropriate playground equipment's
- Could be adopted like a Ponkodihi vocational school for model learning
- And many others

Thereafter we sat for the presentation on expansion of boarding school presented by Sr. Basanti lakra then the same discussions on boys accommodation.

We came to conclusion that let sisters take initiative to ask priests from Sarai Tolly and Bishops of Kunkuri regarding the same and get written permission for the extending of school and boarding and its alternative options.

And so the day was great to experience His providence amidst us with enriching experiences.



20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Sunday we had mass then short welcome by parishners and also little discussion on education school in Sanna and on advance agriculture practices. People seems to be happy and curious of learning different skills for the agriculture for the extra revenues.

We supposed to be back from Jharsugda but due to cancellation of train we travelled by car to Bilaspur and there to Bargaon arrived by 8:15 am.

Power point presentation was well prepared by Sr. Anita Balone, one for community activity and other for the proposal on mother and child care based on 1000 days' holistic approach.

We had nice discussion on the above topic with much interests.

Same night we had dinner at Sagda mission at Jabalpur near to the railway station then travelled back for Indore by train.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June back to Nandanagar, Indore.

Visited hospital St Francis by Thea Didi and Robert bro along with Sr. Ansumala Kerketta the Superior General of SJS.





On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 Tuesday we supposed to go Deshgaon but due to hectic schedule cancelled and visited Palia solar pump for irrigation.

Before we begin our day we planned for the day and for the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with all leading members of sjs. Then we moved for the farm visit.

There first we had little bit discussion on farming practices, record keeping and report presentation by Sr. Asha with Sr.

Gloria and Sr. Aloisia and moved out to the field to see solar panel and pump for irrigation together. There tried to understand its utility, underground pipe connections and irrigation pond which needs repair. We moved up-to the barn, saw the livestock, observed the boundary and its urgent needs. And back to centre by 2:30 pm.



On 24<sup>th</sup> June as per scheduled we had meeting for selected members of the different departments. We began by 8:15am in the hall by invoking the power of the Lord. Sr.Ansumala briefly introduced and welcomed everyone gathered. The first half of the session was on presentation.



On summer camp presented by Sr.Suchita for Ponkodihi and from Nandanagar Sr.Birtila. Again on saving account for education at Ponkodihi presented by Sr.Suchita followed by Sr. Sushma and Sr.Vimla on health and education.

After tea break Sr. Asha presented for all the communities reports through power point presentation.

We had break for the lunch and then by 2:00 pm session taken by Robert bro with his brain storming and motivating talks based on summarization of our mission station visit and preparation for the concrete action points. It was very nice session. He began with a short video on Olympic flop show on high jump in an innovative way to score higher and win.

Building your own future focusing on strength of our organization. He began with revision of plans of 2019 with regard to education, health, nutrition and agriculture.

As we moved dealt by each main components;

### **Agriculture**

- Innovation in irrigation (solar panel + pump) highlighting on better crops, more cycles & varieties of farming for extra revenue. (Tirlakocha, Kusumdihi, Palia, Bhopal)
- Challenges has to be experimented as per guidance given to them while having meeting
  - o Public hearing
  - o Chilly paper, bee farming
  - o Bright lights
  - o Strong and loud noise
  - o Mark the territory with elephant's urine
  - o Strong fencing and rotational guards at night etc.



- Cash crops in Madhwa with five selected farmers who are interested, have water sources like intercropping with fruit trees like mango, pears, lychee, cashew, brinjal, tomato, potatoes and onion etc.
- Responsible person for action point is Sr. Vimla, Sr.Sushma and Sr.Miliani for Madhwa
- Responsible person action point is Sr.Urmila, Sr.Sushila, Sr.Suchita and Sr.Sushma for Ponkodihi (Tirlakocha-vegetable, green house, Kusumdihi-horticulture, Tamra tolly-berry)
- Sr.Aloisia, Sr.Gloria, Sr.Sushma and Sr.Asha for Palia farm (irrigation pond repairing and more cycle cultivation)
- Sr.Nirmala, Sr.Sushma and Sr.Asha for Kalkheda (more cycle cultivation)
- Sr.Anima, Sr.Luisa and Sr.Asha for Deshgaon (more cycle cultivation)

Emerging farmers expected to practice as follows;

- Different than before
- Technology, machines
- Latest farming practices
- Record keeping
- Business calculation

## Health and hygiene

Latrine in Kusumdihi

- 15 latrines in the village Kusumdihi is ready for use
- Boys are trained to build
- Repayment schemes on total costs
- Water supply pipeline is under construction by municipality Odisha

The scheme replicated for Madhwa, Janakpur and Gopinathpur by August 2022

- Responsible per for action point as follows
  - Madhwa – Sr Vilma and Sr.Miliani Aind
  - Janakpur- Sr.Vimla Kujur
  - Gopinathpur – Sr.Suchita Kerketta

## Education

Holistic education

Child is ;

- A change agent for the family
- Update of teaching methods & curriculum
- Nutrition meals and education also for parents
- Saving account for higher education
- Appropriate jobs and its perspective
- Playground and equipment's
- Pre-nursery improves good results

Action points;

Play-ground & equipment for Nuagaon – thanks to Dutch foundation for donation and so Nuagaon is asked to prepare appropriate proposal with estimated budget by Sr.Mukta, Sr.Kiran and Sr.Emilia

For higher education saving account would be introduced for students with finding partners for initial supports. (playground equipment, picture painting in the school wall)

### **For improving teaching methods; (internal & external)**

Responsible person for Palia school – Sr.Premsheela Nanda and Sr.Assunta

For Sanna school – Sr.Kiran Kullu, Sr.Sudha and Sr. Suchita

For Sanna boarding school – Sr. Basanti Lakra, Sr.Kiran Kullu, Sr.Sudha and Sr. Suchita  
(transportation for boys, playground equipment, picture painting in the school wall)

For Ponkodihi boarding school – Sr. Urmila, Sr.Sushila and Sr.Suchita

### **Vocational training**

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| ○ Teacher     | ○ Professor       |
| ○ Nurse       | ○ Doctor          |
| ○ Nun         | ○ Hockey champion |
| ○ Priests     | ○ Scientist       |
| ○ Agriculture | ○ Accounting      |
| ○ Engineer    | ○ Banking         |
| ○ Police      | ○ Making websites |

Would be conducted in different missions on need based.

### **Agriculture** (initial trainer could be Sr.Sushma Toppo)

- Marketing
- Technical; cultivation, intercropping, seed testing, safe production, vermi composting
- Record keeping (calculation of expenses and income) by Sr.Asha

### **Electronic/engineering** (initial trainer could be Mr.Vikas from Nuagaon)

- Mobile phone repair
- Solar lamp, panel/pump repair
- IT

### **Stitching** (Sr.Sushila, Sr.Urmila, Sr.Suchita and Sr.Carmela)

- Business setup idea

### **Life skills & generic skills**

- Personal hygiene and nutrition, mother and child care – a nurse sister with govt. associations
- Motivational training for youth to shape their life, career guidance
- How to act in the family, build a living- what to learn and study
- For drop out girls how to protect themselves, awareness
- Basic computers class
- English language

### **Nutrition (1000 days' approach at Bargaon)**

Pilot for 4 villages, 50-80 children with the collaboration of village leaders, village health workers and Early Child Care Centre's teachers and helpers.

Proposal would be prepared by Sr. Anita Balone and Sr. Suchita.

And now, thank you very much for sending highly experienced and enlightened personnel for visiting to us at the grass-root level for our upbringing. As you know, this humble root has major impact on women and children, youth and farmers.

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling of following of that impulse. It's your kindness like a passport that opens the doors and fashions friends. It softens hearts and molds relationships that can last lifetimes as we continue serving for the needy and less privileged people.

The Dutch Foundation is the backbone and living source for SJS, with you the members of Dutch Foundation everything possible for us. We feel very proud for being part of our mother donor not only in finance but in all means and sources, that we sustain and become independent as we help others to help themselves.

The concept donation from investment began in Ponkodihi in the year 2019, is slowly positive infecting from mission to mission. We hope and persevere to apply in all mission stations one by one with clear conceptual understanding.

It was indeed our privilege to journey together with efficient persons of Thea Didi and Robert which helped us deepening our knowledge, to gain different perspective for mission needs, to newly intervene the ideas and techniques to influence the human needs for its sustainable growth. It was like our learning exposure.

Hence, at last big thanks to Sr. Ansumala Kerketta and her General Council for creating an opportunity for being united with each other and coordinating together for the greater goal. Also thanks for planning well systematically to move with social work team members.

Note:

Two points we could not discuss were;

1. Regarding Assam project
2. Printing newsletter or magazine in a year

Thank you so much again and again for everything.

Kindness in words creates confidence.

Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.

Kindness in giving creates love.

And so let us bind together to live in love as Christ Loved.

With this thoughts and words of appreciation we remain for here for this time.

Yours sincerely

Sr. Ansumala Kerketta SJS

Superior General Sant Joseph Sevika Sanstha