

## **ABHIYAN NIRAMOY – PHASE I – HEALTH CAMP AT SIKALI CHAPORI & BHAKATI-DUWAR**

<b>DATE</b>	18 to 21 October 2012
<b>ORGANISERS</b>	SRIMANTA FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JORHAT & JORHAT POLICE

- Abhiyan Niramoy, the health camps in both the places viz., Sikali Chapori and Bhakati-duwar with a turnout close to 600 in each of the places (i.e., a total turnout of around 1200 people) was conducted satisfactorily.
- The above turnout of people was examined in a period of around 7 hours in the respective places and as per the feedback of the local people and the doctors this was considered a very good turnout considering earlier experiences. This happened because the nearby villages around the two centers viz., the sub-center at Hutargaon (for Sikali Chapori) and Padmashree High School near Sri Sri Narasimha Sattrra (for Bhakati-duwar) were informed much prior to the camps. In fact lot of preparatory work like visiting the nearby villages and meeting important people to remind them about the camp, making phone calls for the same, setting up the health camp facility, etc were done the previous days of the camps i.e., 18 Oct. at Hutargaon and 20 Oct. at Padmashree High School.
- The patient's examined in both the camps were treated for ailments like general weakness, prevention of anemia, water related skin diseases, viral fever, anti-worm, diarrhea and peptic ulcer syndrome.
- In both the camps there was a sizeable group (say 10 to 15 percent) who came to get their chronic ailments examined like eye problems, blood pressure, nerve related, back pain etc for which we could not give them any medicine, but the doctors told them to get their ailments checked by regular doctors. There were instances also when the doctors had to prescribe medicines which were not available in the camps and the patients were advised to buy the same.

## ABHIYAN NIRAMOY AT A GLANCE AT SIKALI CHAPARI ON 19 OCT.2012

Name of Village	Patient Examined (%)
Hutargaon	217 (40)
Kansa Chapari	84 (16)
Cechuguri	79 (15)
Bilatiya	56 (10)
Rai-ati	42 (08)
Na-mati	13
Maj Chapari	11
Sitaldubi	11
Gopal-chuck	09
Udham-pur	09
Kachikata	02
Bagh-mara	01
Subidha Chapari	01
Dhal-khowa	01
Baghedhara	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>537</b>

Age Group (yrs)	Patient Examined	Total (%)
0 - 9	M – 60	
	F – 40	100 (19)
10 - 18	M – 47	
	F – 34	81 (15)
19 – 40	M – 79	
	F – 180	259 (48)
41 - 60	M – 51	
	F – 34	85 (16)
61 – 70	M – 07	
	F - 02	09
71 & above	M – 02	
	F – 01	03
		<b>537</b>

- The health camp at Sikali Chapori was held in the field adjacent to the Hutargaon Health Sub-Center.
- 40 percent of the patient's turnout was from Hutargaon. This village is spread around half to two kilometers from the sub-center. The next highest turnouts were from Kansa Chapori (16%) and Cechuguri (15%). These villages were at a distance of 2 km and 3 km respectively from the sub-center.
- 48 percent of the patient's were from the age group of 19 to 40 years and the female patient in this age group was double then that of the male who came to be examined. The next big segment was that of the children which was 19 percent. A good 16 percent was from the age group 41 to 60 years.

## ABHIYAN NIRAMOY AT A GLANCE AT BHAKATI-DUWAR ON 21 OCT.2012

Name of Village	Patient Examined (%)
Silikhaguri	157 (27)
Narasimha Sattrra	127 (22)
Bakajan	50 (9)
Mer-bil	46 (8)
Da-dhara	43 (7)
Rangali-bahar	23 (4)
Ashokaguri Da-dhara	21
Bhakati-duwar	19
Abhayapuri	17
Bangal-kata	14
Teliyabari	12
Ouguri Baghpur	12
Sriram Talabari	09
Ratanpur	05
Gosaibari	05
Mudai-bil	03
Mou-bheti	03
Bapusala	02
Milanpur, Gopalpur, Dhakuwa, Mayengiya & Phulani	05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>573</b>

Age Group (yrs)	Patient Examined	Total (%)
0 - 9	M – 39	
	F – 35	74 (13)
10 - 18	M – 37	
	F – 34	71 (12)
19 – 40	M – 80	
	F – 150	230 (40)
41 - 60	M – 72	
	F – 59	131 (23)
61 – 70	M – 22	
	F - 21	43 (8)
71 & above	M – 13	
	F – 11	24
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>573</b>

- The maximum turnouts' from the Bhakati-duwar area were from Silikhaguri (27%) and the Narasimha Sattrra area (22%) which is within a radius of 3 km from the Padmashree High School where the camp was held.
- In Bhakati-duwar also the highest turnout of 40 percent was from the age group of 19 to 40 years and the second highest of 23 percent was from the age group of 41 to 60 years. There was a total turnout of 25 percent for children up to 18 years.

### OBSERVATIONS ON SIKALI CHAPORI

1. One important aspect we discovered at Sikali Chapori was that more than the health of the people, the health of the cattle population, mostly cows and buffaloes were not good. There had been many deaths in this Chapori. In fact just as we were reaching Sikali Chapori, there was a Chapori which is just linked with it and had been a place for fodder to the cows & bullocks. But after the latest bout of flood, the whole Chapori is being denuded with sand and the fodder for the animals is destroyed. In the coming days there will be a shortage for fodder.
2. Sikali Chapori is difficult to access from Nemati or Kamalabari and in the coming days it will become more difficult for the water will recede further.

3. The course of the river keeps changing frequently resulting in change in the Chaporis and the locations to where the boat can be taken closer. This will of course be different for the different size of boats. For example the boat by which we went was a bigger one and hence its maneuverability will be different from that of the boat by which we returned which was a smaller one.
4. I feel that from an administration point of view where time factor becomes very important and more so for the police force, small powered light boats will be very convenient to commute. And today when we have very efficient boats made of fiber, I cannot see any reason why we cannot have such boats.
5. Because of the territorial isolation of Sikali Chapori or for that matter, the other Chaporis in this south western part of Majuli, and the difficulties in understanding the river and the ghats for the administration, they are yet to be brought under the process of developmental plans that are being initiated by the GOA or GOI. This has made such locations places for breeding anti-social elements. Sikali Chapori was once a place where the ULFA was very active, they had training camps, this was around 1995, but now it is not so. But today there are such elements that come, take shelter and loiter around. This have put the villagers also in trouble because the police or the army coming in search of them picks up an innocent youth suspecting them to be these elements. The villagers on the other hand are afraid of such elements and have to play along. They said they are safe with the police for even if they are picked up they will be released once they are found not guilty or they can be released on bail. But with the ULFA or any such bad elements it can be bad.
6. For the VDP's, Sikali Chapori once having earned the name of the haven for ULFA still continues to live with it though there is a doubt about their presence now and in turn because of their staying earlier, today opportunists bad elements are taking advantage of it. And this picture has been prevailing since the last four years from the time a woman ULFA cadre was arrested there.
7. Anyway, for what I could gather in this short stay is that since the govt. & the administration is away from such places such places have become the shelter for bad elements. This have resulted the people from such areas to be deprived from the development process which other villages of Assam are enjoying. With the administration increasing their work in such areas will strengthen the people there and reduce the presence of bad elements there. Further such places could be turned into opportunities and it is here we need involved and responsible heads from the administration for they together with a sincere & committed (very important aspects) NGO's can change such places into opportunities.

## **ABHIYAN NIRAMOY – PHASE II – CATTLE CARE at SIKALI CHAPORI**

<b>DATE</b>	2 NOVEMBER 2012
<b>ORGANISERS</b>	SRIMANTA FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY DEPTT., JORHAT & GOLAGHAT

- The second phase of Abhiyan Niramoy was focused on the cattle population of Sikali Chapori and it was executed on 2 November 2012. This camp was conducted with the support of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department of Jorhat and Golaghat district.
- The total team of 29 members constituted of 8 doctors, 15 para vets and grade IV staff, 2 members from Srimanta Foundation, 2 from Sri Sri Ahotoguri Sattra, Sikali Chapori and 2 volunteers from Dergaon.
- The team started assembling at the Vet Dispensary, Dergaon from 5.45 am. A short meeting was organized where Dr Prasanta Baruah introduced the team to Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, Managing Trustee of Srimanta Foundation who was there to meet the team members. Sjt Mahanta, thanking the officers and doctors of the Vet Deptt. of both the districts spoke very briefly about Srimanta Foundation's efforts and work in Majuli and that this camp was an outcome of the service which the trust considered necessary at this hour for the difficult areas of Majuli. The team in three vehicles along with the medicines was flagged off by Sjt Mahanta at 6.50 am.
- From Dergaon we went via Bahguri Mising gaon and after crossing an iron bridge we embarked upon the embankment to continue our journey to the ghat. This whole stretch via Xalabuwa lam chapori, Sristika gaon, Khakupara (the households were on the embankment), Xadorgaon to Bali Chapori was around 18 km from where we had to again walk some 1 km to the Charai Chapori ghat to board a boat.
- It was around 8 am when we reached Bali Chapori and from there walked for 1 km to board the boat and at 8.43 am we started for Cechuguri ghat. Reached the ghat at 9.15 am and from there we again walked to the Cechuguri M E School where we pitched our first camp, it was 10.05 am then. From this point the members of the team started for their respective destinations (except for Kasikota) in two wheelers as planned. The following were the places, the direction and the distance from Cechuguri.
- Sjt Tarun Ch Goswami along with his brother took the responsibility in arranging the two wheelers and cycles for the doctors to be transported to the respective areas. They also arranged for the food for the whole team.

<b>Places</b>	<b>Directon</b>	<b>Distance</b>
Hutargaon	East	3 km
Bilotiya & Bruha Chapori	South-east	7 km (4 km from Hutar)
Maj Chapori	North	4 km
Kasikota	North-west	7 km

- The team to Kasikota had to go in cycles for there were two small stretches where they had to cross the river by wading.
- A total of 2779 vaccines were implemented in these places and the break-up of the same is Checuguri (536), Maj Chapori (644), Kasikota (97), Bilotiya & Bruha Chapori (544) and Sutar (958). Besides the vaccines medicines like antibiotics, noworm, anti-diarrhea, digestives, for footh and

mouth disease, ointment, turpin oil were distributed. Over and above this 3200 vaccines were given to Gopal Mitras (local trained persons) to be implemented in the Chaporis.

- The camps were closed down at 3.30 pm and the return journey to Cechuguri from the respective places started. We left Cechuguri ghat at 4.50 pm to reach Dergaon at around 7.30 pm.

### **Observations**

1. That for the first time a team of this size went for a health camp and the personnel were from the two neighbouring districts. And because of this the check up could be done in various places of Sikali Chapori thus trying to cover the whole area.
2. In spite of difficult logistics like wading for distances, wading water, cycling, boat etc., the members of the team did not complain and rather with a smiling face and a spirit went ahead with their work.
3. It was difficult to bring the cattle in large to one place and hence the respective teams had to go to clusters of houses in a few places to implement the vaccines. Moreover, there was still a substantial cattle population at the Chaporis which could not be served.
4. Next time if any such health camps are to be organized, it should be done at the Chaporis and there should be one night stays (in tents of course) so that two full days could be availed of to serve the cattle population.

### **OBSERVATION ON MAJULI**

While organizing these health camps in two phases our overall observation on Majuli

- (i) People of Majuli are not afraid of floods and they know how to live with it. They are only afraid of erosion.
- (ii) Majuli has been used by various vested groups for their own interest. There is an unholy nexus amongst these groups.
- (iii) If we are to work on the problem of erosion of Majuli, we are to shift our focus on managing the Brahmaputra.
- (iv) While managing the Brahmaputra the knowledge of the Majulials on the river will actually guide the experts to manage the river thus preventing erosion and making the river a true asset for all.

### **Report prepared by**

Dipankar Mahanta

Trustee, Srimanta Foundation for Culture & Society

## **ANNEXURES**

### **ABHIYAN NIRAMOY – PHASE I – HEALTH CAMP AT SIKALI CHAPORI & BHAKATI-DUWAR 18 to 21 October 2012**

#### **LIST OF DOCTORS AND OTHER STAFF FOR SIKALI CHAPORI**

1. Dr Sarat Das, Jt Director, Health Service, Jorhat
2. Dr Ratul Bordoloi, Dy Supdt., Kamalabari Community Health Center (CHC), Majuli
3. Dr Sashidhar Phukan, Supdt.II, Garamur Sub-Division Civil Hospital, Majuli
4. Dr Dhruvajyoti Saikia, Sr Medical & Health Officer, i/c Kamalabari Block Primary Health Center (PHC)
5. Dr Tarini Nath, Medical Health Officer, Dohatiya Mini Primary Health Center (MPHC), Jorhat
6. Shri Saurav Borah, RHP, Dhudang Sub-Center, Majuli, Jorhat
7. Shri Surajit Borah, Pharmacist, Kakojan Block PHC, Jorhat
8. Smt Bhanu Saikia, ANM, Sutargaon Sub-Center, Sikali Chapori, Majuli
9. Shri Pradip Ranjan Hazarika, Block Programme Manager, Kamalabari BPHC, Kamalabari

#### **LIST OF DOCTORS AND OTHER STAFF FOR BHAKATI-DUWAR**

1. Dr Sarat Das, Jt Director, Health Service, Jorhat
2. Dr Ratul Bordoloi, Dy Supdt., Kamalabari Community Health Center (CHC), Majuli
3. Dr Dilip Deka, Medical Officer Ayurvedic, Ratanpur Lahon MPHC, Majuli
4. Dr Manoj Pegu, M.O., Dakshinpat State Dispensary, Dakshinpat, Majuli
5. Dr Ramnath Pegu, M.O., Ratanpur Lahon, Majuli
6. Shri Debojit Borah, Pharmacist, Ratanpur Lahon, Majuli
7. Shri Sunil Nath, Pharmacist, Rangasahi State Dispensary, Majuli
8. Shri Manan Abdul, Bonoriya Chapori Sub-Center, Majuli
9. Smt Bina Baruah, ANM, Bhakatiduwar Sub-Center
10. Shri Manan, Lab Technician, Jengraimukh MPHC

### **ABHIYAN NIRAMOY – PHASE II – CATTLE CARE at SIKALI CHAPORI 2 nd November 2012**

#### **OFFICERS, DOCTORS, PARAVETS and GRADE IV STAFF**

1. Dr Rajendra Prasad Shyam, District Animal Husbandry & Vety Officer, Jorhat and i/c Jt. Director, Upper Assam Zone
2. Dr Siba Prasad Saikia, D.V.O., Golaghat
3. Dr Dilip Chandra Borah, APDO, Golaghat
4. Dr Chandra Kr Singha, ARO, Jorhat

5. Dr Lalit Saikia, P.O. (Crash), Jorhat
6. Dr Haider Hussain, VAS, Golaghat
7. Dr Prasanta Baruah, VAS, Dergaon
8. Dr Prabin Neog, E.O.(Vety)
9. Shri Gokul Hazarika, VFA, Jorhat
10. Shri Naren Borah, VFA, Jorhat
11. Shri Debiram Das, VFA, Jorhat
12. Shri Jayanta Saikia, VFA, Jorhat
13. Shri Prasanta Borah, VFA, Golaghat
14. Shri Santana Borah, VFA, Golaghat
15. Shri Gauri Sankar Buragohain, VFA, Golaghat
16. Shri Ramdeo Raot, VFA, Golaghat
17. Shri Dhiren Bhuyan, VFA, Jorhat
18. Shri Kiron Hazarika, VFA, Golaghat
19. Shri Tubul Sharma, VFA, Golaghat
20. Shri Padma Kanta Pachung, Bull Attendant
21. Shri Sahu Pachung, Grd.IV
22. Shri Basanta Gayan, Grd.IV
23. Shri Biren Borah, Grd.IV

#### **Volunteers from Dergaon**

1. Shri Raj Mohan Sharma
2. Shri Dibjyoti

#### **Sri Sri Ahotoguri Sattra**

1. Shri Tarun Chandra Goswami
2. Shri Rup Chandra Goswami

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