

**WEAKER SECTIONS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(WSDC)
ADDRESS: KHANGSHIM VILLAGE, CHANDEL DISTRICT,
P.O. KAKCHING, MANIPUR-795103, INDIA.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18**



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Secretary
Weaker Sections' Dev. Council
Khangshim Village

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Background of Weaker Section's Development Council (WSDC)

Weaker Section's Development Council (WSDC) was established in the year 1992 on 17th June by a group of social workers. It is a voluntary organization working for the poor and marginalised tribal/indigenous people and other backward classes in general on the issue of women, children and youths. Enabling to assert the citizens rights and entitlements by strengthening the community based organisations for proper functioning of the human centric development programmes and social security schemes. Providing consultancy, meticulous policy making, demonstration workshops and trainings, lobby and advocacy with networking with the community based women organisations and likeminded agencies and individuals as collective effort.

The district where we are working was badly affected during the ethnic riot between two ethnic communities - the Nagas and the Kukis in the year 1990-1996. The riot badly impacted to the poor and marginalised communities, particularly women, children. Thousands of houses were gutted fire, and many lives were lost and internally displaced leaving their ancestral land.

The tribal indigenous community who have been living with self dependent has drastically lost the rich locally available natural resources year by year. This the tribal people become economically insecure and vulnerable in human trafficking, drug abused HIV/ AIDS, sexual assault, violation of child rights, scarcity of food and internally displaced. Their children are trafficked to other places with false promises that, they will be providing free and compulsory education. Besides, most of the youth are engaged in arms & ammunitions, drug abused, women especially widows were also engaged as human shield as peddlers, potter of illicit drugs and arms by the drug smugglers, traffickers.

North east India is one of the potential areas on natural resources which are still unexploited. The indigenous communities of about 500+ solely depend their livelihood from /on the forest and land. The rich bio diversity forest lands are going to be extinct if no proper interventions are taken up.

WSDC envisages, everyone enjoys peace, justice, harmonious, co-existence, prosperity and healthy environment and gender just democratic governance.

By providing consultancy, meticulous policy making, demonstration workshops and trainings, lobby and advocacy with networking with the community based women organisations and likeminded agencies and individuals as collective effort.

Its mission to enable the marginalised community uplifts their human dignity. Enabling for assert the citizens right and entitlements by strengthening the community based organisations for proper functioning of the human centric development programmes and social security schemes.

WSDC felt the need to deliver peace and justice to marginalised community especially women and children.

WSDC focus on the four thematic areas Vis,

1. Natural Resources Management
2. Food and livelihood security
3. Violence against women & Women in Governance
4. Peace building and conflict transformation


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WSDC has been working with women 20 ethnic community who are facing different forms of violence against women such as widow's gun, domestic violence, conflict affected women, trafficking, poorest of the poor on the issue of livelihood, peace and gender just governance..

WSDC is also directly networking with 12 women headed NGOs of the nine districts of Manipur, 7 male headed NGOs, 4 district level Civil society organisations, 2 Widows Union, 13 Farmers club, 25 Self help groups.

The Ultimate beneficiaries of the Organisation include;

- (i) Women farmers and local producers,
- (ii) Rural Artisans and farmers
- (iii) Widows of people living with HIV/AIDS and gun widows
- (iv) Women headed NGOs,
- (v) NGO/Organization working on women and children's issue,
- (vi) Community based organization

The guiding principles for the work of our Organisation includes; the clear Vision Mission of the Organization, Gender policy, Financial policy, staff Policy, Participatory process in decision making in planning Implementation Monitoring evaluation,

Location: WSDC is located in North east India in the state of Manipur, at the extreme border to Myanmar. The state Capital is called Imphal.




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Handloom Weaving cum Embroidery & Tailoring for Livelihood Security of Women Supported by Tata Trusts

Project Synopsis

Chandel district came into existence on 13th May 1974. The district is inhabited by several communities with about 20 tribes, and is sparsely populated. Anal, Lamkang, Kukis, Moyon, Monsang, Chothe, Thadou, Paite and Maring are the prominent tribes scattered all over the district. There are also other religious communities such as Meiteis and Muslims in small numbers as compared to these tribes. Non-Manipuri communities like Tamils, Bengalis, Punjabis, and Biharis are also settled in the district. As per census 2011, the population of the district is 110,258 and scattered in 457 villages.

The Moreh town which lies in the southernmost part of the district is the international trade centre of the State. Chandel will be one of the gateways to the Asian countries once the Transport Asian Super Highway come into existence. And Moreh being a commercial town it attracts large number of people from neighbouring places. From Tamu, Myanmar, Moreh is only 5 kms. Moreh is an important trade centre in the North-east after the Border Trade opened.

This poorly literate district of the state of Manipur is also a poor performer in the level of Educational attainment. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in Chandel. Rice is the main crop grown. Handloom and handicraft has been an indispensable part of the socio-economic life of the people in the state of Manipur. It is a very important and the largest cottage industry, which is labour intensive.

Handicraft products of cane and bamboo are also unique. Despite having the required potential, the district has been lagging behind in terms of industrial advancement. As per the report of Economic Survey of Manipur, 2007-08, Chandel has the lowest number of registered industrial units in the state.

Need for Self Employment Programs for Skill and Capacity Development

Unemployment, especially amongst the educated youth of Manipur, is a problem both of the individual as well as the society around that person. It psychologically, financially, emotionally and materially affects the youths and their families. It brings in a sense of dejection, inferiority and hopelessness among the youth. Due to frustration, anger and disenchantment, youth often succumb to other alternatives, including alcoholism, drug addiction, robbery, murder, and suicide as well as joining the insurgent cadres for easy money. There is an urgent requirement to take concrete steps to address the issue before it goes out of hand. In fact, it should force us to think what ails the education system and employment avenues in Manipur. The problem of educated unemployment is mainly two fold, firstly, scarcity of government jobs, and secondly, the virtual lack of any other employer in Manipur other than the government. Improving infrastructure in general and promoting human resource development in a sustained manner, together with effective and people-oriented governance, is thus critical to ushering peace in Manipur and other parts of Northeast India. Creating additional employment opportunities to tap the immense human and natural potential could go a long way in addressing the aspirations of the unemployed youth of the region in general.



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The women in this district are engaged in low level of economic activities. Their social backwardness, low level of literacy, poor health conditions makes it vital for a systematic process of development. They work very hard and contribute significantly towards the economic condition of the family, but they are still in poverty because no proper efforts are oriented towards them. The families need to have a sufficient income to enable them to cross the poverty level. Since economic status determines other aspects of life and living conditions, it is of utmost importance. Thus providing opportunities for gainful employment will be instrumental in bringing about a change and to handle challenges successfully.

Conflict and Insecurity

Problems and losses related to conflicts, communal or otherwise, and the sense of insecurity is found to be more in this conflict ridden district. The reasons for the respective conflicts are wide ranging from separatist movements, to inter community, communal and inter-ethnic-conflicts. Due to the conflicts there is increase in gun widows and orphans due to the conflict. Poverty, discrimination--particularly against women, children and minorities—violence, and general insecurity often related to armed conflict causes trafficking and significant human rights violations.

There is a need to focus on developing local skills and capacities as part of the self-employment program (SEP) to harness the potential of the youth and women in Chandel, Manipur. They should be provided with opportunities for venturing into entrepreneurial activities for developing self-employment through micro and small enterprises.

So construction of Skill Training Center is the urgent need of the district to help youth and women so that they can enhance their skill and find a source of livelihood. We would like to form network and associate with other agencies and communities and helped realized our vision and dream.

Self-Employment Scenario

Many households in the villages of Chandel district are engaged in self employment activities in non-agriculture sector, but with limited market orientation. The few households engaged in non-agriculture manufacturing, mostly in handloom and handicraft, are facing some problems in procuring institutional credit, assured supply of raw materials, power, lack of working place and access to market. These are common problems in any entrepreneurial venture in our country context. However, in a space, which is closer to international boundary and has high prospective for trades under the present open policy regime requires serious institutional intervention.

There is need for institutional reforms in certain sectors of the district to usher the development process. The rich potentials in handicraft and artisan activities, agriculture and khadi industry needs to be developed. Since there are thousands of unemployed women and youth, there is a need for proper skill training..

Strategies for promoting a change



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As it has been pointed out, low levels of economic activity and living conditions below the poverty level is a major problem faced by the women and youth. A practical way of dealing with this problem can be to provide skills and training programs. Awareness can be created through effort to empower these women.

That is why four women founded the handloom weaving program in 2015. The program had ten trainees in the beginning. An instructor was hired from Ukhrul who was paid Rs.12000 per month to trained them. The four founders funded the program in the beginning.

To further sustain the program, assistance was needed. So, WSDC submitted proposal to CML/TATA TRUSTS in the month of May 2016 and it was duly accepted. Then TATA TRUSTS provided masters trainers training course at SIFT Assam for three months where three of our trainees got the opportunity to participate. After due completion of the course, the participants were hired by WSDC as weaving instructors.

In order to create the technical skill development and job opportunity in the society WSDC has taken initiative to start the technical training to the people with the support of TATA TRUSTS in the year 2016. The present program covers the three trades: weaving, embroidery and tailoring covering three sub- divisions of Chandel district i.e., Machi, Tengnoupal and Chandel.

Objectives

1. To increase self reliance and autonomy of women by enhancing their productivity and enabling them to take up income generating activities.
2. To increase number of women entrepreneurs.
3. Improve access of women to micro credit.
4. Convergence of services of Dept. of Women and other departments.
5. Incorporate measures for sustainable Human Resource Development

Outcome Strategies

1. To set up skill training cum production centre for weaving, tailoring and embroidery at Khangshim village.
2. Development of skilled women groups.
3. Open production unit and sales outlet for passed out trainees.
4. Exposure program and capacity building.
5. Participation in trade fairs.
6. Develop master trainers.




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Major Activities

1. TOT on Jacquard

TOT on Jacquard installation and operation was held for masters weaving trainers from 22nd May to 13th June 2017 at WSDC Training centre. The 20 days intensive course had 23 participants. There were 21 females and 2 males participant. The training was given by Mr. Chongtham Umesh Singh, Cluster Development Executive (CDES), North Eastern Region Textile Skill Promotion.

SL. NO	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1.	WSDC	KHANGSHIM	16
2.	RBA Centre	NAGALAND	2
3.	LYDIA RESOURCE CENTRE	CCPUR	2
4.	PRISCILLA CENTRE	CCPUR	2
5.	ALL TRIBAL WOMEN ORGANIZATION (ATWO)	CHANDEL	1

The table above shows details of Jacquard Training

On the day of the completion of training, participants were given Certificate of Participation by Chairman, Institute of Co-operative Management(ICM), Administrator, Manipur State Co-operative Union(MSCU) and Chairman, Apex Marketing Manipur.

2. Distribution of weavers ID card.

The Handloom Weavers ID card which was issued by Project Manager, Mr. Sarath Singh under the Department of Handloom and Textile was distributed to the first batch by Ms. Chanini Lokho, Senior Project Officer, Tata Trusts. This card will help weavers get yarn at subsidy rate and avail other schemes. 13 weavers from Tengnoupal District obtained the card.

3. Recruitment of Second Batch

The Second Batch recruitment was done on the 29th of June 2017. The applicants who fulfilled the criteria as per project objective were interviewed. Out of the 70 applicants, only 20 were selected after proper screening. The selected candidate belongs to BPL family, school dropped out who are in search of means of livelihood. Out of the 20 selected candidates, 15 were selected for weaving and five for embroidery. The other remaining applicants who were from faraway places were not selected though they fulfilled the criteria as there was no residential facility.




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4. Convocation cum Launching Program

The convocation of first batch was held on the 10th of July 2017. The Project Manager of Handloom and Textile, Tengnoupal District was the chief guest, The District Co-operative Officer, Chandel District was the function president. And Mr. Hemanta Singh, a renowned actor and also nominee of Manipur State Co-operative Union was the Guest of Honor.

On this day, the result of the First Batch was declared. Then convocation and blessing prayer for the newly selected candidate for the Second batch was done by Rev. S. Shonai, President Uipho Naga Baptist Inlam (UNBI). And other NGOs, CSO, Co-operative Societies and community leaders attended the program.

5. Second Batch Skill Training Report

The Second Batch training in weaving and embroidery started on the 10th of July 2017. The trainees were between the ages of 18 to 35 years and belong to different communities, i.e., Chothe, Maring, Tangkhul, Moyon, Khoibu, Monsang and OBC. The daily training schedule from Monday to Friday is from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The detailed action plan for 6 months was developed by Instructors in the first week of July 2017. The instructors were instructed to finish the monthly action plan on first working day of every month. Daily attendance for program staffs and trainees were marked in biometric system and in manual record as well.

6. Bank Account Opening for Second Batch

WSDC helped the Second Batch trainees to open bank account at United Bank of India (UBI), Kakching in the month of July 2017.

7. Capacity Building for Entrepreneurship Development

Two days workshop on EDP was conducted on the 25th and 26th of September 2017 under the aegis of Central Board for Workers Education (CBWE), Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of India. The workshop was conducted for 40 trainees of the First and Second Batch.

The workshop was conducted with the aim of helping the trainees in finding employment opportunities with equipped skill they acquired during the six months training program. It helped trainees in understanding the production plan, marketing strategy, quality control mechanism and linkage with relevant agencies. The Coordinator also shared about MUDRA loan and how to avail for self employees without having a guarantor.

8. Follow up with passed out trainees

From October to December 2017, the coordinator and the team had meeting every Saturday as resolved in the beginning of the training. The meeting was designed to share experiences between the current trainees and the passed out trainees, challenges faced by them and share ideas on how to work in a collective manner.



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Once trainees passed out, they develop their individual action plan. They identify their production capacity per month, materials, machines and tools required, working capital they would need and also market feasibility.

According to them the problem faced by them is the working capital. They wanted help from WSDC in the form of soft loan ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 per individual.

9. MUDRA loan for passed out trainees

WSDC helped five passed out trainees of weaving to avail MUDRA loan from United Bank of India(UBI), Kakching as their working capital by opening their bank accounts

10. Linkage building with concerned agencies and Departments

WSDC is helping the weaving trainees by applying weavers ID card to the Ministry of Handloom and Textile, Chandel and also avail other schemes so that weavers get yarn at subsidy rate.

11. Up skilling program

Ten days workshop was conducted from 3rd to 12th October 2017 by inviting expert cum designer. All the trainees and staff of WSDC attended the workshop. The main objective of this workshop was to enhance trainees for self employment opportunities with the skill they acquired during the six months training course. The participants were trained on production plan, marketing strategy, quality control mechanism and linkage with relevant agencies.

12. Exposure visit

Exposure visit was made to Manipur Weavers Service Center, Imphal on the 18th December 2017. The visit helped the trainees learn more about designing, dying and coloring in weaving.

Another exposure visit was conducted by CML Tata Trusts. The team visited the Handloom School and Khadi Project by Women Weaver Charitable Trust, Maheshwar. There was exchange of learning on Frame looms, training module, costing and types of yarn.

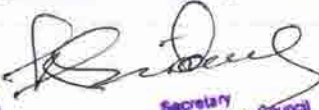
13. Completion of Second Batch Training

As per the action plan laid out in the beginning of July for weaving and embroidery, the training was completed in the month of December 2017. The trainees covered both theory and practical.

14. Recruitment of Third Batch

Applications were invited for the Third Batch training on the three trades-Weaving, Embroidery and Tailoring in the month of November 2017. 27 applicants have applied for the third batch training. Interview for the selection process was conducted on 13th Jan 2018. Out of the 27 applicants, 20 were selected. 10 were selected for weaving, 5 for embroidery and 5 for tailoring from six different communities. The training period is from January to June




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2018. The selected trainees were school dropped out, unemployed, belong to BPL family, aged between 18 to 35 years and the candidates who were committed and willing to participate on the courses offered.

15. Development of Action Plan

Three months action plan from January to March 2018 was developed between 18 to 20th January 2018 with the Instructors and the concerned program staff. This detailed action plan will help the instructors and the staff in effective implementation, coordination and clarity about the activities which were to be carried out. The topics to be covered, timeline and material requirements were laid out properly.

16. Development of Training Module

The Training Module/ Curriculum for six months i.e., from January to June 2018 was developed by instructors and staffs between 22 to 29th January. The Training Module is to be followed strictly by the instructors.

Conclusion

The Training Centre is known by the Department of Handloom and Textile. The training programs have reached different communities and have given opportunity to the marginalized sections of the society, empowered them by providing means of livelihood. There is increased in number of women entrepreneurs.

The Training Centre continue its effort in uplifting women of Manipur especially destitute, divorced, widows etc. It provides training for skill up gradation to poor and asset less women. The program aims to improve the lives of poor women.




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Strengthening the Role of Women's Collectives in Local Governance and Decision Making in North East

Supported by Azim Premzi Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)

Chandel district is one of the most diverse ethnic community in the districts of Manipur. The district is inhabited by about 20 ethnic community. The district is located in the extreme border to Myanmar which is also an international trade centre of south east asia located in moreh. Where drugs, small arms, timber, costly stone and foreign goods from outside country are imported and business activities taken up. The big business people from outside states are plying every day. The local people remained as daily wages earners in the process. In this process women are targeted as human shield due to their economically poor and impact of conflict by ethnic riot between Kuki and naga in the year 1992 to 1996. The district is also heavily militarised to encounter the insurgency groups. Apart from the prevailing issues the state and central government is planning to construct new road connectivity's and development plans like construction of dams, spot complex shopping malls etc. in the district. Many village will be displaced, exploitation of land, resource. Women will the most vulnerable group in the process. Local tribe leaders and women groups are not consulted in the planning.

The most sensitive Zone where many issues prevails in it. The issue of conflict, militarisation, drug smuggling, communal politic, trafficking

WSDC covers five villages under this project. The Names of the villages are 1. Khangshim 2. Minou 3. Aimol satu 4. Khoibu Centre 5. Aimol Chingnunghut The above villages belong to three different ethnic communities 1. Maring 2. Kuki and 3. Aimol respectively, The Naga villages are ruled by the Village authorities of clan representative's somehow democratic comparatively with the kuki villages. The kukis villages are governed by the chiefs, the chief has full right and the village land is in his name. All power and functions are dominated by the chief in most of the Kuki villages. Aimol community is rule by the seniority based of the village chronology.

WSDC also work collectively with the women leaders for inclusion of women in decision making bodies al all level from 2009 for effective participation of women in decision making bodies to bring about effective and proper implementation of concern authorities with full the participation women




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, tribe union and line departments' on the status of women's' participation in the decision making process to deal issue apprehended.

The enlisted programme have been conducted by WSDC this month May 2017:

- a) Identification of women leaders in Civil society , police departments, Village authority, tribe union organisation, line departments
- b) Collection data and information from field V,A. Religious Institution and community based organisation etc.
- c) To meet district level officials for gathering of information the status of women's participation in the process.
- d) Consultation meeting with WinG promoter on the objective and role about the project

2. Activities taken up in the month of May

Sl No	Activities	Objectives	Date	Venue	Quantitative Achievements	Qualitative Achievements	Indicators
1	Profiling of 100 women leaders from five villages	To interview with 100 women from five village with the questionnaire develop by WinG NE	May 2017	Door to door survey, FGD	The situation and status of 100 women were identified	Able to profile 100 women	Filled form of questionnaire
2	Consultation meeting with women leaders	Highlighting of project objective with WinG promoter	24 May	Meeting with wing promoters	Discussion on the leadership issue faced	45 women	List of participants, Report



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					by WinG promo ter		
3	Meeting with women CBOs/union, police department, line departments and judiciary	To identify the status of women leaders in VA, Tribe Unions, religious bodies etc.	One week	Meeting with tribe Union, village leaders, police, Departments, CJM	Visited 9 tribe unions	Data HH	Filed survey format

3. Achievements during the month of may 2017 by (WSDC)

The activity was taken with existing Wing promoter and women leaders in the district. Difficulties faced by women when they are elected as village chief and village authority in the district and lessons learn when collecting information

Lessons learn from the process:

Case 1. found in Chothe tribe : In Chothe Khunou village a women namely Shakhi tombi was elected as chief by the village people, hearing this development the tribe council and the tribe elders strongly opposed women to become a chief on the basis of non sanctioning of women in the village authority as per customary practices. After installation of the women as chief in the village, the tribe council had order the village people to withdraw the election of women as chief. Besides that, the churches of Chothe tribe do not appoint deaconess in the church board.

Anal Tribe: SNG. Shanghring was the chief of Kolen village from Chapikorong block, but his son took over her position. In anal tibe there is 1 women in the village authority, as village secretary. The anal tribe union have no women representation in the tribe union so far

Maring Uparup Assemmbly: The Maring Tribe union had resolved to included women in the in the village governance. However, women were not yet appointed in the village authority due to non completion the tenure. Expecting women participation in the VA after the present tenure completes.

In Aimol community both in the tribe union and Village authority women are not present in these bodies.



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The district departments have appointed women in many of the committees, but their knowledge and consent were not taken the appointment was manipulated by the district level officers and the politicians.

Till now Chandel district has no ADC and MLA members. This is a big challenges the need pressure for legislate women reservation in ADC.



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Financial Statement for 2017-18

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018.

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNTS (Rs)	INCOME	AMOUNTS (Rs)
To <u>Strengthening the role of Women's Collectives in Governance :</u> (As per details in Receipts and Payments Account)	2,26,337.00	By <u>Grant-in-Aid :</u> (As per details in Receipts and Payments Account)	25,98,818.00
To <u>Handloom Weaving Training cum Production Centre :</u> (As per details in Receipts and Payments Account)	23,84,740.50	<u>Project Account :</u> (As per details in Receipts and Payments Account)	17,527.00
To <u>Women Earth Alliance, USA Empowering women Groups for Accessing their rights and Entitlements</u>		<u>General Account :</u> (As per details in Receipts & Payments Account)	10,81,354.00
To Bank charges	268.00	<u>Capital Fund :</u> (Excess of expenditure over income transferred)	3,60,668.75
To <u>General Account :</u> (As per details in Receipts and Payments Account)	10,71,591.25		
To <u>Depreciation :</u> (As per Schedule - A)	3,73,441.00		
	40,56,367.75		40,56,367.75



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