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Institute name: District Institute of Education and Training Jorhat, Titabar

Title of the initiative: Generating Community Awareness to Assist Children in Learning

Background: Education is the cornerstone of community development. A school thrives because of the community it serves, and an empowered community directly translates into a more empowered school. The interdependence of school and community is crucial, when the community takes ownership of the school, the school's growth becomes inevitable. A learning community contributes significantly to a child's educational journey, ensuring that the benefits of schooling extend beyond the classroom.

The initiative to generate community awareness in Tanti gaon under Bebejia panchayat, Titabar block, focuses on the holistic development of children's learning environments. The village comprises 250 households, with Assamese as the dominant language. Economically, the village faces significant challenges, as 80% of the households live below the poverty line (BPL). Tanti gaon is located in the Titabar educational block and is part of the Titabar Cluster.

The key needs identified include:

- ❖ **Empowering the community:** An empowered community is better equipped to support its local school, leading to mutual growth.
- ❖ **Developing community ownership:** When the community feels responsible for the school's success, both the school and the community flourish.
- ❖ **Creating a learning culture:** A community that values learning fosters an environment where children can thrive academically and socially.

Program's objective (s): The objectives of this programs are...

1. **To render service to the community:** By creating and sustaining a culture of cooperative living, the program aims to foster a sense of unity and collective responsibility among community members.

2. **To empower the village community:** Special focus is given to children, youth, and women, ensuring that these groups are given the tools and support they need to thrive.
3. **To develop quality relationships with the community:** These relationships are crucial for assisting children in their learning processes, ensuring that they receive the support they need both at home and in school.

Highlights of the initiative: To effectively address the needs of the community, a comprehensive survey was conducted. The survey aimed to:

- **Identify available resources:** Both human and natural resources were cataloged to understand what the community already has at its disposal.
- **Locate areas of concern:** The survey pinpointed specific areas where awareness and intervention were most needed.

Areas Identified for Intervention:

- **School Dropouts:** A significant number of children were found to be dropping out of school, necessitating targeted interventions.
- **Unemployment:** High unemployment rates, particularly among youth, were identified as a critical issue.
- **Women Empowerment:** There was a clear need to focus on empowering women within the community.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Poor health and hygiene practices were prevalent, impacting overall well-being.
- **Addiction to Alcohol:** Alcohol addiction was identified as a major problem, affecting both individuals and the community at large.

Strategies adopted: To address these issues, the following strategies were implemented:

- ❖ **Cleanliness Drive:** A community-wide cleanliness drive was organized to promote hygiene and environmental awareness.
- ❖ **Health and Hygiene Awareness Camp:** Camps were set up to educate the community on the importance of health and hygiene.

- ❖ **Free Health Check-up Camp:** Free medical check-ups were provided to the community to address health concerns.
- ❖ **Awareness Camp on Alcohol and Substance Abuse:** Camps were held to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse.
- ❖ **Sunday Classes for Children:** Special classes were organized on Sundays for children who required additional academic support.
- ❖ **Workshop on Vocational Education for Dropouts:** Vocational training workshops were conducted to provide dropouts with skills that could lead to employment.
- ❖ **Exposure to New Technology in Agriculture and Handloom:** Workshops were organized to introduce the community to new agricultural and handloom technologies, aimed at improving productivity and sustainability.

Physical impact: The program has led to several positive outcomes, including:

- ❖ **Increased Community Acceptability:** The initiatives were well-received by the community, fostering a positive attitude toward change and improvement.
- ❖ **Awareness of Physical and Mental Well-being:** The community has gained a better understanding of the importance of health and hygiene, leading to improved overall well-being.
- ❖ **Self-directed Employability:** Through vocational training and exposure to new technologies, community members, especially dropouts, have become more employable.
- ❖ **Promotion of Sustainability:** Environmental awareness and sustainable practices have been promoted, leading to a more environmentally conscious community.

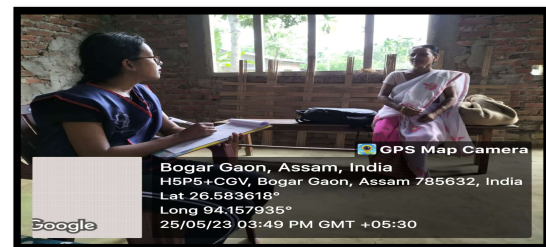
Way forward: Given the success of this program in Tanti Gaon, there is a strong case for replicating similar activities in other localities. Expanding this initiative could further empower more communities, leading to a ripple effect of positive change across the region

Photographs:

Acceptability of community & positive attitude



Health and well-being



Self-directed employability



Promoting sustainability & environmental awareness



Sunday class for academic support

