

MEC

JNAnews

SAMMSS

PUBLICATION DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2018

মুন্ডা শিক্ষা কেন্দ্রগৈ ও সুন্দরবান আদিবাসী মুন্ডা মহিলা সমবায় সমিতি
যীশুর নাম আশ্রম - ঈশ্বরীপুর, শ্যামনগর, সাতক্ষীরা

MEC (Munda Education Centre) & SAMMSS (Co-operative of the Tribal Women of the Sunderban Forest)
Jisur Nam Ashram - Ishwaripur, Shyamnagar, Satkhira



Editorial

In this newsletter we, the Munda girls staying at Jisur Nam Ashram (JNA) will talk about ourselves: what are our names, which class are we in and what do we do along with going to school and college. Not all the girls staying at JNA appear in this newsletter as a few of them were at home when it was decided that this newsletter would be mainly a work of ours. So... let's introduce ourselves and say something about our activities at JNA or among our Munda people living in the villages nearby.

Shopna

I am Shopna Munda. I got nursing training for three years at Fatima Hospital in Jessore. I was sent away from there as I did not stick to the rules and regulations of that place so now I continue the nursing training in Satkhira a few days a week. I spend the rest of the time working with SAMS (Sunderban Adibashi Munda Sangstha, i.e. Organization of the Tribal Mundas of the Sunderban Forest), the small NGO which was set up for the social development and promotion of our community people. I am in charge of a small project which deals with sexual education of our young people. That project is supported by two Italian ladies who are great friends of the tribal Munda people: namely Ms. Rossana Vittani and Ms. Cristina Abbiati.



Joysree

I am Joysree Munda. I am a college student. A few months ago I entered for the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) but I failed in English. So next year I'll enter for that exam again. Along with preparing myself for it several months ago I started working as a teacher in my Munda community. I teach a bunch of children in one of our small Munda villages not very far from JNA. Along with teaching that bunch of children I work also as a field worker with SAMMSS, the credit union of the tribal Munda women of the Sunderban Forest.



Minoti

I am Minoti Munda. I study civil engineering in Khulna. As I don't have to attend my classes regularly I have enough time to supervise six small schools in six different villages where our community people live. All the teachers of those small schools are female and most of them spent several years at JNA. When I cannot look after those school as I am busy with my classes in Khulna Ms. Sulota Munda helps me. Sulota got married a few months ago but she still keeps in touch with JNA where she works also as a computer operator and field worker of SAMMSS.



Oporna

I am Oporna Munda. I am a college student and I have learnt a little bit of tailoring through which I have the possibility to earn a little bit of money from time to time. Last year we were lucky enough to have with us for a few days Ms. Emilia who is a “paka dorji”, that means “master of tailoring”. I could have learnt a lot from her but that did not happen because of my negligence and laziness. I’ll try to do better next time. I am also a member of the Munda cultural team whose performances are well appreciated in our locality. And I am also a field worker of SAMMSS, the credit union run by the girls staying at JNA.



Succitra

I am Succitra Munda. I am a college student and I look after a dozen of chickens which are quite lazy: they do not lay many eggs. Probably that is my fault as I do not feed them properly. I am also a field worker of SAMMSS.



Chompa and Bahamoni

We are Chompa and Bahamoni Munda. We are respectively the accountant and directress of SAMMSS. We had a nice job with local NGOs and we used to get a good salary. But a few weeks ago those NGOs closed down the projects we had been working for so now we are jobless.

In order to have some kind of income we have started a joint venture: we have set up a poultry farm which can be quite profitable if the chickens do not die. Just in a month's time our chickens are supposed to be big and fat enough to be sold and if prices are going to be good we are confident to get a good profit. In that case we'll continue the joint venture and expand it.

We are also college students: Bahamoni is studying political science and I, Chompa, am studying history.

As we won't be able to become rich by studying these subjects we have thought of undertaking this IGA = income generating activity... we hope our efforts and hard work will be rewarded.

Chompa



Bahamoni



Parul

I am Parul Munda. I am a college student and a field worker of SAMMSS. During the rainy season which has almost ended I have undertaken a very important work for our country: planting trees along the road which goes to our small mission station. Afforestation is a very important work for our locality where salinity is increasing day by day and where climate change will probably bring natural disasters. With my trees I may be able to give my small contribution to set up a better and greener environment. I have not been alone in this endeavor: the other girls have been helping me a lot.



Sabittri, Probhati and Kakoli

We are Sabittri, Probhati and Kakoli Munda. We are in class six. We look after rabbits and Guinea pigs. We have 12 rabbits and 15 Guinea pigs. We feed them three times a day. We give them grass and wheat and banana leaves. We take care of them and clean their cages. From time to time also “small” Orpita (to whom is dedicated the cover of this newsletter!) helps us and she likes playing with little rabbits.



We sprinkle water!

We are “big” Orpita and “small” Orpita and Rotna and Shoporna. We do not have very important works to perform but every evening we water the vegetables which the older girls have been growing. Our work is very important, too !



Irrigating from below

We would now introduce a special young man to our readers. His name is Mr. Rimon Gain and last week he came to teach us new methods of irrigation. His new methods of irrigation are as follows: instead of irrigating from above Rimon has invented the method of irrigating from below or from underground. In this way earth will remain humid and wet all the time and plants will not dry up under the scorching sun and moreover only a small quantity of water will be needed from time to time.



Buried terracotta pots release humidity.
They need to be refilled with water from time to time.



Suprya Munda shows how to refill.



A subsurface drip line under construction.



Lipika Munda

I am Lipika Munda. I am in class nine and I am a very good dancer. I have been quite curious about the new methods taught to us by Mr. Rimon so I have got a small plot of land at JNA and I am determined to grow vegetables by following Mr. Rimon's new method of irrigation.

My friend Suprya Munda, who is also my classmate, has joined me in this new agricultural experiment.

We will try to grow every kind of vegetables on our small plot of land all the year round. We'll let our readers know about our success or failure in the next newsletters.

