

Project Description

Some Success Stories

Vocation Courses for Girls

Northeast India is a region known equally for its natural resources and vernacular knowledge, as well as its remoteness and extreme poverty. Among the 200+ tribal populations that inhabit the region, far less than half of the women are literate—less than national average. India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF) has been working with non-governmental organization Shiksha Bharati for over 15 years, to address these challenges.

Girls from tribal villages of the Northeast region mostly from Assam and other states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Ladakh are selected by *Vidya Bharati* and sent to Shiksha Bharati for schooling. These tribal girls were often unable to access basic education—let alone quality education—in their home states. With IDRF's guidance and financial support, Shiksha Bharati constructed a well-equipped dormitory *Banwasi Chhatrawas* with the capacity to house 100 tribal girls within the campus of the *Smt. Brahma Devi Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir* run by Shiksha Bharati. IDRF and Shiksha Bharati together provide completely free boarding, lodging and travel to all girls residing here. The dormitory includes a media room, library, game room, and a room for judo practice.

The dormitory is an integral part of their education, and allows these tribal girls to reside at Shiksha Bharati and attain an excellent education. IDRF has helped to support the maintenance and lodging-boarding costs for these girls. Some of the tribal graduates have returned to their native regions, where they teach local girls, thus, making a contribution in breaking the cycle of gender discrimination and poverty in their communities.

Providing such access, giving it free and merit based has been endeavor. Starting from a humble beginning with 6 girls in a rented room, we have today, thanks to Patrons like you, reached a level of 2000 students with a hostel capacity of 102 girls providing free boarding, lodging and tuition fee. Even clothing, books and train fare is provided to our girls from North East.

The IDRF Tribal Girls' Hostel is situated in the school campus of a hundred thousand square yards, with an herbal garden, sports facilities and other outdoor activities. It is located at **HAPUR** in Uttar Pradesh, about 60 km from Delhi. The faculty is highly educated and shares the same missionary zeal for educating India's tomorrow.

This entire effort has been made possible by Patrons like you who have either adopted a child or helped in the construction and maintenance of the Hostel. We still have a long way to go. We trust you would kindly be pleased to spare a few moments from your busy schedule to glance through this project. We seek blessings, guidance and patronage of compassionate and

committed philanthropists like you to give impetus to our efforts to enable us to move forward in our mission of educating underprivileged girls.

Success Stories of Students from
IDRF-supported Tribal Girls' Dormitory and
Free Vocational Courses Offered during Summer-time



Anjana is an orphan from the tribal areas of Northeast, who grew up in the tribal girls' hostel while doing her schooling at Shiksha Bharati. She has been a meritorious student throughout and has recently graduated from the university with flying colors.

She has recently got a job-offer with an attractive salary as a yoga instructor at an institute. Despite

growing up in adverse conditions, Anjana was able to pursue quality education provided by Shiksha Bharati and IDRF.

Vocational Training Workshops
Banwasi Chhatrawas (IDRF-supported Dormitory)
(Summer 2016)

Objectives of the Vocational Training:

- To make tribal girls self-reliant
- To increase economic productivity
- To create adequate employment potentialities
- To increase dignity of labor
- To maximum utilization of the available resources as well as waste material

Courses Offered:

About 65 hostel girls participated in the following vocational training workshops:

- Paper Cutting and Crafting- Girls learnt how to make paper bags, paper flowers and greeting cards, etc.
- Sewing- The fundamentals of cutting and tailoring was taught.
- Food Preservation- Making jellies, squashes, pickles, and marmalade was taught.
- Music- The fundamentals like singing skills, rhythm's knowledge, scale of male and female voice, etc. was taught
- Cooking- Making instant and flameless recipes like salads & sandwich was taught
- Computer literacy- The training for Word Processing, Presentation, Spreadsheet, use of internet and emailing was imparted.

Overview of the vocational training workshops:

The tribal students are making the products learnt at the various workshops. Visitors are showing interest in these products and even buying them during their visits to the campus. The girls are not just getting encouragement to make more of these products, but are also thinking of earning extra income to save for their higher education, while studying at this school.



Sewing Classes

Food Preservation

During summer vacations students of grades 8th to 12th participated in the food preservation workshop organized by the school. The participants were taught: making of pickles, jams, sauces, marmalades, and squashes, etc. They learnt these things with great perseverance and have started making pickles, jams, sauces, etc. on a regular-basis. These items are bottled and preserved well and consumed by girls along with their meals. Whenever any visitors to the school and dormitory come, they are encouraged to buy these products made by the students. Some of the girls want to use their talents to start small business enterprises after they finish their schooling and return home. They want to become self-dependent and contribute towards the family's income with the skills they have learnt at the school and not be a financial burden on their parents.



Aarti – Class (XII)

Paper Cutting and Crafting

In the paper cutting and crafting course we learnt to make the envelopes of different designs & paper bags by quilting the paper. We also learnt to make paper-flowers for decoration purposes. Many of us tried our hand at making boxes by folding & cutting paper. After the completion of the course we are making beautiful greeting cards, paper flowers, paper baskets and gift boxes, etc. Some of us are even considering making paper items and putting up an exhibition to sell our products. I think I know that I am going to start a small business of making paper crafts when I complete my schooling here.



Diksha – Class (XI)