
Annual Report 2014-2015 Nanda Talukdar Foundation

As the curtain for the year (2014-2015) has come down, we can look back with immense satisfaction of another year of relentless progress as we have embarked on unknown territory, not only extending our footprints but also gaining both trust and respectability of people from all over the region as well as the country.

It was a year of pride and responsibility as the year witnessed explosive growth in the Foundation both in quality of works, its diversity and the financial growth and discipline. Here is the story of the past year.

Publication

The year saw publication of “AXOM” a six-volume history of modern Assam, a project that has been under the pipeline for more than three years. After 43 months of hard work, the fruit came out in the mid September 2014. This was a monumental effort by any standard. Not only by size and content, it created record of records of sorts in much aspect.

Written jointly by Mrinal Talukdar and Kishore Kalita, the set of book was completed after 43 months of labour spending altogether Rs 14 lakhs. Krishna Talukdar, Uddipta Hazarika and Kishore Kalita in various libraries of Assam did the groundwork research of the book.

The book covered the period between 1945 to 2000 and each of the volume handled one decade of that period. However the first volume handled the 1945-50 part, which was the most crucial. From the size, never before such a product had ever been witnessed in the publication history of Assam. Moreover there was no such history book available for that period.

Priced at Rs 3500, this set of book has been the costliest in the history of Assamese publication, but yet the reader lapped up the first edition of 500 copies as this set of books had become an aspiration for all. Dr. Nagen Saikia and historian Dr Rajen Saikia at a glittering function at NEDFi hall released the book set on September 14 before the virtual who's who of Assam.

In fact such was the demand for the set of books that we had to order for a second edition of the book within four months of the first print. For the funding of the book, Kangkan Dutta provided a soft loan of Rs 8 lakh which has been returned from the proceed of the sale.

Development sector

The social audit of SIRD nurtured joint liability groups under the Chief Minister's Jivan Jyoti Yojna (CMJJY) remained one of the major activity of the Foundation which has provided the basic bread and butter for the Foundation to maintain its staff. Like past year, this year too the Foundation have audited around 1100 groups in all parts of the state, mostly in lower and central Assam. It was a mammoth task as Uddipta Hazarika, Krishna Talukdar and Banjit Bhuyan criss crossed the state meeting the group members and they were fed into the computers and online servers made it possible to make it as the first real time monitored social audit project for the Assam Government. Armed with special software developed and used for this purpose, the authorities and the policy makers can monitor the status of the groups at the click of mouse in anyway they want from any part of the world with an internet connectivity. The audit and online updation have earned countrywide respect and admiration for its clean and transparent technology.

ACTED-EU project

The ambitious project did not take off as anticipated mostly due to non-availability of the FCRA by the NTF, as the Acted could not transfer the required money although we had laid down all the blue prints. Along with the local office of ACTED, various permutations and combination were made but nothing materialized as NTF wanted to make sure that everything was done as per the land of the law. The FCRA did not materialize and we too have decided not to pursue it as the rules and

scrutiny have become much more tougher. It is expected that by the next Financial year the work in the project to continue.

Finance

The good news is that corpus of the NTF had gone up to Rs 40 lakh with the addition of another Rs 10 lakh to the corpus. This sum was raised from the savings of various projects as well as gate collection of the September 14 function besides book sale proceeds as we have made some good profit from the book sales as well as royalties as writer Mrinal Talukdar have not taken any money as royalty for any of his book this year.

With M/S Abhijit & Associates taking over the accounts, the financial disciplines have been added and because of which the accounts have remained more transparent.

Grass Root Interventions

The Foundation in a bid to make grass root interventions in the villages, have started networking with the possible donors as a tentative plan have been chalked out for a Model Village. The NTF has made itself empanelled with HARDICON to explore the possibility of making intervention using the CSR route of the PSUs.

Later the Foundation was also empaneled with HIMCON for similar objectives. The NTF have also submitted a proposal of Rs 1.5 crores to HIMCON for turning a village of Baska, namely Barsimlauguri, into a smart village. The proposal is under consideration in the donor agencies. For this purpose the NTF has collaborated with Mr. Anirudh Goswami as a CSR consultant.

Nitya Bora
Chairman, NTF
2.5.2015
