



WEFA News Letter

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Er. Rita Rajkhowa
President

Er. Rekha Majumdar
Secretary

Dr. Bibha Das Saikias
Editor

Message from President's Desk

Dear Members,

I am very glad to know that, our 3rd Foundation Day celebration had been completed in a very organized and smooth way, with the release of a colorful Souvenir. I regret that, I missed the grand celebration, due to my remaining out of station, for unavoidable reasons. Thanks to all of you for your sincere cooperation and the pain taken for it.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gautam Barua, Director, Guwahati IIT, Sjt. Pradip Brahma, Ex Principal of AEC, renowned Scientist Sjt. Uddhab Bharali and other respected invitees for making our Foundation Day celebration a grand success, with their kind presence and precious advice.

Last few months, when we used to peruse the newspaper, almost every alternate day we come across the horrible news of killings of our valuable wild animals like rhinoceros, elephant, tiger etc., by greedy and mean humans. We should

raise our strong voice of protest against all these inhuman atrocities. Cutting away of horn of rhinoceros and elephant tusk from live animals is indeed very pathetic and must be condemned by one and all. The Assam Govt. / Animal Rights Activists must come up, on top priority basis, with effective anti-poaching steps, and bring the perpetrators to justice. The World Wild Life Foundation (WWF) should also intervene appropriately and fast. Finally, I take the opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy New Year 2013.

Long Live WEFA !

Mrs. Rita Rajkhowa,
President, WEFA.



Secretary's Report for WEFA News Letter

In continuation of WEFA's aim to bring awareness of Technical and Vocational Education among school students, the members organized awareness programmes recently in the following schools:

1. Dispur Govt. Higher Secondary school on 11th Sept.2012 and
2. Rani High School on 22nd Nov 2012.

At Dispur Govt. Higher School about 150 students from Class 1X and X attended the same. Srimati Renu Dutta Bhuyan, the Principal of the school appreciated the steps taken by the members of the forum and offered thanks for selecting her school for the programme. Er Rita Rajkhowa, Er. Rekha Majumdar Er Bandita Phukan, Er. Labanya Padmapati Barua, Er Indira.Das, Er Mridula Das were involved in the awareness programme. They spoke on importance of technical education and its benefits to girl students in particular.

Another Awareness Programme on importance of technical education was organized at Rani High School on 22nd November 2012. About 100 Students of Cclass1X and X attended the programme. Sri Dipak Sarma, the Head Master of the school inaugurated the programme. The

members who attended this programme were Er.R.Majumdar, Er.Labanya P.Barua, Er.Bibha Das Saikia, Er.Mridula Das, Er.Putuli Saikia Barua, Er.Mrinalini Das and Er.Geetimmala Baishya.



In both the schools, deliberations were made on importance of technical education, its benefits and how it helps in self-employment and enable girls to establish them professionally in the modern world. The details of different technical education systems prevailing in the States such as Degree, Diploma and ITI courses in engineering and scope for employment etc. and the procedure of enrolment, the expenditures required, the different sources of availing finances etc. were informed.

The students were encouraged to study Science, Mathematics, and English without any fear in their mind which will help them in future. After completion of the deliberations, in

Rani High School, the students were asked to speak about their experience in the programme. Many students enthusiastically gave their feedback. The members then decided to award the best girl and boy speakers. The recipients of the award were Bipul Das and Madhusmita Barman. Another student named Abdur Rahman got the consolation award.

Celebration of 3rd Foundation Day:

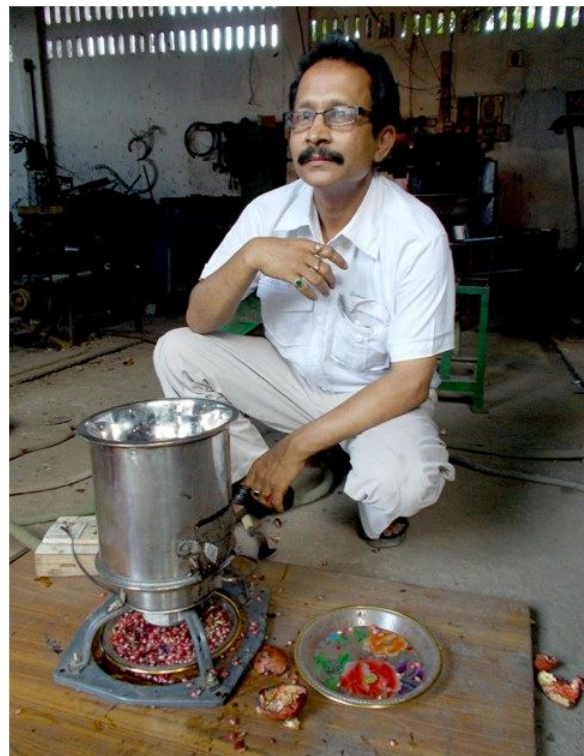
WEFA celebrated its 3rd Foundation Day on 10th November 2012 at Institution of Engineers', (India) Assam State Centre Premises in a glorious manner. A meeting cum talk was arranged on that day.

Sri Gautam Barua, Director IIT, the chief guest of the evening, pointed out the challenges and difficulties of the ladies in a patriarchal society and advised WEFA to work hard to change the mindset of the people by imparting technical education not only to boys but also to girls of the society. He also advocated encouraging the students to study Science and Mathematics so that we may get more and more engineers for the society.

Sri P. K. Brahma Director GIMT, in his speech advised the forum to work on burning problems of the State in collaborations with the Govt Departments.

Sri A.K Padmapati, Retd Principal, A.E.C admired the members for the efforts taken to uplift the women.

Sri Uddhab Bharali, noted Scientist, was the source of attraction of the day. He spoke on "Innovation and Invention". Sri Bharali gave presentation on his different inventions of low cost machines, which have helped the hard working and illiterate people at village level and become the source of income for those people.



Scientist Uddhab Ch. Bharali with his patent

At the request of the President, Sri J.P., Rajkhowa, IAS (Retd.), in his brief speech, suggested that, WEFA could consider taking up a Project, for solar lighting of a non-electrified village, by providing 1- 2 light points,

in collaboration with ASTEC/ Ministry of Non-conventional Energy, Govt. of India, which would be educative and also benefit the villagers.

Some technocrats stated their feelings and deliberations on the achievements of the WEFA during last 3years.

The Director IIT released the first “SOUVENIR” of the Forum and Bibha Das Saikia, editor spoke a few words about it.



The meeting was presided over by Bandita Phukan, Vice President of the Forum, as President could not attend, due to unavoidable circumstances. Late Kavita DEVI Memorial Award was given to Purbashree Sarma, topper of the Civil Engineering Branch from A.E.C. in 2012. One-time financial assistance was given to Priya Kaur Dhillon of A.E.C. and Rinji Deka of Assam Engineering Institute, Guwahati.

Borgeet presentation by Gitanjali Kakoti, Recitation by Mridula Das, Putuli Saikia Barua and Krishna

Sarma and solo song by Mina Bordoloi also marked the occasion. Mallika Saikia anchored the programme very successfully.

Rekha Majumdar
Secretary WEFA

Editorial: WEFA

It gave me immense happiness to be a part of the awareness programme on technical education (of different levels i.e. degree, diploma & certificate courses) available in Assam, organized by our WEFA members at Rani High School & to interact with the enthusiastic students. Rani High School is a Govt. run co-educational school standing 25 kms away from Guwahati which is going to celebrate its Golden Jubilee shortly. The main objective of the program was to encourage the young minds to opt for technical education. Focus on the basic subjects- Mathematics, Science and English and their importance to join technical courses was also stressed. To make science subjects more effective & interesting schools require to accommodate new teaching & learning styles and provisions for proper laboratory facilities are mandatory. However it is very disheartening that Rani High School does not have adequate infrastructure for proper laboratory classrooms and the students are unable to use equipments &

computers provided by the Govt. of Assam. Similar conditions probably exist in many of the Govt. run schools located in every nook and corner of the state of Assam. In such a grim scenarios can we expect one of these students to grow up and pursue his studies to be an engineer or a scientist? Will it not be a rather uphill task for them to compete with the students coming from urban schools (run by private organizations) having best facilities, sophisticated laboratory classrooms, libraries, multimedia centers and so on? Further the teachers intimated that there are a few bright students, who require some financial support to continue their studies and above all a little care to achieve their goals and live a dignified life. But WEFA is too small an organization to help these young enthusiasts in this direction on its own. However with help and support from the Govt. of Assam and generous contributions from caring people/organizations together WEFA and you can surely bring lasting and positive changes in lives of these students.

"Children are the future of the nation" and to ensure this, only Education comes as an answer. Because, it is only education that is the right place to start, no matter which problem is being addressed - healthcare, poverty, unemployment or human rights.

Bibha Das Saikia

Achiever Bandita Phukan:

Engineer Bandita Phukan, Vice President of WEFA was invited to Bookaroo International Festival of Children Literature and Story Telling held from 23rd November to 25th November, 2012 in Gurgaon, Delhi and sponsored by Sahitya Academi. The festival was participated by about 2000 to 3000 children daily with their parents or teachers.

There were five places in the same huge field for reading books or for storytelling. Writers and Story tellers from England, Australia, Scotland, Singapur including few Indian writers like Mr. Jitendra from Bhupal, Mr. Manas Mahapatra from Orissa as writers and there were few story tellers from Mumbai, Bangalore attended the festival.

One of Bandita Phukan's children novel that was published in Assamese (Kokar Jimi), later translated into English (Raju and Jimi) and various Indian languages. In the festival, Bookaroo people asked her to narrate her book "Raju and Jimi" to the children.

She says, "I had fantastic experiences in that festival and got a chance to interact with the foreign writers. Yes, we have to do lots in the field of children literature in Assam."

Banking on Bicycles

(Source: The Power of Inspiration)

Hemant Chhabra, a businessman from outskirts of Mumbai had a deep impact by the sight of young children walking several kilometers to school everyday even in extreme weather conditions across urban and rural areas. He realized the children are the future of their parents and the country and how important it was for them to get to school. The outcome of that realization was the 'Bicycle Project' in 2008. The concept of this project was that the old bicycles donated by people are recycled and distributed to the children in the rural areas so that they can ride to school rather than walking long distances. At present it is really heartwarming to see how the lives of not just the children but entire villages have changed due to the mobility the cycles offer them.



Scooter - For Women and By Women

Japanese Yamaha Company launched its first scooter Ray in India on 14th September 2012 in Hyderabad. As Yamaha got ready to launch Ray, its first model to foray into India's scooter market, they aggressively marketed the scooter as a woman's ride with their obvious women-oriented marketing campaign. The company has gone all the way with the idea putting together a rider training program for women as well as an assembly line which is operated entirely by women for the Ray.
