

## NEWSLETTER- MAY 2023

**Session on Safe Touch and Unsafe Touch:** On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 an awareness program on Good touch and bad touch was organized in Immaculate Heart of Mary Middle School, Plandu. 163 students attended the session. Ms. Radhika Pasari and Mrs. Ashwariya Pasari from Young



Indians were the Resource persons for this session. They started the session saying that all of us are Boss of our Body. It is our duty to protect our body, that is why we see those who are

ridding two wheelers like motor bike or scotty, they wear helmets. Those who drive car or sit in the front seat of the car use seatbelt. We wear shoes or sleepers to protect our feet. When we talk about good touch and bad touch, we talk about protection from unwanted touch. They further said that the body parts we usually keep covered are our private parts and no one has the permission to touch them there. Even parents touch them there only if they are bathing or cleaning us, not otherwise.

Then they went on to explain what is Good touch and what is Bad touch. They said **Good Touch** is that which gives us pleasant and good feeling. It is a way to show care, love and help, like when mommy hugs them or papa gives them a goodnight kiss or their grandparents hold them in their arms and they hold their friend's hands while playing. All these are Good touch.

**Bad Touch** is a touch, which makes them uncomfortable and they feel unpleasant and they want to stop it then and there like, it is a bad touch if they feel hurt, if they do not want to be touched, if someone touches their private parts (their chest, their buttock or parts between their legs) without a reason, if someone touches them and tells them not to tell anyone, all these are examples of a bad touch.

They said that it's all right if your parents touch them but if someone else is touching their body



and they feel uncomfortable, it's a bad touch. Children should not allow their chest and genitals to be touched by others. If someone does so, they should scream. Then Resource Persons gave the children a situation and asked them to scream. A few children tried to scream. Then they said that when they are in an isolated place and someone touches them and they feel uncomfortable, they should run as fast as possible to a crowded place. Inform the incident to their parents, or to some trustworthy person. They also can inform it to their teacher or the nun in the school.

The program was very interactive and the children were actively involved. In order to make the points of Good touch and Bad touch clear to the children, the Resource Persons kept on asking



the children what should they do when somebody's touch give them uncomfortable feeling and children responded what they are supposed to in those situations. At the

end the nuns and the class teachers were requested to repeatedly tell the students regarding good touch and bad touch. They were asked to do it in every fortnight.

**Training on Income Generation:** On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, two days training on Entrepreneurship and Income Generation was organized by SIGN at Hoffmann Social Service Society, Khunti District. There

were 30 women participants learning different ways of increasing their family income. On the first day Mrs. Jyoti Tirkey from Ranchi taught the participants how to make garlands and artificial flowers by using Satin cloth, Foam, Green tape, Artificial leaves, Thin Bamboo sticks (2-3 feet), Floral stick, Stocking, ribbon, Golden wire, Pollen, Cotton thread,



Scissor, pliers and Organza cloth. Though participants took some time to learn, but by the end of first day, they were happy to learn useful tricks of earning some income. Each participant made minimum of two pieces of artificial tulip flower.



On the second day Sr. Maria Gorreti Lakra, OSF taught the participants to make candles, washing soap and washing powder. Making washing powder and candles were easy, but making washing soap was difficult, because they could not get the correct material for making washing soap. However, they learnt the process of making it and they are sure, that

this learning will help them for their household work. Participants were very happy to spend two useful days.

**Soil & Water Conservation Training:** SIGN organized a training on Soil & Water Conservation in two places viz. from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> May in Hazaribagh and from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> May in Simdega. 30 farmers in Hazaribagh and 28 farmers in Simdega benefited from this training. Mr. Mansaram Mahato was the resource person for this training. The resource person said that Soil and Water conservation are those activities at the local level, which maintain



and enhances the productive capacity of the land including soil, water and vegetation in areas prone to degradation through a) prevention or reduction of soil erosion, salinity, b) conservation or drainage of water and c) improvement of soil fertility. He said there are four methods of soil conservation; a) increase the area under forest (plant more trees), b) check overgrazing, c) construct dams and d) change agriculture practices i.e., crop rotation, strip cropping, contour ploughing, contour bunding, checking shifting cultivation, and ploughing the land in right



direction. Then he went on to explain about staggered trench, 30x40 model, 5% model and homestead. He said that *Staggered Trenching* the low cost model of soil and water conservation, which comprises shorter trenches along the contour with 6 ft space between them at

suitable intervals to hold the expected runoff. **30x40 model** is a method mainly done in uplands, where the slopes are of 5-8%. It involves upland into small plots of 30-40ft. it checks the soil erosion, increases moisture in uplands, and increases soil fertility. **5% model** is suitable for medium uplands, in which every plot has its own water source comprising 5% of plot land. The best time to construct 5% is from December to June. It assures paddy cultivation, helps in paddy transplantation on time, helps in irrigation in dry spell, increases ground water, and checks runoff of water, whereas **Homestead land** is small structure pond of 50 ft x 50ft. it is usually constructed near house for checking run off of water, doing kitchen gardening, fishery, duck rearing and meeting house hold requirement. Training was appreciated by the participants.

**Awakening Tribal Soul:** On 29<sup>th</sup> May a Workshop on Roles and Responsibilities of Priest and Nuns to preserve Tribal Heritage was organized by SIGN at Social Development Centre (SDC),

Ranchi. Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ was the Chief Guest. He gave presidential Speech and presided over the workshop. In his presidential address, he gave us very disturbing situation of tribal community saying that tribals are at verge of losing its identity. He cited examples saying many



do not know the meaning of their surnames. Many do not know their language. Many are hiding their identity by not express their complete names. Anti-tribal forces are working against the tribal culture and heritage. Exhorting priests and nuns, he said unless, we priest and nuns are working hard to preserve the heritage, tribal community will not have anything in the name of their culture, heritage.

Then Fr Mahendra Peter Tigga, the Resource person of the day started with the constitution of India and then discussed the presented situation of tribal community and need to work hard to preserve the heritage. He said it looks as if people in authority in tribal community are asleep and so need to awaken the tribal soul. After his presented, he divided the participants into five groups and asked them to discuss

what could be done to preserve the heritage. As an outcome of the group discussion, it was felt that tribal community has to work hard to preserve tribal heritage by promoting tribal language, tribal songs-dance, Gram Sabha, and Tribal



values beginning from school level to college level, religious people to ordinary people and at the church level to village level. At the end, one person from each tribal community viz. Munda, Oraon, Santhali and Kharia were asked to come forward and sing a song in their respective language. With this program was concluded.