



# North East Network

A women's organisation from North East India

January-February-March 2022



## Welcome to our April 2022 Newsletter!

On 22nd March 2022, North East Network reached the 27-year milestone of its unconventional journey which began in 1995 with a vision that women must be at the centre stage of all decision-making processes, both in private and public spheres. In its 27th year of commitment to women, NEN has emerged as one of the most credible and trusted feminist voices of Northeast India. This issue of the NEN Newsletter will highlight the work carried out during the first quarter of 2022.

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Gender Discrimination & Violence Against Women



## **Rally for Awareness on Violence Against Women**

Two horrific instances of attacks against women at Umsaw Village during the first month of 2022, has again highlighted the rising rate of VAW in Meghalaya. On 13th January, NEN Outreach Workers organised a Rally to mobilise and raise awareness on this critical issue, with the intent to bring all stakeholders involved in crime prevention and protection under one platform.

[Click here](#) to know more.





### **Awareness Programme on Domestic Violence**

NEN Outreach Workers in West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, initiated an Awareness Programme on social issues at Wahliewlong Village on 14th January 2022. A skit was performed by the Seng Kynthei of the village on 'Domestic Violence' and a participatory activity was conducted to promote active decision-making amongst its youth and women. The objective of the programme was to build a larger community response mechanism to respond to cases of Domestic Violence, along with shared public responsibility in addressing domestic violence and related issues.

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### **Exchange Learning Program**

As part of NEN's continued efforts to create awareness amongst young women about their own rights and capabilities, an Exchange Learning Program was organised

during 16th-17th Feb 2022 with 11 women from Phek and Kohima District along with SEWA Shakti Kendra staff. The group spent 2 days learning about gender issues while gaining firsthand experience and interaction with women-run enterprises.

[Click here](#) to know more.



### **Awareness Programme On Menstrual Health**

Over the years NEN has undertaken several initiatives to train adolescent girls and women on using more sustainable products related to menstrual hygiene and has conducted awareness campaigns on the most effective way to use them. It was a great opportunity for both the participants and the NEN team, to learn from an expert on menstruation, menstrual health and the impacts of various menstrual products. This was the first initial meeting with the Women's Collective of Madanryting on 26th February 2022. Nelson Deb, Social Entrepreneur and Founder of Eco Hub and Co-Founder of Bodhana NGO, Assam was the Resource Person.

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### **Celebration of International Women's Day**

**#BreakTheBias**

NEN celebrated IWD 2022 in three states via various programmes with the theme 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. Women shed societal



inhibitions as they talked, danced, sang and performed plays that expressed their respective journeys and hopes for a more gender equal society.



In Assam, IWD 2022 was celebrated in six districts with approximately 400 women participating in a series of programmes between 2nd – 8th March.

[Click here](#) to know more



IWD 2022 was celebrated by NEN Meghalaya on 8th March 2022 at three locations - Nongmensong locality in the East Khasi Hills, Marngor village in the West Khasi Hills and Shillong.

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IWD 2022 was celebrated by NEN Nagaland on 8th March 2022 at two locations: the Women Resource Center, Runguzu Nasa in collaboration with SEWA, Nagaland, and at the NEN Chizami Resource Centre, Chizami.

At Chizami, the IWD event brought together 160 participants comprising of women farmers, weavers, community leaders from several villages under Phek district, and representatives from several government departments.

The IWD celebration at Runguzu Nasa witnessed the solidarity of 90 plus community members consisting of women farmers, weavers and community leaders from 10 neighbouring villages.

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“A Journey of Learning and Dialogue” was envisioned by NEN Nagaland and Green Hub to create a platform/ space to initiate discourse and dialogues with communities using creative mediums/ visuals. A team of 8 from NEN and Green Hub along with volunteers made the journey from 28th February to 9th March 2022 and covered 6 villages in 3 districts of Nagaland.

[Click here](#) to know more.





### **Theatre Workshop for Youth**

Nagaland organised a residential workshop for youth with the theme “Theater for Social change”, to train young participants to articulate, communicate, narrate stories and translate experiences and issues through the medium of drama and theater. The workshop held from 29th - 31st March 2022 at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami had 12 participants from different educational institutions and communities.

[Click here](#) to know more.

## **Natural Resource Management & Livelihood**

### **Free Health Check-up for Weavers**

Over the years NEN has initiated livelihood projects for women weavers in Assam to assist them in gaining economic and social empowerment. Weavers tend to work long hours at the loom and sometimes this poses the risk of weakened eyesight, early cataract, loss of vision etc. To ensure that they do not face any vision related problems, NEN organises regular free eye camps for weavers from various districts of Assam.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, an eye camp was organised in collaboration with Dr. Chandrima Das of Sarvodaya Healthcare, Panbazar. 7 weavers and 1 community mobiliser of Darrang district were provided eye check-up along with free medicines and glasses.

[Click here](#) to know more about NEN’s livelihood initiative in Assam.



### **Biodiversity Walk**

Spending a day in close proximity to nature plays a pivotal role in reconnecting young people with their natural environment. It also helps bridge inter-generational gaps through interactions with elder community knowledge holders present. A Biodiversity Walk by NEN Nagaland was conducted on 28th January 2022 in Thelupra forest at Tsupfume village under Phek district, Nagaland. 17 members of the youth participated, under the guidance of Zhonyi Rhi, a community knowledge holder. Through the walk, the youth collected close to 40 types of uncultivated foods, including fruits, medicinal herbal plants and natural fibres.

[Click here](#) to know more.

A second Biodiversity Walk was organised for a group of 17 students from St. Joseph College's NSS team, along with a teacher on 11th February 2022. Mr. Bisieto Phira, Community Knowledge Holder from Kigwema Village led the group as they trekked through the foothills of Mt. Japfu, the second highest peak in Nagaland. The team explored the community forest Akiile, the community jhum fields, and learnt to identify many plant species living within the community forest.

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### **Workshop for Women Farmers**

Women in Assam implement most of the work in agricultural farms, from sowing to harvesting, yet their access to resources is less than their male counterparts. Closing this gender gap is essential in order to accelerate the movement for equality and socio-economic empowerment of rural women. NEN has been consistently organising trainings for rural women farmers in several districts of Assam. A Farming Workshop was conducted for women farmers in Golaghat to provide training on various aspects of crop cultivation.

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## Advanced Training for Weavers

Over the years, NEN has gradually been building the core strength of handloom weavers in Nagaland by promoting natural fibres, hand-spun yarn, natural dyes and the training of weavers in diverse designs. On 2nd – 4th February 2022, a 3-day advance course on design and product development was conducted by NEN in Chozuba, Yoruba and at the Women Resource Centre, Runguzu Nasa. 56 community women from 4 communities - Chozuba, Yoruba, Runguzu Nasa and Chozuba town, participated in the training facilitated by our experienced Chizami Weaves team. The training programme was supported by the Department of Women Resource Development, Nagaland.

[Click here](#) to know more.



## Exposure Trip & Training For Weavers

In Assam, women weavers from 6 districts receive regular training to augment their skills in weaving and related matters, like colour coordination, quality control etc. On 1st and 2nd March 2022, NEN organised a training for weavers from Assam at Chizami Weaves at the NEN Resource Centre, Chizami.

[Click here](#) to know more.





## **Annual Biodiversity Festival**

Since 2010, NEN has been organising Biodiversity Festivals that bring together diverse stakeholders especially farming communities from within and outside Nagaland. The 13th edition of their annual Biodiversity Festival under the theme, 'Embracing Biodiversity for Wellbeing' was held on 9th March 2022 at Chizami village under Phek district in Nagaland, with over 150 participants from different communities and organisations. The main highlight was the Heritage Seed Exchange between women farmers of different villages from Nagaland. The Festival also included a biodiversity exhibition, a seed exhibition, a wild foods exhibition, an Earth Market, talks, interactions, film screenings, and cultural performances.

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### **Workshop for Weavers**

A Capacity Building Workshop was organised at Chizami with 10 Weavers from 29-31 March 2022. The 3-day workshop covered both practical and theory sessions on stock and inventory management. Weavers from Chozuba, Yoruba , Runguzu Nasa, and Chozuba Town attended the workshop. The weavers represented the weavers collective from their respective communities, for the future interaction and engagements these women leaders will support and bridge the weavers with the livelihood initiative of NEN for a continuous and sustainable development.

[Click here](#) to know more.



### **Distribution of Solar Drier Machine**

NEN Nagaland provided a Solar Drier Machine funded by CAPCO to the women collective of Phekerkriema village on 17th March 2022. The village is located 28 kms away from Kohima, capital of Nagaland. Farming, vending, home based work and daily wage labour are some of the prominent sources of livelihood for the community. The environment-friendly technology will enable the



community to preserve their fruits, vegetables and other perishable crops which deteriorate during the peak seasons due to the distance from markets and high transportation cost.

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### **Training on Food Processing & Business Management**

NEN Meghalaya organised a Training for 2 SHG groups from Nongshillong Village of Eastern West Khasi hills District and Laitkseh Village of West Khasi Hills District on Business Management and Food processing of three items (Squash, RTS Juice and Pickle Making). The food processing training will help them to utilise the excess products from their village which are usually wasted and earn a livelihood.

[Click here](#) to know more.



## **Exposure trip to Uttarakhand**

A team of 5 from Nagaland consisting of 3 NEN staff & 2 Weavers from Chizami traveled to Uttarakhand from 21st to 25th March 2022, as part of the exposure learning to strengthen livelihood opportunities for communities. The team visited Mahila Umang Producers Company Ltd, a collective of self-help groups and producers – engaged in promoting sustainable livelihoods through establishment of micro enterprises.

[Click here](#) to know more.



## **Governance & State Accountability**

### **Training For Protection Officers**

NEN has been working with Government of Meghalaya in addressing violence against women through facilitating skill training for Protection officers. On 17th February 2022, a State Level Training for Protection Officers on PWDVA, 2005 was organised by NEN in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of Meghalaya. The Meghalaya State Govt. has recently notified every Centre Administrator of One Stop Centres in 11 districts to carry out roles and responsibilities of a Protection Officer as per the PWDVA, 2005.

[Click here](#) to know more.





## Awards & Accolades



**Felicitation of  
Dr. Monisha Behal  
Co-founder & Former Executive Director,  
North East Network**

**on International Women's Day 2022 by  
Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam**

Dr. Monisha Behal, erstwhile Executive Director and Co-founder of NEN, was honored by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam for exemplary

work and service to the society. Dr. Behal was felicitated on International Women's Day 2022 at a special event held in Guwahati on 8th March 2022.

### **Prerona Excellency Award 2022**

NEN's livelihood initiative for empowering rural women weavers in Assam was conferred with the 'Prerona Excellency Award 2022' on 8th March 2022. Anurita P. Hazarika, State Coordinator, and Priyanka Saikia, Project Associate, Nenterprise, received the award at a special ceremony held in Panbazar, Guwahati.



**Team of Saneki Weaves  
receiving the  
Anuprerona  
EXCELLENCY AWARD 2022**

**KNOW MORE ABOUT NEN'S WEAVING INITIATIVE**

[Nenterprise](#)



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