



# Udayan



FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH (RI DIST 3240)

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Nawajyoti Sharma

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## From the Editor



In the rotary calendar, September is Basic Education and Literacy Month. More than 781 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That is 17 percent of the world's adult population. 58 million children worldwide are out of school and even after four years of primary schooling, as many as 250 million children cannot read and write.

Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults. As Mark Wilson put it, "When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime. It ripples through the community, one by one".

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy by involving the community to support programmes that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all, increasing adult literacy in communities, working to reduce gender disparity in education and supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to basic education and literacy.

According to the United Nations, the COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption in the education system in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in more than 190 countries across all continents. School closures and

other learning spaces have impacted 94% of the world's student population. With more than 90 million students globally locked out of schools by the Covid-19 pandemic, millions of parents have been forced into the role of educator. Many are fearful, unsure and even feeling guilty that they will not succeed.

Rotary clubs worldwide are trying to provide access to learning resources during pandemic. The Rotary Club of Gauhati South has also attempted to contribute to this effort in a small way. In collaboration with the World Youth Council, RCGS is actively participating in Teach From Home project which commenced on 9 June 2020.. We have adopted four schools where English and Maths are taught in the online mode. Till date, 476 teaching sessions have been completed. Our effort is no doubt just a drop in the bucket, but is it also not true that little drops of water also make up the mighty ocean?

**Rtn. Priyam Goswami**

## ROTARY HISTORY

### THE ROOTS OF ROTARY'S POLIO ERADICATION EFFORTS

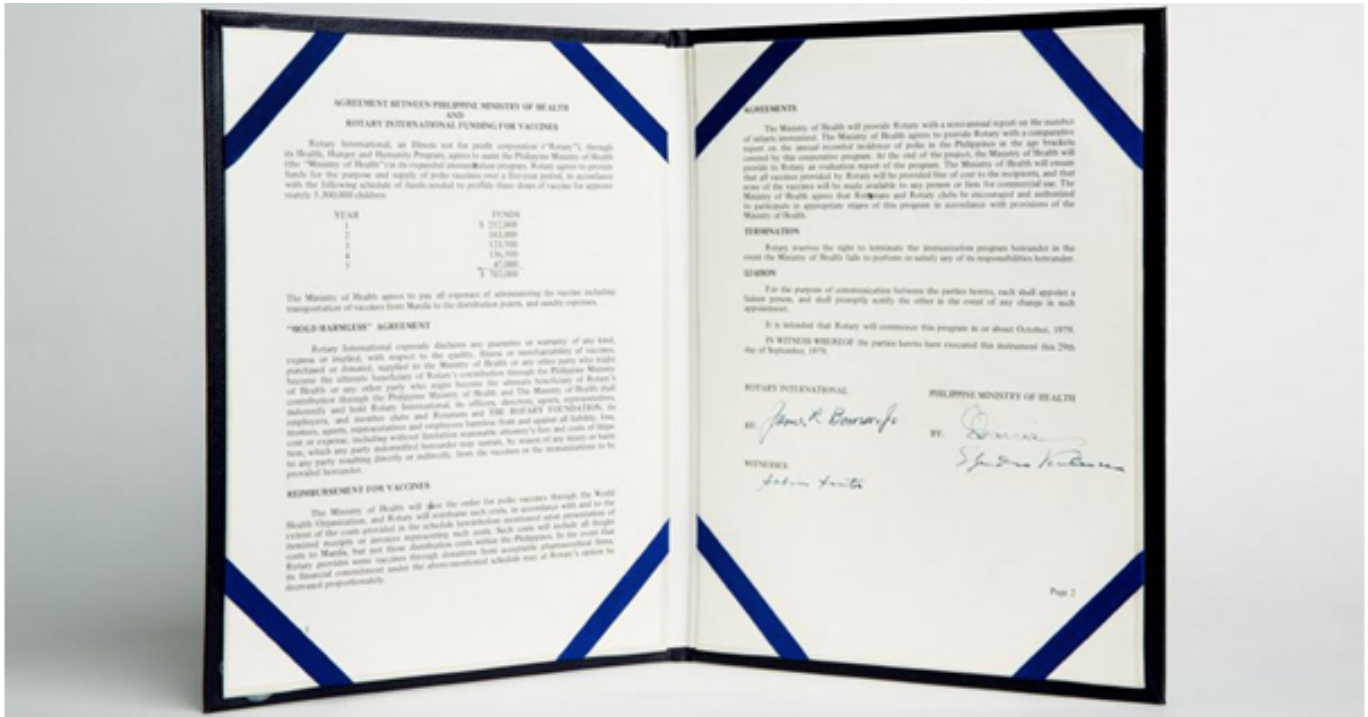
On 29 September 1979, volunteers administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children at a health centre in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, Philippines. The event in metropolitan Manila was arranged and attended by Rotarians and delegates from the Philippine Ministry of Health.

When James L. Bomar Jr., then RI president, put the first drops of vaccine into a child’s mouth, he ceremonially launched the Philippine poliomyelitis immunization effort. Rotary’s first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant project was underway.

Bomar and Enrique M. Garcia, the country’s minister of health, had earlier signed an agreement committing Rotary International and the government of the Philippines to a joint multiyear effort to immunize about 6 million children against polio, at a cost of about \$760,000.

In a 1993 interview, Bomar reminisced about the trip. He recalled how the brother of one of the children he had immunized tugged on his pant leg to get his attention and said, “Thank you, thank you, Rotary.”

The project’s success led Rotary to make polio eradication a top priority. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and was a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Through decades of commitment and work by Rotary and our partners, more than 2.5 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine.



The 1979 agreement between Rotary International and the Philippine Ministry of Health for a joint multi-year effort to immunize children against polio.





Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary’s Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, joins 100 pioneers, artists, leaders, icons, and titans as one of TIME’s 100 Most Influential People. TIME announced its 2020 honorees during a 22 September television broadcast on ABC, recognizing Funsho for his instrumental leadership and work with Rotary members and partners to achieve the eradication of wild polio in the African region. TIME 100 comprises individuals whose leadership, talent, discoveries, and philanthropy have made a difference in the world. Past honorees include Bono, the Dalai Lama, Bill Gates, Nelson Mandela, Angela Merkel, Oprah Winfrey, and Malala Yousafzai.

He is the first Rotary member to receive this honour for work toward eradicating polio.

A Rotarian for 35 years, Funsho is a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki, Nigeria, past governor of District 9110, and serves on Rotary’s International Polio Plus Committee. Funsho is a cardiologist and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria with his wife Aisha. They have four children; Habeeb, Kike, Abdullahi and Fatima; and five grandchildren.

“I’m honored to be recognized by TIME for my part in ensuring that no child in Africa will ever again be paralyzed by wild polio, a disease that once disabled 75,000 African children every single year,” said Funsho. “Eradicating the wild poliovirus in Africa was a team effort that required

cooperation and dedication of governments, partners, Rotary members, hundreds of thousands of health workers, and countless parents who chose to have their children vaccinated against polio.”

As the chair of Rotary’s Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, since 2013 Funsho has led PolioPlus efforts in the country, building upon the work of his predecessors. He has worked alongside Rotarians in Nigeria to raise awareness about the importance of polio immunization, encouraged governments and public figures to support polio eradication, and served as a vocal leader and advocate for Rotary and its fight to end polio. He works closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partner organizations: the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

On 25 August, the African region was certified wild polio-free. This historic announcement means that five of the WHO’s six regions, representing more than 90 percent of the world’s population, are now free of the wild poliovirus. The virus is still endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

With Africa’s milestone, Rotary and its partners took a major step forward toward their goal of global eradication. Funsho told TIME magazine, “One thing I know for certain, is if Nigeria could eliminate the wild poliovirus, any country can eliminate it.”



## TEACH FROM HOME PROJECT: A REPORT

I hereby would like to extend my heartiest gratitude and greatly appreciate your support in making this project a huge success. The collaboration with the Rotary Club of Guwahati South has really helped in giving a shape to this dream project. This report is to provide an update on the Teach From Home project that was introduced in Assam by World Youth Council.

As of this date, we have covered 4 (Four) schools and have been educating the students through the online mode. The following report will provide you an insight on all the necessary information about the project:

1. **Organization : World Youth Council**
2. **Coordinator: UditJajodia** Address: Dudhnoi, Goalpara, Assam Contact: 8638291731
3. **Name of the schools:**
  - I) **New Guwahati AdarshaShishuVidyalaya**, Headmaster: Bhuban Mahajan Number of Students : 27
  - II) **Nandi Mikir Primary School**, Headmaster: AbaniSarma Number of Students : 12
  - III) **Rajdhani M.E. School**, Headmaster: KarunamoyGoswami Number of Students : 10
  - IV) **Hengrabari M.E. School**, Headmistress: Pranami Hazarika Number of students: 29
4. **Total number of students: 78**

### **Class wise participation:**

Class 5 : 38

Class 6 : 2

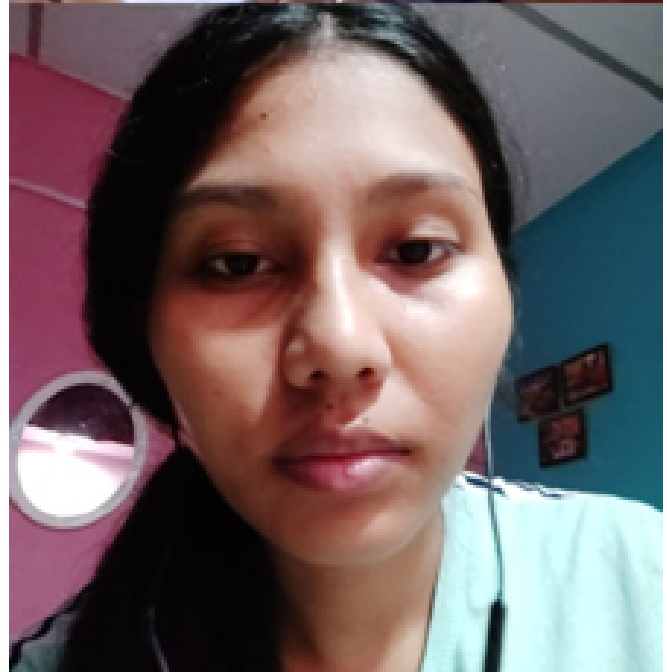
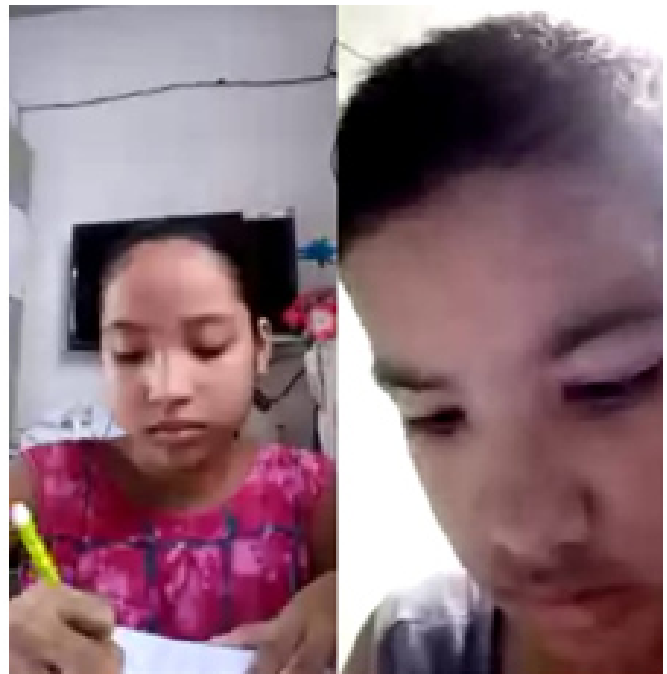
Class 7 : 17

Class 8 : 17

Class 9 : 2

Class 10 : 2

5. **Subject Taught: English and Maths**



6. **Date of commencement: 9th June, 2020**

7. **Total number of online teaching sessions: 476**

ShikharKataruka

Core Team

World Youth Council





**More sanitisers  
being distributed  
in Guwahati**



## MINUTES OF THE 2113<sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

1. The 2113<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting of the club was called to order by the President at 6.30 pm.
2. Members rose to render the National Anthem.
3. President after welcoming all the members offered Birthday Greetings to Rtn.Prasanta Das and Rtn. Bijay Ketan Baruah.
4. As per agenda the topic of discussion in the meeting was “Economy of our Country and Covid “ the speaker was Rtn. Satinder Anand assisted by Rt, Dr. Amrit Pal Singh and Rtn. Raj Kamal Bhuyan.
5. Initiating his talk, Rtn. Anand said that the economy, which was in very bad shape during the lock down period that lasted for about 4 to 5 months, has to be opened. In the North East Region except a few states all other states have started opening up of economy by allowing more relaxation in the business activities. Economists of our country have already mentioned that the GDP of the country has declined to the level of about 24% till July. According to the analyst the most affected areas of business are the aviation, hotel industry, restaurants and tourism. Many of the business firms have reduced their manpower to about 60-65% and these sectors will need another 6 to 7 months to come up to its original level. The sectors which are now growing are e-commerce shopping, digital entertainment, health and well being like telemedicine, e-pharmacy etc. virtual meeting platforms like zoom, e-learning etc. He stated that increase in covid cases in our country is mainly due to carelessness of our people, who do not use face masks and maintain social distancing in public places like bazars and shops. This is a cause of concern and the number of cases in Assam is expected to rise up to 2 lakhs by the middle of next month. Although the government has announced a number of steps to help the MSME sector and the agricultural farmers, unless red tapism and other obstacles are not removed, the benefits will not be enjoyed by the general people.  
Taking part in the discussion, Dr. Amrit Pal Singh stated that the government. has taken steps to

rejuvenate the economy but it cannot bear fruits in a short period. He said that bureaucrats are in fact trying their level best to bring things to normal since this kind of situation has never occurred in last 100 years in our country. Everything is overburdened in the health sector now-a-days. Hospitals are running short of beds, ICUs are not adequate etc. It is fact that, the small businessmen, particularly the street vendors,were the most affected people due to this pandemic. Therefore, opening up was necessary for the survival of these people.

Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan in his speech mainly focused on the various schemes announced by the Govt. in MSME sectors and hoped that the government should think more about infrastructure development where there are ample opportunities of jobs for the common people. The DBT scheme introduced by the government is very good. Government. should give soft loans to some industries like aviation, tourism, hotels etc.to enable them to recover from the huge losses they have incurred. If we have to revive our economy, government should concentrate on infrastructure development like construction of roads, bridges, real states etc. so that people can get employment even it is for a short period of 3 to 4 years by which time the covid situation is expected to go.

Taking part in further discussion Rt. P.D. Choudhury expressed his views by saying that the situation as of now is like survival of the fittest. One has to take quick decision as to what he or she wants to do in the business field. Forced entrepreneurship has taken place in the business sector ie. one has to leave his original business and choose another which is in demand at present. Digital technology has surpassed all other technology now. Aviation sector is so badly affected that there is no place to park the grounded aircrafts in many airports of the world. People have almost stop buying luxurious items. Event management, sale of automobiles have come down drastically. However, there is a ray of hope that a few external companies from abroad are coming to

invest in India which will help in solving unemployment problem and economic growth of the country to some extent.

Rtn. Dhiraj Kakati informed how the tea industry in Assam took steps to maintain the production and help its workers to earn wages even during the lockdown period.

6. The President then apprised the members about the proposed competition on agricultural app to help the farmers for marketing their produce as well as in developing a model which will help them in improving their cultivation technology. Rtn. Rajkama Bhuyan informed that Rtn. Bibeka Saikia is working on a report on this issue which will be discussed in a Board Meeting soon.
7. Rtn. Rajkamal also informed the members that club has provided foot pressed sanitizers to a number of
8. Temples, Namghars and Masjid recently which will be of great help to the people going there for worshipping.
8. The President requested the members to attend the webinar organized by the District 3240 on Antarctica in Live on 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00 pm after registering in the link provided.
9. Rtn. R.K. Bhuyan also gave a brief description of the World Vision project to be taken up on 11 schools, the details of which will be shared by them in a day or two.
10. Secretary then reported that there were 28 Rotarians who took part in the meeting today.
11. After the Secretary's report Rtn. Dr. Millie Kakati gave the formal vote of thanks to all. President adjourned the meeting at 8.0 pm.



## MINUTES OF THE 2114<sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

1. The 2114<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting on virtual platform started at 6.30 pm after the President called the meeting to order.
2. Members rendered the National Anthem soon after.
3. President offered Birthday greetings to Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra, V.P. of RCGS and also welcomed all the members including the Guest speaker Sri Pranjal Baruah who was invited to deliver a talk on Social Entrepreneurship in the field of Mushroom cultivation.
4. President requested Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa to introduce Sri Pranjal Baruah, an Ashoka fellow and a social entrepreneur who is working with small and marginal farmers. Rtn. Rajkhowa while introducing Sri Baruah, hailed his unique lab to land strategy. He stated that Pranjal Baruah who is also known as Mushroom man, was a cofounder of Mushroom Development Foundation. This foundation is working for the sustainable livelihood to clusters of farmer through mushroom cultivation.
5. After the introduction Rtn. Swapanjyoti Sharma spoke a few words about Sri Pranjal Baruah, how he has been involved in this unique field since the last 26 years. He is really a shining example of what an entrepreneurship means. He stated that mushroom is a unique food product which has excellent nutritional value with no fat and cholesterol and can be easily grown in this region as climatic condition is very favorable to this. Although Pranjal has faced many setbacks including financial loss in last 26 years, he has come back with renewed passion in his chosen field of mushroom cultivation and its development.
6. After a very nice briefing of Sri Baruah's journey in the field of mushroom development in the North East Region by Rtn. Sharma, Sri Baruah started his talk by thanking the members of RCGS for inviting him to share his knowledge and experience in this field. He presented a few photographs which shows, how two rural women started growing mushrooms and prepared a number of delicious recipes like pokora and sold in a fair held in New Delhi called Ajibika Mela in October 2019 and earned a good amount of money in a short period of 13 days, that shows a good example of social impact by mushroom development. He stated that to make the mushroom growing as a social entrepreneurship Bill Dryton, the

founder of Ashoka Foundation took this innovative initiative in India and also started a fellowship for the public who wish to be a social entrepreneur. He also said about ethical fiber which was explained by Bill Dryton in a way that to maintain an ethics with public by a social entrepreneur, he or she has to stand upon 4 pillars, in other words, to be an Ashoka fellow one has to fulfill 4 criteria and they are Creativity, Entrepreneurial quality, Social impact of the idea and Ethical fiber.

Since our country as a whole and our state in particular is a highly deficient in Protein, so mushroom is the only food which can supplement this and can be grown easily and cost effective than other nutrients like eggs, fish, Amul products etc. The climate is very much conducive in NE for growing mushroom where farmers can well utilize their agricultural wastes like paddy straw, banana stem & leaf, coconut coir etc. for its cultivation.

In mushrooms all sorts of minerals, proteins, vitamins etc. are available and is cholesterol free and its caloric content is very easily burnt by our body when consumed. He compared the people of Europe who are physically well built because they consume large amount of proteins' food whereas Indian people are not that strong due to protein deficient food habit. Therefore mushroom growing and its inclusion in our daily food menu has been considered very important. As per the comparison made by him with other veg. and non-veg nutrients, mushroom has the lowest calorie, fats and carbohydrates but highest protein value.

He also mentioned that the MDF has given training to almost 80,000 people in the North East so far about the techniques of mushroom cultivation and hope to cover one lakh people in next 5 years and try to bring Amul model which was introduced by Dr. Korean in Gujarat and had been very successful as a good example of social enterprise. He narrated his experience in Barcelona, Spain where a large number of people are engaged in producing wine from the peals of Grape and earning huge lots of money by selling its quality products known as Valencia wine. The organization which runs this business is looking after every social and financial need of the

farmers that are involved in their value chain. Therefore, all the people are serious about their business and its quality. With his learning experiences he started his social entrepreneurship called MDF in an organized manner in Nongpoh area of Meghalaya and expanded it to some cluster villages in Assam near Sonapur and Dimoria. In Assam the project started in 2018 through Assam State Livelihood Mission by creating 8 clusters with 25 farmers in each cluster by making value chain starting from the producers to the sellers in the market. The Foundation was capable of doing business of about Rs.25.0 lakhs in 8 months. They formed a cooperative society and provided them with 140 outlets for selling their products in both retail and wholesale and they are now doing their business themselves.

He informed about his proposed one day workshop cum training programme in the first week of October exclusively for the Rotary club with 25 numbers of participants sponsored by our club by paying Rs.1000.00 per participant. Our club service project Director Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta promised to provide participants from our existing RCCs so that this technology can be introduced among the farmers of that area (near Baihata Chariali) under our clubs service project programme.

MDF(Mushroom Development Foundation) is presently working in 9 states across the country but mainly focused in Assam and Meghalaya and generally two or three varieties of mushrooms are taken up (for example Oyster & Milky mushroom in Assam and Oyster, Shitake and Button mushrooms in Meghalaya) in these areas.

7. Avery good interaction followed his presentation and Rtns. Chandan Rajkhowa, Bibekananda Saikia, George Chako, Bhupendra Nath Das, Dr. R.N. Mazumder took active participation.
8. Before the meeting adjourned, Secretary read out his report by saying that the total number of participants in the meeting was 34 . Secretary then offered formal vote of thanks to all and special gratitude to our guest speaker who made himself a successful social entrepreneur.
9. The meeting adjourned by the President at 8.0 pm.

