

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022 – 2023

DAMIEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (DSDI)
(A Unit of Pavitra Hrudaya Sangha)



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ever since the constitution of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) in 2003, which was formerly known as Damien Institute (DI) founded in 1987, as a unit of Pavitra Hrudaya Sangha, DSDI has been working among the most vulnerable persons in the grass-root level of our society. It has been working for the treatment, rehabilitation and promotion of rights of leprosy patients in various leprosy colonies in Odisha, for the education and development of children and students in various urban slums, urban leprosy colonies and in urban/rural villages, for the empowerment of vulnerable women in rural villages addressing their various issues, for the skill development of school drop-outs, and in the management of health and natural disasters.

It now gives us an immense pleasure of presenting the annual report for the year 2022 – 2023. Another eventful year when we were able to implement several projects, programs and initiatives for our most vulnerable stakeholders (beneficiaries) in the grass-root level of our society. The year has been meaningful in achieving what we have been able to achieve for our stakeholders (beneficiaries) in the margins: the poor, the marginalized and the outcast of our society. This would forever be remembered! This has only been possible due to the hard work and dedicated commitment of our DSDI staff, volunteers, and other individuals, groups and organizations directly or indirectly associated/connected with our mission. We are much thankful to them and count on their continuing association, support and collaboration with us. We would never forget our stakeholders (beneficiaries) themselves in the grass-root level for their active participation, support and cooperation in the developmental initiatives and in the development process of their own. We are much thankful to them as well and count on their continuing participation, support and cooperation in order to remain the protagonists of their own progress and development.

Financial constraint has always been a barrier for striving to achieve our vision and mission. However, due to the collaborative financial support of certain individuals, groups and organizations – the “Friends of DSDI” - with our vision and mission, we have been able to implement certain projects, programs and initiatives for the benefit and development of our target groups – stakeholders (beneficiaries) in 2022 – 2023. We remain much grateful and thankful to them all and count on their continuing support to and collaboration with our mission in order to build a better tomorrow – a just, humane and equitable society. “Friends of DSDI”, let us join our hands together in this mission.

Abhimanyu Nayak
Director of DSDI

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) is a charitable and social welfare unit of PAVITRA HRUDAYA SANGHA in India of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts.

Legal Status:

Pavitra Hrudaya Sangha is registered Trust under Indian Trusts Registration Act, 1882, on 3rd May 2003 bearing registration No. 1 – IV/2003 – 04. It is also registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA), section 6(1) (a) of the Act bearing the registration number **104830135** and subsequently renewed in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 in 1st April, 2023. The Trust also has obtained 12A certificate issued by the Income Tax Department of Government of India.

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts remembers the legacies of and draws inspiration from St. Damien of Molokai and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta in order to carry out its ministries. It re-pledges and re-commits itself to the service of humanity in the margins, especially to the poor and marginalized, and to educating the children of the poor and marginalized in urban slums, urban and rural villages in urban leprosy colonies with a mission to build a more “just and humane society”. It also works for the empowerment of women and children in rural villages.

Our VISION

We long for a just, humane, equitable and peaceful society in which each individual and each community is empowered and made self-reliant and where human dignity, equal rights and equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.

Our MISSION

Striving towards an equitable and just society, we support and strengthen sustainable Community Driven Development among the most fragile sectors of the population through:

- Capacitating communities, with special emphasis on medical care of leprosy patients and their rehabilitation, women empowerment and youth mobilization, to help themselves through sustainable community development initiatives and programs.
- Sharing knowledge and building capabilities, offering technical support and training to rural and urban youth in sustainable community driven development.
- Empowering the most vulnerable children of vulnerable sections of society through both formal and non-formal education.

Our PRESENCE AND AREAS OF OPERATION:

In 1979 William F. Petrie arrived in Bhubaneswar in the eastern state of Odisha and began to work among the leprosy patients in various leprosy colonies. He travelled across various districts in Odisha. The main focus of his mission was: training of doctors on leprosy and public awareness programs, treatment of leprosy patients and their rehabilitation through housing projects in various leprosy colonies in different districts in Odisha having his base in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Choudwar, Puri and Khurda. William F. Petrie established Damien Institute (DI) in 1987 which was later renamed as Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) in 2004 as a Unit of PAVITRA HRUDAYA SANGHA – the legal entity of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. Aside from in Odisha, the institute also works in West Bengal and in Karnataka.

Presently the Damien Social Development Institute is based at Phulnakhara, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The institute has been carrying out:

- The developmental works among the urban and rural village people aiming at community development through women and children empowerment.
- Non-formal Education of poor children in urban slums, villages and of children of cured leprosy patients in different leprosy colonies in and around Bhubaneswar – Cuttack – Choudwar – Pipili and Khurda.
- The rehabilitation of cured leprosy patients and their children in leprosy colonies.
- Free medical treatment of ulcer patients and free distribution of medicines in different leprosy colonies through Damien Clinics and Damien Dispensaries.
- The management of Coudrin Hostel where young college going students from poor families are accommodated with food and lodging so that they can pursue in their higher education.
- Natural calamities and disasters management.

ACTIVITIES ROUND UP

Field Level Interventions

Healthcare Project

Treatment of Persons Affected with Leprosy:

The treatment of persons affected by leprosy (Hansens' Disease) is an *on-going* ministry/service of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI). It carried out the treatment of patients and medical outreach programs in the eight leprosy colonies it has been serving in and around Choudwar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Khurda for the past several years. The two professional medical doctors and three paramedical workers (trained by DSDI) carry out the medical service throughout the year providing the following services to patients in leprosy colonies:

- General health care and treatment of cured persons affected by leprosy
- Treatment and dressing of ulcer and deformity persons affected by leprosy
- Treatment of patients suffering from general ailments.



All these medical treatment and medicines were provided to the leprosy patients free of cost. Besides the treatment of persons affected by leprosy, DSDI also treated general patients from different urban and rural villages, where patients have no access to hospitals due to their poverty. These patients were availed free doctor consultation and medicines with subsidized price.

Although leprosy has been declared eradicated, most persons affected by the disease are ulcer patients needing daily dressing and medication of their ulcer wounds. Daily treatment of leprosy ulcer patients in different leprosy colonies remain a health issue. It has been a challenge for DSDI; however, at the same time it is also a joy of serving the patients in the spirit of Damien of Molokai.

Annual Statistics of Patients Treated in 2022 - 2023

MONTHS	CATEGORIES OF PATIENTS			TOTAL
	ULCER LEPROSY PATIENTS	CURED LEPROSY PATIENTS	GENERAL PATIENTS	
April	57	48	67	172
May	49	85	71	205
June	69	127	115	311
July	62	193	68	323
August	89	216	87	392
September	112	235	69	416
October	107	265	78	450
November	115	223	89	427
December	109	229	91	429
January	113	217	102	432
February	107	231	105	443
March	118	254	97	469
TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS				4469

Blood Donation Camp:

A blood donation camp was organized by the International Human Rights Protection Council, Odisha State Board in partnership with Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) in Gopabandhu Smruti Sansad, Bhubaneswar on 5th February 2023. There were 37 blood donors. The blood donation camp was graced by the presence of Dr. Sachidananda Mohanty, the Director of Medical Education and Training - Government of Odisha, and Dr. Kalyan Kumar Sarkar, the Director of BMC Hospital Blood Bank, Bhubaneswar. The purpose of organizing the blood donation camp was to preserve the blood in the blood bank in order to save the lives of the poor and vulnerable patients who have no access to life saving blood when they are in need. We thank the donors who generously came forward to donate their blood to save lives.



Free Eye Treatment Health Camps:



A Free Eye Treatment Health Camp was held at Damien Clinic in Coudrin Chhatrabas campus for the patients of Trinath leprosy colony in Choudwar on February 28, 2023. The eye treatment camp had been organized in networking with Modern Eye Care



Super Specialty Hospital, Cuttack. A team of a doctor, a nurse and two medical assistants from the hospital carried out the free eye treatment camp. There were 28 patients from the Trinath leprosy colony and from the local area benefited from the free health camp provided by the medical team of the hospital.

Education Project

Non-Formal Education Free Tuition Program:

Non-Formal Education Free Tuition Program is an *on-going* educational project of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) which aims at educating and building the lives of children/students from poor families in urban villages, urban slums and in urban leprosy colonies in and around Bhubaneswar – Pipili and Choudwar. The free tuition program has three approaches in the process of educating the children/students:



(1) preparing the non-school going children for formal education in formal schooling.

(2) providing daily tuition classes and accompanying those children and students who are already going to formal schools.

(3) building the students' healthy and creative minds through sports, dance and creative arts.

Rising from the ashes of Covid – 19 pandemic, the DSDI field staff and the non-formal education teachers remained active providing education to students/children in Free Tuition Centers in urban villages, slums and in leprosy colonies. It was reported by non-formal education teachers that there was an increase in the enrollment of children and students in the free tuition centers during the post-pandemic period as the children had been away from both formal and non-formal schooling for almost two years. Five hundred and seventeen children/students benefitted from the non-formal education program in the academic year 2022 – 2023.



The following educational activities were carried out for the children and students during the post-pandemic period.

- Orientation and awareness sessions in each center with the parents and children
- Distribution of study materials and school bags to aid the children/students in their education.
- Daily tuition classes for and accompaniment to children by the teachers when Covid restrictions were lifted.
- Skills and talents sessions
- Meeting with parents.
- Monitoring through periodical examinations and preparing for the formal schooling annual examinations.
- Monthly meeting and workshop for teachers
- Teachers' Day, Children Day and Republic Day were celebrated.

Opening of New Non-Formal Education Tuition Centers:

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) opened two new Damien Free Tuition Centre for the children of cured leprosy patients in Nehrupalli and Gandhipalli Leprosy Colonies, Cuttack. These two leprosy colonies where Fr. Bill Petrie, the founder of DSDI, undertook

the project of constructing hundreds of houses for the rehabilitation of leprosy patients in the 1980's. DSDI remains connected with these colonies and opening of these two new Damien Free Tuition Centers is a testament to such a connection with the patients of the respective leprosy colonies. Each tuition center was provided with two teachers to accompany the children/students.

On the respective opening days, both the children and the parents were given an orientation about the importance of education, and about the importance and objective of the tuition program. The children were provided with necessary and essential study/school materials to aid them in their studies. In the end of the opening program, sweets were distributed to the children. More than 100 children/students will benefit from these two tuition centers.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FREE TUITION CENTERS STATISTICS 2022 - 2023

S.No.	Names of Coaching/Tuition	No of	No of Students		
			Boys	Girls	Total
I. URBAN VILLAGES					
1	Barimunda Village	1	12	20	32
2	Goholo Village	1	19	26	45
3	Jagannathpur Village	1	12	23	35
4	Kalyanpur Balarampatna Village	1	14	13	27
5	Balipada Village	1	13	18	31
6	Padasahi Village	1	19	26	45
II. URBAN SLUMS					
7	Panitanki Urban Slum (Santhali	1	17	14	31
8	Pipili Slum (Ward No.10)	1	13	18	31
9	Pipili Slum (Ward No.12)	1	26	32	58
10	RK Lane Urban Slum	2	26	27	53
III. URBAN LEPROSY					
11	Trinath Leprosy Colony	1	12	14	26
12	Gandhipalli Leprosy Colony	2	24	29	53
13	Nehrupalli Leprosy Colony	2	19	31	50
Total		16	226	291	517

SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2021 - 2022

Higher Educational Sponsorship Program:

Higher educational sponsorship program is an on-going formal educational program for the poor college-going boys and girls from poor families who are not able to financially support their children for their higher education. Damien Social Damien Social Development Institute continues to financially support the on-going higher education of college-going girls and

boys, especially those who are coming from poor families in the urban localities and from rural villages with special attention paid to girl students in order to reduce the rate of child marriages in urban villages and in poor families. Twenty seven college-going students were financially sponsored for their higher education in the academic year 2022 – 2023.

Coudrin Boys Hostel & Aymer Girls Hostel

The Coudrin Boys hostel in Choudwar and the Aymer Girls hostel in Bhubaneswar are on-going projects of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI). The goal of these two hostels is to aid the young college – going boys and girls, especially those coming from poor families in rural villages in pursuit of their higher education and careers in the cities, by providing food and accommodation facilities. The students live in the hostels and go to different colleges in the cities in pursuit of their higher education and careers. They pay minimum fees towards the management of the hostels. Those coming from very poor families and those unable to pay the minimum fees are given educational sponsorship so that they can pursue their studies. Aside from their formal schooling in colleges, the students are given orientations on:

- Personal discipline and personality development
- Value education
- Manual works, sports and recreation
- Counseling and spoken English for their career building.

Rehabilitation Project

Aymer Weaving Centre: Aymer Weaving Center is an **on-going** livelihood project of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) for the cured leprosy women in Gandhipalli leprosy colony. It has been functioning for several years now. ***The employed cured leprosy women make gauges and bandages which are being used for the daily treatment and dressing of leprosy ulcer patients in different leprosy colonies where Damien Social Development Institute has been serving. The gauges and bandages are also sold to other clinics and dispensaries for income generation in order to pay for the stipend and wages of women working in the production of gauges and bandages in the weaving center.*** The employed cured leprosy patients, who otherwise would have no income, are given stipends according to the quantity of productions they make. Instead of sitting idle at homes, these cured leprosy patients are able to earn something and to contribute to their families from the labour of their hands with dignity and self-respect.

However, there is a challenge being faced by the project now. With the changing time and the with the availability of modern machines and technologies, the manual wooden weaving machines which have been there since 1980's have become outdated and the cured leprosy men and women having skills with them no longer prefer to work with the old manual wooden weaving machines. They prefer to work with modern electrical machines to working with the manual machines. Many of them have quit their skilled profession and thus the machines have been idle for some years now. Only a few women are working who operate a few weaving machines and keep them functioning for the production of gauges and bandages

for the daily treatment and dressing of leprosy ulcer patients in different leprosy colonies where Damien Social Development Institute has been serving.

Disaster Management

Winter Blankets Distribution:

Winter can be severe in India and the poor are the victims of such winter. "Save lives, donate a blanket now" is the slogan of the season as the poor people struggle for their lives with the inseting of cold wave! DSDI carried out winter blankets distribution program on 22nd & 23rd December 2022 among the deserving poor in urban slums and leprosy colonies. A total of 236 beneficiaries benefited from the program.

Caring for a cancer patient:

It had been brought to the attention of DSDI about a daily wage labourer, a mother of two, who had been suffering from breast cancer and was being treated in a hospital with the support of Biju Kalyan Health Card. However, since she was the only daily bread winner in the family and now that she was on treatment, the poor family had been struggling for its daily sustenance. DSDI visited the patient and the family and provided some dry food ration supplies which was gratefully received by the family. Along with the DSDI staff, the patient's neighbours also visited her showing their solidarity with the patient and her family.

Events and Celebrations

Damien Day Celebration:

Damien Day was celebrated at Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) on the feast of St. Damien of Molokai - the apostle to the lepers of Molokai. DSDI strives to keep his spirit of self-giving love and service to the neediest and neglected of our society alive through its activities. All DSDI community members and co-workers gathered together to pay our homage to this great soul of Molokai and to draw inspiration from him to be agents of love and service to humanity.

Independence Day Celebration:

On August 15, 2022, Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) Free Tuition Centers in 12 different urban slums, villages and in leprosy colonies joined the whole nation celebrating India's 75th Independence Day "Azadi Ka Mahostav". In order to mark the festive occasion, the teachers in their respective tuition centers conducted drawings, speeches and essay writings for the children/students.

Teacher's Day and Foundation Day Celebration:

On September 5, 2022, Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) celebrated its Foundation Day paying its respect and reverence to the legacies of St. Damien of Molokai and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. It also celebrated the Teacher's Day commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the late President of independent India. Celebrating the Teacher's Day, the DSDI Non-formal Education Free Tuition Centers

teachers were felicitated with roses and shawls for their contribution to the building of the lives of children and students entrusted to their care. Prof. Prabhakar Das, an educationist and social worker, had been invited as chief guest of the Day who shared his inspirational personal experience as a teacher and delivered his motivational lecture on teachers and their roles in the integral development and building of the lives of students.

Sports Fest Events in Tuition Centers:

Annual Sports –Fest and prize distributions events were conducted and celebrated in all Non-Formal Education Free Tuition Centers in urban slums, urban villages and in leprosy colonies from November 14 – December 4, 2022. Five individual and one group sports events were conducted for the children/students in each tuition center so that no child/student was left out from participating in the events and receiving a prize. The whole objective of celebrating the event was to motivate and to encourage the children/students and to bring out their talents. Sports events were followed by distribution of prizes which brought about much cheer and excitement among the children/students of each tuition center.

DSDI Staff Pre-Christmas Celebration:

As in every year, DSDI held a pre-Christmas celebration for its staff members and co-workers in the DSDI office campus on 21st December 2022. Aside from the staff members and co-workers, DSDI friends and guests had also been invited to the celebration. Among the invited guests were the president of Kharavel Estate Development Society Prof. Prabhakar Das and his office bearers, and the chairperson of International Human Rights Protection Council (Odisha) Miss Arati Mahala and her office staff members. There was a display of Christmas crib depicting the birth scene of Jesus. Christmas carols were sung by the management and Christmas message was delivered by the Director of DSDI followed by Christmas cake cutting, exchange of Christmas gifts and a festive pre- Christmas dinner for all. The day was full of activities with much fun and joy just by being together and being in communion with one another within our diversity of faiths. DSDI is a symbol of this unity and communion in diversity and the institute takes pride in it.

DSDI Annual Fest Celebration:

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) Annual Fest was celebrated in the DSDI campus on January 22, 2023. It was a platform where the DSDI family came together for a day of celebration, particularly coming together of students of 13 Non-formal Education Free Tuition Centres in different urban slums, urban villages and in urban leprosy colonies run by DSDI.

In order to grace the occasion and to motivate and encourage the little children/students, the invited guests were the local Member of Legislative Assembly Sj. Susanta Kumar Rout, the local Corporator Sj. Sukumar Sahoo, Mr. Sannyashai Kumar Behera, OAS - joint secretary for the disability and social security, Government of Odisha, Mrs. Arati Mahala - chairperson of International Human Right Protection Council, Prof. Prabhakar Das - President of Kharvel Estate Development Society and Fr. Ajith Kumar - Regional Superior. Invited guests to the celebration were also the friends of DSDI and the leadership committees of different leprosy colonies.

The invited dignitaries inaugurated the Annual Fest by lighting the lamps and by garlanding the portrait of St. Damien of Molokai as a sign of respect. The invited guests of honor delivered their messages to the DSDI staff members, the children/students and to all our guests emphasizing on the self-giving love and service of St. Damien of Molokai to the outcasts and to carry out his spirit of humanity and service among the poor and the marginalized in our society today. The guests of honor also distributed certificates of merit and mementos of achievement to students who had achieved in essay, eloquence and drawing competitions.

The height of the day's celebration was the presentation of cultural and entertainment programs. The children/students from each Non-formal Education Free Tuition Centre put up excellent skits, dances and sings based on the themes of prevailing social issues in our society and in our world today. The children/students amazed the imagination of the audience and enthralled them with their beautiful entertainment programs and won the hearts of them all.

Republic Day Celebration:

On the occasion of 74th Republic Day of India which is also called the "Constitution Day", celebrations were observed in different Non-Formal Education Tuition Centres in leprosy colonies, urban slums and urban villages managed by Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI). The children and students in the tuition centres were made aware of the significance of the day – the day when the Constitutions of India became effective On January 26, 1950. Giving the Constitution to its citizens, the Constituent Assembly proclaimed, *"We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; WE DO HEREBY GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION."*

World Leprosy Day Celebration:

On the occasion of World Leprosy Day on January 30, 2023, as in every year, the Director of DSDI visited Gandhipalli leprosy colony together with Miss. Arati Mahala – the chair-person of International Human Rights Protection Council. A cordial welcome was given to us by the Leadership Committee of the colony. We had the opportunity to interact with the committee members of Gandhipalli leprosy colony.

International Women Day Celebration:

On March 18, 2023 a day of exposure had been organized for the DSDI staff members at Missionaries of Charity Sisters Gandhi Leprosy and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in Janla - 18 kilometres from the capital city of Bhubaneswar. As part of an exposure, a moment of orientation was given to the staff members about the history of the Centre and about the works of the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in the service and rehabilitation of leprosy and psychiatric patients. There are six patients' wards which the staff members visited and interacted both with the Sisters and with the patients. There are about 320 patients who are being taken care of and served in the Centre.

It was also a day when the DSDI staff members had decided to celebrate the International Women's Day with the leprosy and psychiatric patients in the Centre. The MC Sisters, the female patients and the DSDI women staff members were felicitated with roses and with tokens of appreciation for their role in and contribution to the transformation of families and the society. The DSDI staff members entertained and brought cheers to the patients with their short programs. They also volunteered themselves to serve and to feed the patients at lunch hour.

Most of our DSDI staff members had never been exposed to such realities of persons in our society and the care and services rendered by the Sisters of Missionaries of Charity. The day of exposure among the leprosy and psychiatric patients and the MC Sisters was an eye-opening experience for them. For some of them it was long years of dream come true. They felt encouraged and motivated to be agents of care and service to a humanity that is marginalized and excluded from the main stream of our society, particularly from their loved ones.