



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

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Vision Statement

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna believes in a world that sees the need to live as one family where the environment is preserved and protected, where conscious efforts are made to remove unjust structures while striving to build a just and humane society.

Mission statement

Our mission is to build sustainable human communities in the Darjeeling hills and the adjoining areas by promoting peoples participation, gender equality and living in harmony with the environment.

I. Community development of Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties* (Villages), Darjeeling

Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties* lie on the Lebong Spur of the Darjeeling-Jalapahar Range and form the major portion of what constituted the Harrison's Tea Estate, which closed in 1952.

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna conducted a participatory base line survey of Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties* in 1996. Proposed *Sanjukta Vikas* Co-operative (SVC) was the outcome of the participatory survey and planning undertaken by the people and Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna. It is a people based organisation and has 398 families under its wing. The SVC and Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna work in close collaboration with each other. The SVC has been functioning since 1997 and is economically self-sustainable but as an organisation not completely ready to take off on its own. It needs further organisational building at the governing level as well as individual members in terms of co-operatives as a way of life.

The oldest activity of SVC – the milk co-operative continues in a decentralised manner with minimal Prerna intervention.

The people friendly credit unions, one self group encompassing all the 398 member families of SVC, four smaller hamlet groups and twelve exclusively women's SHGs continue their activities. A credit of Rs. 2 14 620/- was disbursed to the 12 women's SHGs in March 2002 against their savings of Rs. 71 090/-. The credit of Rs. 1 75 000/- disbursed in 2001 was fully reimbursed prior to the amount of credit made available by the Indian Bank, Darjeeling Branch in 2002.

Of the three consumer co-operative shops established the Kothi Dhura shop functions well and has completely reimbursed its capital loan. The other two Harsing and Godown Dhura are yet to pick up.

From 22nd. May 1998 green leaf tea is being sold by SVC to Tea Promoters of India Private Limited which has been processing and selling this as the only multi-cropping, co-operative based organic tea from Darjeeling. The Institute of Market Ecology has given a Producer Organic Certificate to the members of SVC this year. The total green leaf tea produced this year was 18871.5 kg. Winter cultivation has been conducted by the members with the technical assistance of Mr. N. B. Rai and Mr. Sailesh Sharma, Tea Promoters India.

With the support of Indesh-Patenchaften the SVC has undertaken a drinking water project at the hamlet level. The project reaches 12 hamlets with 398 families. The SVC has contributed local resources and labour to their project and will maintain it at the end of the project period.

II. Support to other organisations

A. The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has been providing support services to other organisations especially the Diocese of Darjeeling in helping to draw up the Diocesan Perspective Plan and setting up of the Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society. As of November 1st 2000, Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has been given a two year contract to co-ordinate the Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society. In this contract, Roshan and Rohin have been appointed as the Director and Project Co-ordinator of Anugyalaya DDSSS respectively. Though the contracts have been signed by the two in their individual

capacity, the understanding reached is that the team of four will extend their support together as the Prerna team.

Background of Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society.

The Darjeeling Diocese is composed of the three hill sub-divisions Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong of the Darjeeling District, the Indian State of Sikkim and the Kingdom of Bhutan. Till 1997, the Siliguri sub-division was a part of the Darjeeling Diocese. The bifurcation of the Darjeeling Diocese into Bagdogra and Darjeeling Dioceses involved the territorial division with the Bagdogra Diocese composed of the Siliguri sub-division. Seva Kendra, the Diocesan Social Service Centre of Darjeeling Diocese, situated in Siliguri functioned as the agency responsible for the development apostolate for a couple of years even after the bifurcation. The division was complete once Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society was registered on February 13th 2001, under the Societies Registration Act XXVI 1961, West Bengal, Registration Number S/1L/2166 and Seva Kendra, Siliguri being retained by the Bagdogra Diocese. CARITAS India provided funds to establish this new society.

Activities Undertaken by Anugyalaya DDSSS.

Since Anugyalaya DDSSS is a very new organisation most of the activities till date have been with regard to the governance and logistics issues. Thus, even though the focus of the organisation is the promotion of peoples organisations, at the present infancy state very little has been undertaken. But the partners like the various congregations, parish priests have been working in the field of health, education and credit unions.

1. **Three Consultations with priests and nuns in the Diocese of Darjeeling (CARITAS India – supported).**
2. **Perspective planning for the Diocesan Women’s Organisation.**
3. **Animation for Community Development (CARITAS India – supported).**

A pilot project has been initiated by Anugyalaya DDSSS with the communities of Maria Busty, Gitdubling, Kankebong-Pringtam, Martam and Mamring-Sitong towards co-operation and credit union.

4. **30 Primary School Teachers Training of CRS supported schools (14 schools)(CRS India – supported).**

B. Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has provided support to partners of Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal – St. Alphonsus’ School, Kurseong as an external monitoring, evaluating and reporting organisation for their T.B. Eradication Project.

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna was instituted by the Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal(DJNB) as Region Community Development Committee(RCDC) to cater to its ‘Development Apostolate’ after a regional evaluation in 1993. RCDC’s mandate was to evolve and help implement suitable strategy for human development in the Darjeeling Region. Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna will work with the Jesuits and its partners, religious and lay though not exclusively.

The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna, though a Jesuit Organisation at inception, it has been registered as an Inter-congregational and Lay organisation under the Societies Registration Act of West Bengal XXVI of 1961 as Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna dated 13th March 2001, Registration Number S/IL/2639.

The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has an administrative staff, since 1996, of a Programme Officer, **Roshan Rai**, an Office Co-ordinator, **Ashesh Rai**, and two Programme Managers, **Navin Tamang**, **Rohin D’souza**.

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