

Life-skill education for deprived children



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Adding to the colourful hues of the spring festival and new year celebrations of Bihu all [over](#) the [state](#), a [group](#) of university students organized a children's program on April 23. The Swastyayan programme of Assam [Don Bosco](#) University ([ADBU](#)) provided the platform for children from all [over](#) Guwahati to celebrate and show case their talents at Keotpara, a village on the fringes of the Deepor Beel bird sanctuary, in Azara Gaon [Panchayat](#).

In the [community](#) event entitled Life-skill [Education](#) and Awareness Programme, [over](#) three hundred children participated from schools of Azara locality, [as](#) well [as](#) two Snehalaya homes for street children at Dhirenpara and Beltola.

Children from Snehalaya participated on this joyful occasion, [as](#) Bro. Hopna Tudu, an [ADBU](#) MSW [student](#) and Programme Coordinator is based at Snehalaya.

“You need to have strong belief in God, self-belief, hard work, sincerity, and perseverance, in order to succeed in life,” said Chef Guest at the event Director of Snehalaya Salesian Fr. Thaddeus Kujur encouraging the large gathering of deprived and under-privileged children.

Fr Kujur also enthralled the children with a dexterous presentation of his magical skills.

“Use of creative art is essential while educating children. It brings out the best in them!” said elated Mr. Hiren [Das](#), a local teacher and village elder of Keotpara, present at the programme [as](#) a guest of honour expressing his satisfaction.

“The two-hour long colourful programme was filled with performances of dances and songs by children of Snehalaya and participants of Swastyayan,” said Hopna Tudu, a [student](#) coordinator of Swastyayan, organising the event.

“A lively circus show in the end, by Snehalaya students, was the icing on the cake, though,” added Ms. Famara Sangma, another [student](#) coordinator.

Swastyayan... a commitment, is an [ADBU](#) project with three components: i) Evening tutorial classes, ii) Community Counselling Center (CCC), and iii) Life-skill [Education](#) and Awareness Programme (LEAP).

The students, faculty and staff of the university have been voluntarily giving free tutorial classes to needy high school children from the villages of Azara, Garal and Dharapur Gaon Panchayats, since its inception in 2013.

In order to augment the life-skills of the children and young people, sessions on personality development, [career](#) choices and creative arts are conducted regularly. A free-of-cost Community Counselling Centre has also been made available to the families in need.

“These activities are our humble attempts towards enabling neighbourhood communities to be strong and resilient,” said Mr. Victor [Narzary](#), teaching in the [Social](#) Work Department and coordinating the project.



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BY CM PAUL

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