

CHAPTER III

NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION

3.1 Introduction

NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION are the two prominent NGOs of Kokrajhar district. The basic difference between the two is that NEDAN FOUNDATION basically works on anti human trafficking, women empowerment and right to education. While NERSWN works on health sector- general and mental, livelihood, education, women vendors, child protection and research and networking.

3.1.1 NERSWN

North East Research and Social Work Networking popularly known as NERSWN is one of the responsive voluntary organization working in the region. The organization was established in the year 2004 and it is registered under Section XXI of Societies Registration Act, 1860, FCRA, 1976 and Section 12A of IT Act, 1961. The organization was established by a group of young people who were known as 'BRANSTHU' in December, 2004. However, it was registered as a society in June, 2005. The organization has its headquarter at Chandrapara, Kokrajhar along with project offices at Gossaigaon and Kajigaon sub-divisions of Kokrajhar district. NERSWN consists of 6 members in the Governing Body and it has 1 Chairman-cum-Director, 1 Executive Director, 1 Administrative-in-charge, 6 Project Manager or Coordinator, 45 Field Staffs, 1 Accountant and 1 Finance Officer. The organization wants to build a society which is free from poverty, injustice, violence and prejudice. NERSWN wants to build the capacities of marginalized communities and also wants to strengthen knowledge, technology and research. Through this it seeks to achieve development and rights of the marginalized communities by adopting transparency and participatory means.

Earlier, NERSWN worked on developing village level health workers for controlling malaria in the foothills of Bhutan across all the districts of Bodoland Territorial Council. It also worked on the promotion of traditional Endi (Silk worm) rearing skill and silk production among the local tribes with the objective of securing livelihood. However, with the emergence of NRHM, it has now reduced performing service delivery role. It now gives attention in organizing

capacities of communities to make them capable of monitoring health programs in the villages. Along with it, in view of the complete absence of mental health services, NERSWN conducts mental health camp in the first Sunday of every month with a view to provide care and treatment for mentally ill patient.

Currently, NERSWN is working on six thematic areas viz. health, education, livelihood, women empowerment, advocating for the rights of the marginalized and research and networking. Under each thematic area, projects have been carried out in its operational areas. NERSWN works at two levels on these thematic areas: one is the direct development intervention and another is advocacy, research and networking related works.

3.1.1.1 Funding of NERSWN

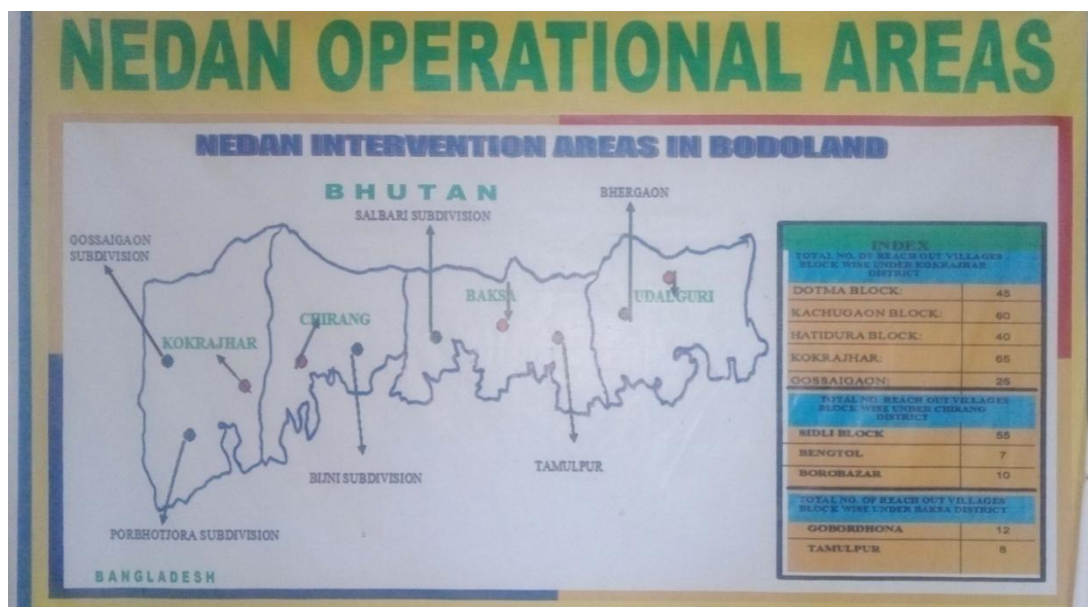
The funds of NERSWN specially comes from some donor agencies namely National Foundation for India (NFI), OXFAM, Terre des Hommes, UNICEF, DKA Austria, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action and Azim Premji Foundation. For applying for projects, they have to state the complete details of the project with their objectives, mission and vision, the total number of villages to be covered by it and the total number of population along with the total number of staffs and their payment. If it is approved then donor agencies are ready to donate and work together. Earlier, at the beginning, NERSWN had to apply for projects. But at present, agencies themselves come for working together.

3.1.2 NEDAN FOUNDATION

NEDAN FOUNDATION was established under Public Charitable Trust Act in the year 2004. It was established by a group of trained Social Work Professionals with a common vision to work with poor and voiceless communities of far-flung villages of North East India. At present, NEDAN is working directly in the North East region, particularly at Bodoland Territorial Areas District of Assam. It has its project area and base at Kokrajhar district of BTAD. Along with this, it also works in other parts of North East region through its network partners. NEDAN FOUNDATION has 5 members in the Governing Body, 1 Chairman-cum-Director, 6 core members, 4 coordinators, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Programme Manager, 1 Accountant and 42 field staffs. NEDAN wants to build a society which is characterised by development, equality, peace and respect for human rights of all sections of the society and also

where youths are involved in all developmental activities – from bringing peace to overall holistic and sustainable development. It believes that the collective action of the youths will bring a positive change in the society of North East region.

NEDAN's objective is to empower the youth, women and girls on several issues such as violations of human rights, trafficking in women and children, livelihoods, gender, sexuality, reproductive and sexual health (RSH), HIV/AIDS, environment etc. It wants to enable them for becoming equal partners in the decision making of the developmental process and peace building in the North East region.



3.1.2.1 Funding of NEDAN FOUNDATION

The funds of NEDAN FOUNDATION comes from donor agencies like DKA Austria, UNICEF, I Partner, Child Line India Foundation and One Stop Centre. For applying for projects, they have to submit a proposal regarding complete details of the project same as in the case of NERSWN. Then the donor agencies will evaluate the objectives, mission, vision, organizational structure, financial system. If they are satisfied then only they will be ready to donate and work together.

3.2 NGOs and Rural Development

The Rural Development Sector Policy Paper of the World Bank has defined rural development as a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poor sections of the society who live in the rural areas. For example, small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless. In other words, rural development involves the provision of opportunities to the rural poor for the maximum utilization of human resources in rural areas.

Non-Governmental Organisations are working in the rural areas for the upliftment of millions of rural people in the country. They have a close access to the people and their work is people centred. They always strive to promote the lives of the oppressed, deprived, marginalized, downtrodden and poverty stricken people of the rural areas. Following are some of the highlights of certain specialities of NGOs interventions in the rural areas –

1). Reaching the unreached

NGOs search out the needy people and serve them. They work for and with the underprivileged, downtrodden and poor sections of the people. It's only the NGOs who are physically nearer, mentally closer and socially accessible to the people and are able to identify their issues and needs.

2). Building hopes

In the rural areas, people are deprived of basic facilities like health, education, transportation, electricity, potable drinking water etc. In such situation, people may lose their hopes in life. But it's the NGOs who through their committed approach and devoted interactions with the people motivate them and slowly build hopes among the communities. They discuss with the members, groups and hold meetings with the villagers in order to secure their participation and cooperation. The exposure trips arranged by them, the social education, training programmes and the community organizational activities undertaken by them help in building hopes among the communities.

3). Facilitating the element of protest

NGOs facilitate the element of protest among the people to awake them against their deprivation, denial, oppression, suppression etc. They enable them to articulate their internal awareness.

4). Building awareness

Awareness building is another significant function of NGOs. NGOs enlighten the people to think about themselves; what they are, what they ought to be and what they can be. They create awareness among the people through social education programmes, dramas, street plays, exposure, trainings, village meetings, demonstrations, group discussions, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), information sharing, people to people learning etc. Awareness programmes conducted by NGOs have brought about attitudinal changes among the people of the rural areas.

5). Gender awareness

Creating gender awareness has become increasingly important function of NGOs. In rural areas, people are in suppressed condition due to their poverty and caste system. Specifically, women are the worst sufferers particularly due to their male domination. Hence, gender awareness programmes are conducted by NGOs at various levels. Firstly, the staff members of the NGOs are trained to deal with the gender issues. In villages, associations like Farmer's Clubs, Women's Association, Youth Clubs etc. are organized. Village Development Association (VDA) acts as their Apex body and here also they enroll equal number of women executives. Promotion of women Self Help Groups, Mahila Banks, Women's Associations etc. have brought about greater awareness on women's equality and empowerment. NGOs create awareness and enable women to have access and control over community resources which concerns them.

6). Political awareness

In a democracy, power always remains in the hands of the people. The success of democracy depends on the consciousness of the people. However, majority of the masses are continuously exploited by the politicians, bureaucrats and elites. NGOs try to bring political awareness among the rural masses by trying to enlighten them about their poverty stricken

condition and also about the various elements of their exploitation, particularly the politicians. They motivate the people to fight for their rights and privileges.

7). Facilitating Panchayati Raj

NGOs also facilitate participation of the people in Panchayati Raj. Before the Panchayat election, NGOs educate and motivate the people to choose such representatives who are concerned with the issues of the people and not with their own political interest. They have also motivated many women particularly belonging to the oppressed sections of the society to take part in the election of the Panchayat. After election, they organize trainings and other capacity building programmes in order to promote the competence of elected representatives of Panchayat so that they can systematically carry out to their functions and duties. NGOs also try to achieve the goal of women empowerment through the Panchayati Raj system. For this, seminars, workshops and training programmes are organized by them exclusively for women. NGOs keep the Panchayati Raj institutions as gender focused in all village development programmes. NGOs like SEWA in Gujarat, SEARCH in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Samakhya in Andhra Pradesh and Jeevan Deep in West Bengal can be specially mentioned here who have done significant work to build up Panchayati Raj institutions.

8). Liberation education

People of the rural areas are the worst sufferers of poverty, oppression, unsafe water, too little food, little education and no voice or power in decision making. Development, education and liberation are the aspects which can transform the society. Hence, NGOs impart liberation education through street plays, dramas, organizing trainings, campaigns, rallies, procession, dharna etc. so as to liberate the oppressed sections of the society.

9). Capacity building

Capacity building is another important initiative of NGOs. They attempt to build the capacities of the people through training and exposure and participatory training. With a view to increase the earning capacities of the people in villages, vocational trainings in tailoring, mat-weaving, coir rope making, weaving, embroidery, printing and dyeing, glove making, masonry, carpentry etc. are imparted to both men and women. NGOs also arrange exposure in order to

build capacities of the people. It enables people to people learning process which is more effective. NGOs also organize participatory training programmes in order to build capacities of the people. This programme enables the participants to observe themselves as a source of information and knowledge. With the knowledge gained from their own experience, the participants together can develop strategies to change their prevailing situation.

10). Involving people through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

NGOs are involving people in their process of planning, community organization and development. In the PRA process, a tri-learning process takes place i.e. from people to people, people to NGOs and NGOs to people. In it, people are given a chance to share their feelings which is extended in the form of feedback to the implementing organization. This helps the organization in monitoring its activities and undertake people-centered plans by keeping in mind the needs and interests of the people. PRA technique facilitates the participation of all sections of people. It also strengthens the process of community organization and development.

11). Community Organisation

Community organization is another significant function of NGOs. For this, firstly they conduct socio-economic survey of each family of their specific target group. Thus, they come to know about their issues and problems. They also conduct village meetings to draw the varied opinions of the members of the community. Conducting of awareness programmes, motivation, education, exposure, training, capacity building, village meetings and PRA exercises facilitates the accomplishment of community organization. However, community organization comes into action only when community based organizations are formed and start to function. Therefore, NGOs promote different kinds of Community Based Organisations such as; Mahila Mandalis, Farmers Club, Youth Associations, Water shed Committees, Health Committees, Disaster Management Committees, Cooperatives, Environmental Associations, Self-Help Groups etc.

12). Organising SHGs

During the 1990s, organizing Self-Help Groups became a popular activity among the NGOs. They organize the SHGs according to their competence ranging from 50 even upto 500

groups in a region. NGOs like MYRADA, ASSEFA and many others have organized large numbers of SHGs.

These are the areas where NGOs intervene in the rural areas. They enable and encourage the rural people to do extra ordinary things.

3.2.1 ACTIVITIES OF NERSWN IN THE AREA OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NERSWN had seen that the people living in the conflict affected area after coming out from the relief camp have forgotten to do agricultural work. With an objective of arising a ray of hope in their life, 'Livelihood' project has been taken up. The project has 1 Project Manager, 2 field staffs and 10 Community Resource Persons. Under this project, System of Rice Inputs (SRI) system is taught to the beneficiaries for increasing production. Seeds are seasonally distributed for commercial garden and kitchen garden. Pigs are also distributed. Training for organic farming is also provided to the beneficiaries for a healthy life. Training for varmi composting, pig rearing and commercial garden is also provided to the beneficiaries. Organizing and strengthening SHGs is another activity under this project. The project has been implemented in two blocks- Kochugaon Block and Gossaigaon Block.

Table No. 3.1

Name of Block	Name of VCDC	Name of Villages
Kochugaon Block	Balagaon VCDC	Ballamjora Joharbil No. 1,2,3 Padergaon Kayargaon Choudhurighat Harinchara Holtugaon
	Sapkota VCDC	Burachara Baganpara Matiapara Hirlwgarh Sapkota-1
Gossaigaon Block	Satyapur VCDC	Alokjhar Taraibari Silpul Haspas Sukanbaonai

Source: NERSWN, Kokrajhar

In the field survey, following villages have been visited and people have been interacted.

Table No. 3.2

Name of VCDC	Name of Village	No. of Respondents	Helping to Improve Economic Condition (Yes)	Helping to Improve Economic Condition (to some extent)
Satyapur (Gossaigaon Block)	Silpul	10	10	0
„	Haspas	10	10	0
Balagaon (Kochugaon Block)	Joharbil No.1	10	8	2
„	Padergaon	10	10	0
Sapkota (Kochugaon Block)	Matiapara	10	10	0
„	Sapkota-1	10	10	0
		Total 60	Total 58	Total 2

Source: Field survey from 23 January to 23 March, 2019

From the above table, it has been found that in the Silpul village, all the 10 respondents have said that the activities of NERSWN are helping them in the improvement of the economic condition of the family. In Haspas also, all the 10 respondents have said the same. In Joharbil No.1, 8 respondents have said that the activities of NERSWN are helping to improve economic condition of the family and 2 respondents have said that their activities have helped to some extent to improve the economic condition. In Padergaon, all the 10 respondents have told that NERSWN's activities are helping them to improve their economic condition. In Matiapara also,

all the 10 respondents have told the same. In Sapkota-1 also, all the 10 respondents have told the same. Thus, out of the 60 respondents, 58 respondents have told that the activities of NERSWN are helping them to improve their economic condition. However, 2 respondents have said that their activities are helping only to some extent.

NERSWN also works on water governance. The main objective of the project is to facilitate access to water and strengthening livelihood of the people living in the trans-boundary area and securing the rights of women on water management. The project is being implemented in the trans-boundary area of India-Bhutan and India-Bangladesh. Currently, it is being implemented in the districts of Kokrajhar, Dhubri and South Salmara i.e. the project is for the people living near the Sarbhanga and Brahmaputra river. In Kokrajhar district, the project is being implemented in Saralpara area which is a trans-boundary area between India and Bhutan where the Sarbhanga river is shared between the two countries.

The people living in Saralpara are facing the crisis of water. People have to buy water by paying rupees 100 per month. Cultivation of areca nuts is the primary source of their livelihood. Therefore, the project aims to establish collective action for water governance. It also makes an attempt to facilitate government to government dialogue and make people access to government policies. Under this project, village committees are formed which is known as Water User Committee. It attempts to strengthen their rights for bringing an inclusive water governance. The project is for a period of 5 years and it may be extendable. However, it is a new project in Saralpara.

Between 2016-17, NERSWN constructed washrooms in several schools. Following are the list of schools-

Table No. 3.3

	Name of the School	Location
1.	Mainaopur L P School	Mainaopur
2.	New Islampur L P School	New Islampur
3.	Dhwnguri L P School	Dhwnguri
4.	Swrangpara L P School	Swrangpara
5.	Bodopur L P School	Bodopur
6.	Mahendrapur L P School	Mahendrapur
7.	Taisoguri L P School	Taisoguri
8.	Thaigirguri L P School	Thaigirguri
9.	Mohendrapur M E School	Mohendrapur
10.	Soraideka L P School	Soraideka
11.	Undugami L P School	Undugami
12.	Laukriguri L P School	Laukriguri
13.	Islampur L P School	Islampur
14.	Brahmapur L P School	Brahmapur
15.	Gwjwnpara L P School	Taisoguri
16.	West Thakampur L P School	Kochugaon
17.	Rotetapol Kodompukhuri L P School	Kochugaon
18.	Forest Colony M E School	Forest Colony
19.	New Nabinagar	Kochugaon
20.	West Bharatnagar	Kochugaon
21.	Kochugaon Forest L P 718 School	Kochugaon
22.	2 No. Bharatnagar	Kochugaon
23.	Baganpara L P School	Kochugaon
24.	2 No. Thakampur L P School	Kochugaon

Source: NERSWN, Kokrajhar

These are the activities of NERSWN in rural areas.

3.3 Steps Taken for Child Protection by NERSWN

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights under its Para 2 of Article 25 had stated that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the rights of the child on 20 November, 1959. Several provisions have also been included in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the care of the child. However, these provisions were not binding on the states and there was a need to adopt a Convention which should be legally binding on states. Thus, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November, 1989. Article 1 of the Convention states that a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. The Convention is binding on all the states for the protection of children's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. A number of rights have been stipulated in it which are right to life, right to acquire nationality, right to freedom of expression, right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, right to privacy, right to family environment, right to education, right against exploitation of child labour, right against sexual exploitation, right against abduction, sale or traffic etc. However, the rights of the child have been continuously violated. In this case, the NGOs can play the role of watchdogs. They can work towards protecting the children from various unlawful or illegal activities by taking quick action on it and by working closely with government institution and also through organizing awareness campaigns for the parents and the children.

NERSWN is also working on child protection through a project called "Child Protection and Education". For carrying out this project 1 Project Manager and 11 field staffs have been appointed. This project has been undertaken with the objectives of preventing child abuse in conflict ridden area like Kokrajhar, ensuring a protective learning environment for children affected by ethnic violence and providing a free environment to the children. The main beneficiaries of this project are the children belonging to childhood and adolescents period. It is implemented in 28 villages of Kokrajhar district where 9926 children are there. These are-

Table No. 3.4

Name of Cluster	No. of Villages
Bangaldoba	4
Choraikhola	1
Chakrashila	2
Sapkota	4
Matiapara	3
Hasrabari	3
Joharbil	4
Panowari	2
Srirampur	2
Gossaigaon	3

Source: NERSWN, Kokrajhar

The main activities under this project are-

- 1). Under this project, they enroll the school drop out children in school. They also enroll the never enrolled children in Residential Special Training Centre.

- 2). They have constituted Child and Youth Empowerment Centre. This centre by going to their selected villages undertake several activities with the children which include playing games, teaching, telling stories, singing, drawing, showing drama through which they try to provide education to them about their rights and also try to bring awareness among them on the issue of violation of child rights. Through these activities, they also try to provide education to them about the various rules and regulations relating to the protection of children.

- 3). The Child Protection Committee is also constituted in every villages. Here, the members are from the village itself. The main reason for constituting it is that if someday, the NGO stops working in that village or cease to exist, then this CPC can continue its work in the village. There are 15 members in this committee - President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and other members. The employees of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and employees of

ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) are also included in the members. Two or three adolescents from the village are also included as members for making them to raise their issues in the Committee. NERSWN holds meeting with CPC along with villagers once in a month.

4). Along with these, Children Club and Adolescents Club are also constituted in the village.

5). Election is also conducted for selecting the President and the Secretary from among them. Voting is done through the use of ballot paper. Through this, children also learn how the election is conducted. One securing the largest vote out of the 3 candidates is declared elected.

6). They also teach the children about how to save the money. It is taught once in a week. Children have to deposit money between 5-10 rupees. They can also withdraw the money whenever they need. However, they are not forced to deposit the money. This fund usually remains with the NGO itself. This is called Aplatoun Bank.

Thus, these are the steps adopted for child protection by NERSWN. In the year 2018, 18 child marriages, 3 child labour, 4 child migration have been prevented by it and 150 school drop outs have been reenrolled in school. In the Bangaldoba cluster itself, 3 child marriages have been prevented in 2018. It has been known from the field survey that whenever any issue relating to the child arises like child marriage, school drop-out or child labour, then the adolescents themselves use to tell the field staff.

In the field survey, following fields have been visited and children have been interacted.

Table No. 3.5

Name of village	Name of cluster	No. of respondents	Childhood	Adolescents	Benefits (Knowledge getting)
Jomnaguri	Bangaldoba	10	5	5	Known about child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, health and hygiene, child line number 1098 and saving system.
Chakrashila P. I	Chakrashila	10	5	5	Child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and the saving system
Choraikhola P. I	Choraikhola	10	5	5	Health and hygiene, child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and also child line number 1098
Matiapara No. 2 (South)	Hasrabari	10	5	5	Known about child marriage, child labour, child line number 1098

Sapkota-1	Sapkota	10	5	5	Known about child marriage, child trafficking, child labour, child security
Panowari (Muslim village)	Panowari	10	5	5	Known about child marriage, child trafficking, child labour
Haspas		10	5	5	Known about child marriage, child trafficking, child labour, child security

Source: Field survey from 27 December, 2018 to 2 March, 2019.

In the Jomnaguri village, all the 10 respondents have said that they have learned about child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, health and hygiene, saving system and also about child line number 1098. In the Chakrashila P. I, the respondents have learned about child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and the saving system. In the Choraikhola P. I, the respondents have learned about health and hygiene, child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and child line number 1098. In the Matiapara No. 2 (South), the respondents have learned about child marriage, child labour and also about child line number 1098. In Sapkota No. 1, the respondents have learned about child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and also child line number 1098. In Panowari (Muslim village), the respondents have learned about child marriage, child trafficking and child labour. In Haspas, the respondents have learned about child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and child line number 1098. From the above analysis, it has been found that all the 70 respondents have learned about child labour, 70 respondents have learned about child marriage, 60 respondents have learned about child trafficking, 20 respondents have learned about health and hygiene, 20 respondents have said that they have learned about saving

system and 50 respondents have learned about child line number. In other words, 100 % respondents have learned about child labour, 100 % respondents have learned about child marriage, 85.71 % have learned about child trafficking, 28.57 % have learned about health and hygiene, 28.57 % have learned about saving system and 71.42% have learned about child line number.

3.4 Steps taken for child protection by Nedan Foundation

NEDAN adopts three steps for child protection – prevention, protection and reintegration. Prevention mainly involves sensitization. NEDAN attempts to make people and children aware of the issues of children community by reaching out to them. Protection involves protecting children from school drop out, child labour, child marriage and child trafficking. NEDAN works directly with the government institution especially with the Police force for protecting children from such activities. It also runs a children home which is known as Destination Girls Home at Anthaigwlaio village in Kokrajhar district. Here, children who have been rescued from child labour, child marriage and child trafficking having lack of parental support are kept. Re-integration means re-enrolling children into educational institution. NEDAN also works on child protection through a project called Child Protection and Education. Its main objective is to ensure protective learning environment for children and adolescents from the displaced communities of Kokrajhar district. This project is mainly taken up due to conflict for the protection of children and adolescents to cope up with the displacement. Children and adolescents are the main beneficiaries of this project. This project is being implemented in displaced location of 3 blocks i.e. Titaguri, Dotma and Kochugaon.

Table No. 3.6

Blocks	Villages	Ethnic Group
Titaguri	New Basbari, Sonapara, Taijauguri, Baoraguri, Dwikorguri, 10 No. Brahmapara, 9 No. Dholapara, Daoraigapnai	Bodo
Titaguri	Gaurinagar, Dhanpur, Najeratpur, Mwinaguri, Joypur, Balagaon(Lunsung), Mwinaguri, Dholapara, Majipara	Adivasi
Titaguri	Duramari, Bagmara Hekaipara, Noyapara, Jaoliyapara, Mujabari	Bengali Muslim
Dotma	Daowanpara, Sonapur (1,2,3,4,5), Mainaoguri(1,2), Bhasbari	Bodo
Dotma	Nowerbhita, Polasguri, Bederbosti, Munsherghop, Kaoradubi, Kolabari	Bengali Muslim
Kochugaon	New Raikonbari, Baganpara	Bodo
Kochugaon	Kochugaon Bazar, Bijoynagar, Sikarpur, Lopongutu, Jitpur	Adivasi

Source: List of UNICEF areas, NEDAN FOUNDATION, Kokrajhar

The main activities under this project are –

- 1). Under this project, school drop out children are identified and re-enrolled in the formal neighbouring school.

2). After coming out from school, children are made to play several games like football, skipping rope, badminton, kabbadi, cricket, carom, cock fight, volleyball. All the playing materials are provided from the office of the Nedan Foundation.

3). Folklore singing also takes place on the field. Through singing, children are taught about their right to education and also about child marriage, child labour and child trafficking. They are also taught what to do for their protection. However, this folklore singing takes place only in the Bodo and Adivasi village and not in the villages of Bengali Muslim.

4). Live show of folklore singing is also performed in the villages and in the market places whenever is directed. Through this, an attempt is made to make people understand about various issues of children and they are also taught about rules for their protection like informing in the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and calling in the child line number 1098.

5). Child Protection Committee is constituted in the villages where all the members are from the village itself. It consists of 15 members; 1 President, 1 Secretary and other 13 members. NEDAN conducts discussion with the CPC and villagers once in a month. Every month discussion takes place on a specific topic. For example, if in the month of February right to education is discussed, then in the next month discussion will be on child trafficking.

6). Adolescents Club is also constituted in the village. It also consists of 15 members – 1 President, 1 Secretary and other 13 members. If the boy is President, then the girl will be secretary and vice versa. Discussion with the adolescents takes place once in a month. However, daily activity with children is playing games and sports and singing. Children are taught about reproductive system, mental health and nutrition.

These are the steps adopted for child protection by NEDAN FOUNDATION. In 2018, the total number of school drop out children were 128 – 38 girls and 90 boys. Out of this 87 children had been re-enrolled in which 52 are boys and 35 are girls.

In the field survey, following villages have been visited and children have been interacted.

Table No. 3.7

Block	Name of village	Ethnic group	No. of respondents	Child hood	Adole scents	Benefits (Knowledge getting)
Titaguri	New Basbari	Bodo	10	5	5	Known about child labour, child trafficking, child marriage, child line number 1098.
Titaguri	Mwinaguri(Santhal Basti)	Adivasi	10	5	5	Through live show learned how to make people understand, learned about the issues and protection of children
Titaguri	Duramari	Bengali Muslim	10	5	5	Education regarding child protection
Dotma	Nowerbhita	Bengali Muslim	10	5	5	Age of marriage of boys and girls, child line number 1098
Dotma	Sonapur 1	Bodo	10	5	5	Child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and right to

						education
Kochug aon	Kochuga on Bazar	Adivasi	10	5	5	Education regarding child protection
Kochug aon	Baganpar a	Bodo	10	5	5	Child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and right to education

Source: Field survey from February 18 to 14 April, 2018

From the above analysis, it has been found that 30 respondents have said that they have known about child labour, 40 respondents have said that they have known about child marriage, 30 respondents have said that they have known about child trafficking, 20 respondents have said that they have known about child line no. 1098, 30 respondents have said that they have known about child protection and 20 respondents have said that they have known about right to education and 10 respondents have said that through live performance they have learned how to make people understand. In other words, out of 70 respondents, 42.85% respondents have said that they have known about child labour, 57.14% respondents have said that they have known about child marriage, 42.85% respondents have said that they have known about child trafficking, 28.57% have known about child line number, 42.85% respondents have said that they have known about child protection, 28.57% respondents have said that they have known about right to education and 14.28% respondents have learned how to make people understand.

NEDAN FOUNDATION has another project called I Partner. The main objectives of this project are to provide livelihood support to the victims of human trafficking, bringing them to the mainstream society, supporting higher education if the victims are children and bringing them to the children home. Providing vocational training to the victims is another objective. The District Legal Services Authority provides legal aid services or compensation to them. There is Anti – Human Trafficking Unit in the district of which NEDAN is a member. They use to get the information of trafficking through child line number 1098. People can also inform through SMS-

NEDANK<space>..... to 9229224424. There are 15,000 adolescents who are associated with the SMS system.

The project is being implemented in 4 Blocks of Kokrajhar district – Titaguri, Dotma, Kochugaon and Hatidura. After rescue from trafficking, counseling is held to see and discuss what they need. If the victim is below 18 years, then he is presented before Child Welfare Committee (CWC). As per its direction, NEDAN has to work.

3.5 NGOs and Empowerment

The term ‘empower’ means ‘to give power or authority to’. Empowerment describes a range of activities starting from individual self-assertion to collective resistance, protest and mobilization and thus challenging the basic power relations in the state. Empowerment begins when the oppressed classes recognize the systemic forces that are oppressing them and when they act to change the existing power relationships. Empowerment thus can be described as a process which aims at changing the nature and direction of those forces which marginalize the downtrodden and disadvantaged sections of the society. When the decision-making process is changed in favour of the oppressed and when a climate is established to make them exercise their right to take their own decision in every sphere, then it may be described as they are empowered.

3.5.1 NGO’s Work on Empowerment

i). As a process

Empowerment is not an end but is a process. NGOs first try to understand the socio-political structure and the environment under which the downtrodden and the powerless people strive to survive. Then they facilitate them to continuously carry out their struggle and fight for their rights.

ii). With a holistic approach

NGOs work for the development of poor communities in all economic, social and political activities. They undertake activities in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, skill training, adult and non-formal education etc. However, all these activities are undertaken with a common aim of empowering the poor.

iii). Organising marginalized groups

NGOs work for the empowerment of marginalized groups, particularly the rural poor, women, the landless, the oppressed Dalits, tribals etc. For example, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a leading NGO of Gujarat has targeted the poor women working in the urban informal sector.

iv) As a strategic endeavour

The empowerment approach aims at attacking the basic cause of powerlessness. NGOs also try to empower the powerless people. Those NGOs who are having empowerment objectives strive to create conditions for structural change from below. Sangams or groups formed by NGOs also strengthen the base of democracy.

v). Democratising

Democracy always involves decentralization of power from top to the grass root level. NGOs always work at the grass root level. They promote community based organizations and here all the members fully participate in decision making. Through orientation, trainings and other capacity building programmes, they try to educate and enable the communities to execute democracy at the village level.

vi). Sustainability

Empowering the people means making the people self-reliant. For this, it is necessary for the groups or sangams to be able to sustain as a social unit and their projects manageable by themselves. NGOs always try to build sustainability of the groups or sangams. For example, Working Women's Forum (WWF), a South Indian NGO facilitates and encourages women's groups to design and manage their own projects and activities. It has proved that sustainability is possible only through the process of empowerment.

These are the activities of NGO on empowerment. Empowerment may be for women, dalits, tribes and other disadvantaged groups.

3.6 NERSWN's Work on Women Empowerment

NERSWN also works for the women vendors. The women vendors started their entrepreneurial profession when there were no facilities or opportunities for them to improve their livelihood. Since then, they have been doing buying and selling of goods with a view to fulfill small necessities of their family. NERSWN has selected them for their work with a view to make them free from all the negligible and inhuman attitude of the society and also to fight together for their rights. It has constituted Aijw Falangi Afad (Women Entrepreneur Association) which is an independent organization. It was constituted in 2006 with an objective to bring an end to the various hurdles women vendors are facing. Two associations have been constituted – Kokrajhar Aijw Falangi Afad (Kokrajhar Women Entrepreneur Association) and Gossaigaon Aijw Falangi Afad (Gossaigaon Women Entrepreneur Association). It can be described as an initiative to empower women vendors by increasing their entrepreneurial ideas.

The main objectives of NERSWN for Aijw Falangi Afad (Women Entrepreneur Association) are –

- 1). Along with Kokrajhar Aijw Falangi Afad (Kokrajhar Women Entrepreneur Association) and Gossaigaon Aijw Falangi Afad (Gossaigaon Women Entrepreneur Association), NERSWN also seeks to form such association in their places of work.
- 2). Continuously carrying forward the process of providing loan to women vendors from Women's Bank and also providing cycle from Women's Cycle Bank.
- 3). Connecting the women vendors with financial institution.
- 4). To provide opportunity for productive work to all the family members who are dependent on women vendors.
- 5). Providing multipurpose education to women vendors with a view to increase their entrepreneurial ideas.

Following are some of the demands of women vendors which have been raised with the help of NERSWN. In other words, it can be said that these demands are the results of the knowledges provided by NERSWN. –

1). Like the National Street Vendors Policy, in the BTC area also steps should be taken to enact National Women Entrepreneurial Development Policy.

2). Provision for 33% reservation for women vendors in the existing markets of different areas and in the newly established markets and also in the bazaar committee.

3). Provision for safe drinking water and toilet facilities for women vendors in the market area.

4). The Municipality Board should make rules and regulations with regard to collection of rent from the women vendors.

5). It should take steps to provide facilities to the families of women vendors who are not getting any facilities from Governmental schemes.

6). It should constitute a separate department for the solution of various issues of women vendors.

7). There should be provision of financial help and loan at low interest from financial institution for the entrepreneurial development of women vendors.

8). The Municipality Board should provide identity card to all the women vendors.

The Aijw Falangi Afad collects 60 rupees as member fee from each member annually. There is Women's Bank which provides loan to members at 2% interest. There is also Women's Cycle Bank which provides cycle at 1% interest. Under the leadership of NERSWN, once they visited Ema market in Manipur. With the help of NERSWN, once they got the chance of training for making candle and flour. Once they have also received 1 lakh 50 thousand rupees from the Bodoland Territorial Council. However, they have not done anything together with these money. NERSWN confers Aijw Falangi Bantha (Women Entrepreneur Award) every year on 8th March (International Women's Day) to a women vendor who through the occupation of vendor

succeeded in the improvement of the family by overcoming all the challenges and hurdles. In this award, a citation, a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and an indi showl use to be given. The conferring of this award has been continuing since the last eight years to facilitate the women vendors to highlight their flight and works. However, the award is conferred only to the members of Aijw Falangi Afad.

3.7 Nedan Foundation on Women Empowerment

NEDAN FOUNDATION is not empowering women but it is trying to integrate the traffic survivors with the mainstream society and to provide them an economically secure livelihood. For this purpose, they have launched a project called “I Partner”. The project has 1 Programme Manager, 1 Caretaker, 1 Coordinator, 1 Councillor and 1 Accountant and has started from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2019 . It provides livelihood support to the victims of human trafficking. The project has 32 beneficiaries and most of them are women. As a step for the implementation of the project, awareness campaigns are held. Women traffic survivors are provided the facilities of ginger cultivation, rearing of silk worm, vegetable vendoring, tea shops, turmeric cultivation and weaving and tailoring for girls.

NEDAN has also another project called “One Stop Centre”. This project is a centrally sponsored one by Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is popularly known as ‘Sakhi’ and it has been implemented since 1st April, 2015. The main objectives of this scheme are to provide integrated support and assistance to those women affected by violence in public and private sphere and to provide immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to medical, legal, psychological and counseling support to the victims in order to fight the violence against them. OSC provides rescue and referral services to those women who are affected by violence. For this purpose, linkages has been developed with various mechanisms such as National Health Mission (NHM), 108 service, police (PCR Van). Through these, the woman affected by violence can be rescued from the location immediately and provided immediate medical facility or she may be kept at the shelter home. The OSC also facilitates the women affected by violence for lodging of FIR/NCR/DIR. Such woman can contact a skilled counselor who can provide psycho-social counselling services. Through this counseling process women will get confidence and support while addressing her issue and also in seeking justice for the violence. However, the

counsellors have to follow a prescribed code of ethics, guidelines and protocols while providing counselling.

The aggrieved woman can select an advocate of her choice if she wants to take the same for assisting the State Prosecutors while trying her case. The Lawyer/Prosecutor has to simplify legal procedures for the aggrieved woman. He should advocate for her exemption from court hearings. If the case is of an offence of rape as defined in section 376, 376A-D IPC, then the Prosecutors should try the case so that it should complete the inquiry or trial as soon as possible within a period of two months taking from the date of filing of charge sheet. The OSC provides the facilities of temporary shelter to the aggrieved women. If the aggrieved woman requires long term shelter, then such arrangements are made with Swadhar Greh/Short Stay Homes which are managed or affiliated with government or NGO.

One Stop Centre provides temporary shelter for those women who are affected by violence along with their children for a period of 5 days. In case of children, it applies to girls of all ages and if it is boy then up to 8 years of age. The Centre Administrator looks after the admission of any woman to the temporary shelter. The OSC also provides the facilities of video conferencing through Skype, Google, Conferencing etc. for facilitating speedy and hassle free police and court proceedings. The aggrieved woman can record her statement for police/courts from OSC itself through the using of audio-video electronic means as stated in sections 161(3), 164(1) and 275(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Section 231(1) as appropriate with Order XVIII Rule 4 of the Code of Civil Procedure. However, such facilities are provided only after consultation among Superintendent of Police, District and Sessions Judge of the concerned place of incident.

NEDAN also provides support and assistance to women affected by violence in both public and private sphere through its One Stop Centre. The project has 1 Councillor, 2 Cash Worker, 2 Security guard, 1 Centre Administrator, 2 Multipurpose workers and 1 IT Staff. It provides immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to services like medical, legal, psychological and counseling support to women affected by violence. NEDAN has 7 bed in RNB Civil Hospital, Kokrajhar to provide medical facilities to such women. It also provides support in filing FIR and in taking statement. It also provides consultation with District Legal

Services Authority to provide legal services to the victim. This project is also not empowering women.

3.8 Challenges Faced by NERSWN

Following are the main challenges faced by NERSWN –

1. It has been found from the field visit of the activities of NERSWN that whenever any meetings or discussions or trainings are going to be conducted, then less people use to participate or people use to come very lately. It becomes a challenge for the field staffs to call people again and again. People usually remain busy in their own work.
2. Limited fund is another challenge to be mentioned.
3. Whenever child marriage, school drop outs occur, it becomes very difficult to make the children and the parents understand.
4. Villages are scattered. So, it becomes very difficult for the field staffs to visit the same village every day.
5. Lastly, it is easy to get educationally qualified staffs. But it is difficult to find such a person who has a will to bring a change in the society. People join NGO only because of lack of job opportunity. Thus, most of the staffs are lacking leadership quality.

3.9 Challenges Faced by Nedan Foundation

Following are the main challenges faced by NEDAN FOUNDATION –

1. Raising funds is the biggest challenge faced by NEDAN FOUNDATION.
2. Security is another issue. The donor agencies are afraid to come to the region by thinking about their security.
3. One field facilitator has to maintain many villages. So, he can't undertake activities with the children of the same village everyday.
4. Sometimes prevention of child marriage becomes a challenge. Sometimes, the field facilitators use to be threatened while preventing it.
5. In Nowerbhita village, due to lack of playground, the field facilitator is unable to make the children play games like football, volleyball, badminton etc.
6. Sometimes, lack of enough human resource is a challenge.

7. Rescuing people from trafficking is a risky work and full of challenges.
8. Sometimes miscommunication with the Police forces use to occur while working on rescue operation of traffic victims.

3.10 Similarities and Dissimilarities between NERSWN and Nedan Foundation

From the above analysis, some similarities and dissimilarities between NERSWN and Nedan Foundation have been found. Following are some of the similarities between them -

1). Both NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION have the same project called “Child Protection and Education”. Sometimes, the field staffs of both NGOs working in this project are trained together. The training takes place sometimes at NERSWN and sometimes at NEDAN.

2). Some of the steps undertaken for the implementation of this project by NERSWN is similar to the steps undertaken by NEDAN. For example, constitution of Child Protection Committee and monthly meeting with it, constitution of Adolescents Club, providing education to the children regarding child marriage, child trafficking, child labour through singing and making the children play games on the field.

3). Both these NGOs have selected the conflict affected villages for this project.

4). Both of them are enrolling the drop out children in school.

5). Both of them are working for the protection of children from various illegal activities like child trafficking, child marriage, child labour and school drop out.

6). Both of them are facing the similar challenge of limited fund.

7). Both of them are facing the similar challenge of lack of enough human resource.

8). While working on the protection of children from child marriage, both of them have faced a similar challenge, i.e. difficulties in making people and children understand.

9). A common scenario seen in the field survey of the projects of NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION is that their staffs are very friendly with the villagers. They are also very kind

and friendly with the children. For the NGOs serving the people, it is necessary that people believe on them.

10). Sometimes, both of these NGOs organize programmes on Sunday also.

11). Both these NGOs are playing advocacy and service delivery role.

Following points will highlight the dissimilarities between these two NGOs.

1). NERSWN is registered under Societies Registration Act. While NEDAN FOUNDATION is registered under Public Trust Act.

2). NERSWN was established by a group of young people who were known as 'BRANSTHU' in December, 2004. NEDAN FOUNDATION was established by a group of trained Social Work Professionals with a common vision to work with poor and voiceless communities of far-flung villages of North East India.

2). The organizational structure of NERSWN consists of 6 members in the Governing Body, 1 Chairman-cum-Director, 1 Executive Director, 1 Administrative-in-charge, 6 Project Manager or Coordinator, 45 Field Staffs, 1 Accountant and 1 Finance Officer. The organizational structure of NEDAN FOUNDATION consists of 5 members in the Governing Body, 1 Chairman-cum-Director, 6 core members, 4 coordinators, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Programme Manager, 1 Accountant and 42 field staffs.

3). NERSWN wants to build to build a society free from poverty, injustice, violence and prejudice. It wants to adopt transparency and participatory means for realizing development and rights of the marginalized communities through the building of their capacities and strengthening knowledge, technology and research. NEDAN's main vision is to build a society marked by development, equality, peace and respect for human rights of all sections of the society. It also wants to build a society where youths are involved in all developmental activities from bringing peace to overall holistic and sustainable developmental activities. Its objective is to empower youth, women and girls on various issues such as human rights, trafficking in women and children, livelihoods, gender, sexuality, reproductive and sexual health (RSH), HIV/AIDS, environment etc. and enable them as equal partners in decision making in the developmental process and peace building in the North East region.

3). NEDAN works on anti-human trafficking, women empowerment and right to education. NERSWN works on health sector- general and mental, livelihood, education, women vendors, child protection, research and networking. NEDAN mostly works on anti-human trafficking.

3). Though the project “Child Protection and Education” is same in both NGOs, there are differences in their activities under this project. Along with providing education about child protection to the children, NERSWN is also providing education about the saving system through the process of Aflatoun Bank. However, it is not a part of the activities of NEDAN FOUNDATION. With regard to singing, NERSWN undertakes this activity in all the fields. However, with regard to NEDAN, folklore singing doesn’t take place in the villages of Bengali Muslim.

4). NEDAN is also trying to provide education to the people about the issues of children and their protection through live show of folklore singing in the villages and in the market places. However, it is not a part of the activities of NERSWN.

5). NEDAN not only protecting children from trafficking, child marriage, child labour and school drop out, but it is also running a children home where such children having lack of parental support are kept here. However, NERSWN does not have such kind of children home.

6). NEDAN is also working on violence against women through its project “One Stop Centre”. However, it is not a part of the activities of NERSWN.

7). NERSWN is providing livelihood support to the people living in conflict affected areas. While NEDAN is providing livelihood support to the victims of human trafficking.

8). Both these NGOs works specially in the rural areas. But NEDAN does not have any specific project for rural development as NERSWN has.

9). NERSWN is working for women vendors, while NEDAN is working on crime against women or for those women who are the victims of trafficking.

10). NERSWN is trying to make the women vendors conscious about their needs. NEDAN is trying to reintegrate the victims of trafficking with the mainstream society.

11). It has been found from the study that the challenges faced by NEDAN is more than the challenges faced by NERSWN.

12). The office of the NEDAN FOUNDATION remains close on second and fourth Saturday. However, it is not in the case of NERSWN.

13). It has been seen in the field survey of NERSWN that in some of the villages of Adivasi and Bengali Muslims the field staff belongs to other community. However, in the case of NEDAN FOUNDATION, A Bodo staff is given Bodo villages to look after it, Adivasi staff for Adivasi villages and a staff belonging to Muslim community is given the villages of Bengali Muslims to look after it.

The above analysis shows that the differences between NERSWN and Nedan Foundation are more than the similarities between them. ...

3.11 Conclusion

Both NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION works specially in the rural areas. However, there are similarities and differences in their objectives and activities. Though NEDAN works in rural areas, it does not have any specific project for rural development as NERSWN has. It has been found from the above analysis that most of its projects deal with anti human trafficking or crime against women. Along with it, NEDAN FOUNDATION is also working on child protection more than NERSWN. It has been found out from the survey that NERSWN has no special staff right now to look after the women vendors. With regard to challenges, the challenges of NEDAN has been found more than NERSWN.

In conclusion, it can be said that both NERSWN and NEDAN FOUNDATION are playing both advocacy and service delivery role. With regard to NERSWN, it is playing mostly service delivery role. It is delivering goods and services to the people. For example, seeds are seasonally distributed for commercial garden and kitchen garden, pigs are also distributed. It also organizes mental health camp every month for providing treatment for mentally ill patient. It also organizes 'Wall of Compassion' every year where people can donate their used materials which are in usable condition. These materials are then distributed to the needy. Training for System of

Rice Input (SRI), training for commercial garden, training for organic farming for a healthy life, training for varmi composting, training for pig rearing are another service delivery role of NERSWN. It also works for women vendors. It has encouraged them for demanding better services from the administration for themselves at the market area. They have demanded for the enactment of National Women Entrepreneurial Development Policy, provision for 33% reservation for them in the market, provision for safe drinking water and toilet facilities in the market, provision for financial help and loan at low interest from financial institution for their entrepreneurial development, provision for identity card for them etc. It also provides loan to women vendors from Women's Bank and Women's Cycle Bank. NERSWN also works on water governance with a view to facilitate access to water and strengthening livelihood of the people living in the trans-boundary area. Between 2016-17, it constructed washrooms in several schools. It is also playing some kind of advocacy role. It is making the children conscious about the issue of child trafficking, child marriage, child labour and also providing education about health and hygiene. They are providing education to the children about their protection. They are also involving the villagers in it through the constitution of Child Protection Committee.

NEDAN FOUNDATION is also playing both advocacy and service delivery role. With regard to delivering services, it is providing livelihood support to the victims of human trafficking. Traffic survivors are provided the facilities of ginger cultivation, rearing of silk worm, vegetable vendors, tea shops, turmeric cultivation and weaving and tailoring for girls and electrical training for boys. Supporting higher education if the victims are children and providing vocational training to the victims who have left their study are another service delivery role. They are also running a children home where the children rescued from trafficking, child marriage and child labour having lack of parental support are kept. These children are enrolled in the neighbouring schools and colleges. NEDAN is also helping the women affected by violence both in public and private sphere in getting medical and legal services through its One Stop Centre. With regard to advocacy role, it use to conduct awareness campaign against human trafficking. Assam State Child Protection Day is also observed every year on 4th March. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is also celebrated every year on 30th July. It also collaborates with the administration of Bodoland Territorial Council with regard to protection of children and for ensuring them access to quality education. Along with it, in the conflict affected villages, it is

providing education to the children about their protection. In this attempt, they have also involved the villagers through the constitution of Child Protection Committee.

Thus, it can be said that NEDAN is playing more advocacy role than NERSWN. On the other hand, NERSWN is playing more service delivery role than NEDAN.

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