

Our Social Work students from D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, Goa University, actively participated in a delayed birth registration camp for the Kathkari (Wanarmare) community in Nirankhal. This initiative, in collaboration with Human Touch Foundation and the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Ponda, streamlined the process, enabling around 88 residents, including children, to obtain their much-needed birth certificates.

This hands-on engagement not only provided our students with practical experience in community service but also strengthened ties between Goa University, local authorities, and the community. A step towards a more inclusive society, we are proud of our students' contributions!

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The Voice of Goa — since 1900

Birth registration camp proves beneficial for Wanarmare community

88 members from marginalised community to get birth certificates; initiative will help secure identities, access to social benefits

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Kathkari-Wanarmare community in Nirankhal, benefited from a significant birth registration camp, ensuring that 88 residents, including children, received their essential birth certificates. This effort, held in collaboration with local organizations and government bodies, aimed to simplify the complex processes involved in obtaining critical documentation for this nomadic tribal community.

This initiative was part of the 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' (government at your doorstep) programme, which seeks to bring essential services directly to marginalized communities. The camp was overseen by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ponda, Shubham Naik, and supported by the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR) and various legal professionals.

Peter F Borges, founder of the



The officials and volunteers that made the drive possible

Human Touch Foundation (HTF) and former GSCPCR Chairperson, emphasized the importance of birth certificates for children's identity and access to social benefits. He noted that the initiative represents a crucial step toward recognizing and supporting one of Goa's most marginalized communities.

SDM Naik spoke about simplifying the documentation process and setting a new standard for outreach programs. He commended the joint efforts of all organizations involved for their

dedication to serving marginalized communities.

Gopal Pawar, a leader of the tribal community, expressed gratitude for the camp, noting that it provided hope and a sense of inclusion for many. He emphasized how the initiative will help secure their identities and access to essential benefits.

Volunteers from the HTF, Sanvedan Kendra, Goa University, and the SDM's office played a significant role in the successful execution of the camp for the benefit of the Wanarmare tribals.

88 of Makadmare tribe finally get to register births

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Margao: Eighty-eight people of the Makadmare (Wanarmare) tribe residing at Nirankal, Ponda, registered their births at the 'delayed birth registration' camp on Friday. The move assumes significance as in the absence of a birth certificate, the basic identity document, they would have a hard time establishing their existence.

While the adults would remain deprived of various welfare schemes, the children — who did not have institutional births — were unable to gain admissions as schools demanded their birth certificates.

The camp was conducted by the South Goa district administration and facilitated by Human Touch Foundation, in collaboration

with Sanvedan Kendra. The initiative was also supported by the students of the social work programme of Goa University, and the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Additional collector-I, Srinet Kothwale, told **TOI** that the district administration has identified certain vulnerable groups whose births and deaths have not been registered with the authorities within the statutory period specified in the Registration of Births and Deaths Act. "The district collector has been vested with the powers to enable the delayed registration of births and deaths in such cases," Kothwale said. "Another such camp has been planned at Salcete for the benefit of another vulnerable community."

Govt-At-Your-Doorstep Initiative Ensures Essential Birth Registrations of Nirankhal's Wanarmare Tribals

Goemkarponn Desk

Nirankhal: Human Touch Foundation, in collaboration with Sanvedan Kendra, has successfully organized a pioneering delayed birth registration camp for the nomadic tribal Katkhari-Wanarmare community at Nirankhal. This unique initiative, supported by the students of the Social Work Programme, Goa University, the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ponda, embodies the spirit of the 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' (government at your doorstep) initiative.

By bringing essential services directly to the community, this program significantly simplifies the often complex and bureaucratic processes, making it easier for residents to obtain critical documentation. The effort, which involved delayed birth registration of around 88 residents including children, was facilitated under the oversight of Sub Divisional Magistrate Ponda, Shubham Naik, and Secretary of the Village Panchayat Betora-Nirankhal-Conxem-Codar. The camp received legal support from Adv. Caroline Colosso and Adv. Vijeta.

This initiative was initiated during the term of Peter F. Borges as Chairperson of the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and was brought to



fruition with substantial contributions from law student volunteers from G. R. Kare College of Law, Margao.

Peter F. Borges, Founder, Human Touch Foundation remarked, "Ensuring that every child has a birth certificate is fundamental for their identity and access to social benefits. This initiative is a vital step toward recognizing and supporting one of Goa's most marginalized communities. I am deeply grateful to the administration, especially Additional Collector, Srinet Kothwale and Sub Divisional Magistrate Shubham Naik, for their invaluable support."

"Innovative programs like the 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' initiative showcase the

government's dedication to bringing services directly to the citizens.

The delayed birth registration camp at Nirankhal is a groundbreaking effort that simplifies the process and ensures access to essential documentation for the community. This initiative sets a new standard for outreach programs, and I commend the joint effort of Human Touch Foundation, Sanvedan Kendra, Goa SCPCR and all involved for their commitment to serving marginalized communities."

- Shubham Naik, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ponda

"This camp has been a beacon of hope for our community. For the first time, we feel the government is reaching out to us directly and

addressing our needs. This initiative will help many of us secure our identities and access the benefits we deserve. We are grateful to Human Touch Foundation, Sanvedan Kendra, and everyone involved for making this possible."

- Gopal Pawar, Leader of the Tribals Staff members from the Human Touch Foundation—Masooma Shaikh, Usha Pawar, Vanessa Colaco, Dashrath Morajkar, Kavita Yamkar, Sneha Gawas, Babani Mapari, Mitzi, Ketan, Cindrella, Sarah Andrade and Wyn from Sanvedna Kendra—along with faculty from Goa University, Alisha Dias and Joycy Manlun, and staff from the Sub Divisional Magistrate, volunteered alongside others in their efforts.

New lease of life for Wanarmare tribe

Camp held in Nirankal for birth registration of members

Staff Reporter

Ponda

Members of the Wanarmare (Makadmare) tribe, who were neglected by the government authorities for long, have now received a new lease of life with the South Goa administration holding a special drive on Friday to give them a hearing on their delayed birth registration.

Around 88 members of the tribe, including some as old as 63 and as young as 3 will be provided birth registration certificates for which the process has been initiated.

Birth of members of the tribe was never registered earlier, thus denying them the benefits of various government welfare schemes and facilities.

Speaking about the programme, tribe leader Gopal Powar said, "This camp has been a beacon of hope for our community. For the first time, we feel the government is reaching out to us directly and addressing our needs. The initiative will help many of us secure our identities and access the benefits we deserve. We are grateful to everyone involved in making this possible."

The initiative was taken up by NGOs Human Touch Foundation and Sanvedan Kendra. They organised the delayed birth registration camp for the nomadic tribal community of Wanarmare at Nirankal, Bethoda in Ponda taluka where the tribe members reside.

The initiative was sup-



Birth of members of the Wanarmare tribe was not registered earlier, denying them the benefits of social welfare schemes and facilities. ■ Nirgosh Gaude

ported by students of Social Work Programme, Goa University, Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ponda.

Bringing essential services to the doorstep of the community, the hearing was facilitated under the oversight of Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ponda,

Shubham Naik and secretary of the village panchayat of Bethoda-Nirankal-Conxem-Codar. The camp received legal support from Adv Caroline Colasso and Adv Vijeta.

Founder of Human Touch Foundation Peter F Borges said, "Ensuring every child has birth certificate is crucial for identity of the child and for access to social benefits. This initiative is a vital step toward recognising and supporting one of Goa's most marginalised communities. I am deeply grateful to the administration, especially Additional Collector Srinet Kothwale and Sub Divisional Magistrate Shubham Naik, for their invaluable support."

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