

ANNUAL REPORT



Year 2022-23

Matai Society

MATAI SOCIETY: Growing with Confidence

Matai Society is a dynamic, women-led, queer-inclusive, and trans-led registered organization founded in 2020 under the Manipur Societies Registration Act of 1989. Rooted in the historic town of Moirang, Bishnupur, in the culturally rich and diverse border state of Manipur, India, which neighbors Myanmar, Matai Society is driven by a vision of empowerment and resilience in the face of adversity.

The organization is committed to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by the local community, migrant populations, internally displaced persons, LGBTQ+ individuals, and women impacted by conflict. Its mission is to develop inclusive growth, social harmony, and transformative opportunities through targeted interventions and community-led initiatives.

Matai Society operates through four integrated verticals that form the foundation of its efforts:

1. **Livelihood:** Enhancing economic independence and stability by providing skill-building, vocational training, and sustainable income-generating opportunities tailored to the needs of marginalized groups.
2. **Psychosocial Health:** Promoting mental well-being and resilience through counseling, support networks, and accessible mental health resources, recognizing the profound effects of conflict and displacement on individual and community health.
3. **LGBTQ+ Community Building:** Creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals to connect, grow, and advocate for their rights, fostering an environment of acceptance, visibility, and inclusivity within the broader societal fabric.
4. **Education:** Empowering individuals through education initiatives that prioritize access to learning, capacity-building workshops, and awareness programs aimed at equipping people with the tools they need to shape their futures.

With its deep commitment to community-led change, Matai Society serves as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for empowerment, striving to build a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Our vision

Our vision is to create an inclusive and equitable society where every individual, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances, has access to the resources, opportunities, and rights they need to thrive. We aspire to build a world where marginalized communities are uplifted and supported, and where diversity is not only acknowledged but celebrated as a strength.

In this society, every voice is heard, every person is treated with dignity and respect, and barriers to social, economic, and political participation are dismantled. We envision a future where equality and inclusivity are foundational principles, ensuring that no one is left behind. By developing understanding, solidarity, and compassion, we aim to create lasting change and empower individuals to achieve their fullest potential.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower and uplift marginalized and low-income communities by ensuring access to emergency support during acute crises and fostering pathways to lasting financial stability. We are committed to:

- Building resilience through skill development, network linkages, and the promotion of micro-businesses, coupled with confidence-building initiatives.
- Advancing gender and sexual diversity and inclusivity, creating a society where everyone is valued and respected.
- Securing social, legal, and political protections for LGBTQIA+ individuals, women, children, and youth.
- Expanding access to affordable and comprehensive psycho-social health support for marginalized populations.

Through our work, we strive to create a world where dignity, equality, and opportunity are accessible to all.



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From the Founder



I founded Matai Society in 2019 with the vision to create inclusive safe spaces backed by collaborative efforts and one which serves common needs. The formation of the society was a shared vision of women, queer and trans leaders in Moirang, Manipur - India.

Inspired by a common vision, in its third year of operations, the team built four verticals: community building, sustainable livelihood, psychosocial and educational works to marginalised populations especially women, queer and trans persons in Bishnupur district, Manipur.

We functioned as a collective for a year doing vigorous community groundwork. And in one year, we registered it as a legal entity in November 2020. Ever since, we have been expanding, strengthening and reaching out to a wider community.

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The works of Matai Society is a resilient effort in navigating its geopolitical and local realities. Lawlessness, militancy, armed conflict, separatist movements, cross-border conflicts, anti LGBTQ elements, ethnic polarisation among other issues, Matai Society walks this thin line of vulnerabilities and self-empowerment.

Overview of the year 2022-2023

Matai Society is proud to present its annual report for the year 2022-2023, reflecting a remarkable period of impactful initiatives, community building works, and organizational growth. This year has been marked by a steadfast commitment to developing inclusivity, providing relief to vulnerable populations, and building a robust foundation for the Society's future.

This year we were able to start seed grants to LGBTQ entrepreneurs besides the free skilling training, educational and psychosocial works. We also started producing bags at the Mahei Centre.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Matai Society is committed to expanding its efforts to promote LGBTQ+ awareness and inclusivity. Building on the success of previous workshops and outreach initiatives, the Society plans to increase its engagement with underserved and marginalized communities. By organizing more in-depth training sessions, community dialogues, and digital campaigns, the Society aims to reach an even wider audience and foster a deeper understanding of LGBTQ+ rights. These efforts will not only empower individuals but also encourage broader societal acceptance, creating safer and more inclusive spaces for people of all identities.

In addition, the Society is prioritizing the initiation of sustainable livelihood programs for LGBTQ persons and women. This includes providing vocational training, access to micro-financing, and connections to market opportunities. To maximize the impact of these initiatives, the Matai Society will strengthen collaborations with local organizations, government agencies, and global partners. By fostering these partnerships, the Society seeks to leverage shared expertise and resources to create holistic, scalable solutions for the communities it serves.

Highlights of the year 2022-2023

- **Community Work Building:** This year we focused on developing livelihood and advocacy works with the community in Bishnupur district. We therefore, provide capacity building support in strengthening building collectives, formalising collectives to registered organisations, grant application, crowdfunding.



- Educational Work:** Through its library and resource centre, we facilitate both educational and recreational activities for the targeted groups with the goal to create a *safe space* and provide *psychosocial support* and *emotional-physical well being*.



- **Livelihood Support:** We provided livelihood seed grants to LGBTQ persons in the district, providing cash support to start micro businesses. This year, we provided a seed grant of 5000 INR each to 5 transgender persons in Bishnupur district. We also acquired a used e-rickshaw and provided it for free to 5 transgender men in Bishnupur district to help them raise income.

Organizational Strengthening

Strengthening our organizational capacity was a key focus this year to ensure we deliver our programs efficiently, transparently, and sustainably.

- **Strategic Developments:**
 - ❖ Developed a **3-year strategic plan** to align our vision and mission with measurable, actionable goals.
 - ❖ Conducted **5 internal capacity-building workshops** for staff and volunteers on leadership, project management, financial accountability, and community engagement.
 - ❖ Improved internal systems, including the implementation of **monitoring frameworks** for tracking program effectiveness.
 - ❖ Enhanced financial transparency with upgraded reporting systems to meet donor and legal compliance.
 - ❖ Established partnerships with **multiple new organizations** for collaborative program delivery and funding support.
- **Impact:**
 - ❖ Enhanced organizational capacity for efficient program delivery, data-driven decision-making, and impact reporting.
 - ❖ Strengthened partnerships with donors, NGOs, and government bodies to expand resources and influence.
 - ❖ Built a motivated, skilled team ready to scale our programs for greater impact.

PROJECTS

1. **Mahei Centre:** Started in 2020, the centre continued to provide free skilling and capacity building training to women, queer and trans persons in the region. This year the centre started providing training for bag production as well besides the existing mosquito net and bedsheet training and production.
2. **MAHEI: After-School Programme:** An after school program that aims at providing emotional and social learning for young students from class 6-12 was initiated. The program was led by Diana Rose Haobijam.
3. **HOPE THROUGH SHARING:** A collaborative work between The Collective Trust, Octave Foundation and Matai Society; HOPE THROUGH SHARING aims at providing a safe inclusive listening circle with focus on psychosocial well-being.

Our Partners

The target that Matai Society achieved this year was outstanding. This could be made possible only because it got significant support from our partners.

Key Supporters/Partners/Donors that Strengthened is in 2022- 2023

- ☺ Kalama Mutual Aid
- ☺ The Chinky Homo Project, North East
- ☺ SAATHII

Our Team

Matai Society has a core team of 10 people and an advisory group of three persons.

Team List

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Haobijam Dianarose	President
2	Meghajit Sharma Shijagurumayum	Vice-President
3	Moirangthem Rohana	Secretary
4	Wangkhem Jackson	Assistant-secretary
5	Hemam Sankar	Treasurer
6	T. Amarjit	Member
7	M. Bijenti	Member
8	N. Virjit	Member
9	H. Basanta Kumar	Member

Financials-Audit Report 2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

1 Name of the Association Matai Society

2 Address of the Association Moirang Lamkhai, Ward No. 1. P.O.P.S. Moirang Bishnupur District

3 Regd. No. and date : No. 88 of 1986, dated 15/12/2004

4 No. of members : As on 31-03-2023 10 Members

CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

Receipts		Amt. (Rs)	Payments		Amount. (Rs)
1) To donations received from Public		60,000.00	1) By Establishment & other Expenses		
			a) Contingency	10,000.00	
2) To members contributions		20,000.00	b) T.A/D.A	2,500.00	
			c) Printing/Stationery	2,000.00	
			d) Meeting	1,000.00	
			e) Awareness	3,000.00	
			f) Training program for unskilled person	50,000.00	68,500.00
			2) By furnitures		12,900.00
	Sub Total	₹ 80,000		Sub Total	₹ 81,400
	To Opening Balance	₹ 1,800		By Closing Balance	₹ 400.00
	Grand Total	₹ 81,800		Grand Total	₹ 81,800

Expenditure		Amount(Rs)	Income		Amount(Rs)
1) To Establishment & Other Expenses		68,500.00	1) By donations received from public		60,000.00
2) To Audit Fee Payable		150.00	2) By members contribution		20,000.00
3) To depreciation @ 10 % on					
a) Seal & Stamp	45.00				
b) Signboard	450.00				
c) Office	1,062.00				
c) Furniture	1,290.00				
		2,847.00			
	Sub-total	₹ 71,497.00		Sub-Total	₹ 80,000.0
	Excess of income over expenditure	₹ 8,503.0		Excess of expenditure over income	Nil
	Grand Total	₹ 80,000.0		Grand Total	₹ 80,000.0

MATAI SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2023

Capital & Liabilities		Assets & Properties		Amount(In Rs.)	
1) Capital fund	30,059.0	1) Cash in Hand		400.00	
expenditure	8,503.00	2) Seal & Stamp less deprn.		405.00	
2) Audit fee payable	211.00	3) Signboard less deprn.		4,050.00	
Add current	150.00	4) Office equipments less deprn.		9,558.00	
		5) Furnitures		24,510.00	
	Grand Total	₹ 38,923.0		Grand Total	₹ 38,923.0

President *[Signature]* Secretary *[Signature]*

"AUDITOR'S REPORT"

Reported that I have audited the balance sheet of the Matai society as on 31-03-2023 and annexed the income & expenditure statement for the year ended on 2022-23 which are drawn up in agreement with the books of account of the association. The balance sheet exhibits a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association according to the best of my information and explanation given to us and as shown by the books and records of the association.

FILE NO. 88/B-SR/1986 NOTE NO. 679/24-25

T.R. NO. 679 DATE 25.09.24

RS 300/- (RUPEES Three hundred) ONLY

[Signature]
Inspector (Audit)
Co-Operative Societies
Deputy Registrar of Societies
Bishnupur District

GET INVOLVED

As a Citizen

Have you ever considered the challenges faced by women, LGBTQ individuals and other marginalized groups? Many of them endure extreme forms of exclusion, discrimination, and vulnerability. LGBTQ individuals often struggle with societal rejection and a lack of safe spaces, while others face homelessness, displacement, and the loss of basic rights and resources.

As a citizen, there are several meaningful actions you can take to support these communities. Start by educating yourself about their struggles and sharing this awareness with others to develop understanding and empathy. You can also connect those in need with NGOs and government organizations dedicated to their welfare and advocacy. If you wish to make a deeper impact, consider joining systematized efforts by volunteering with organizations like Matai Society or others working towards the empowerment and inclusion of these communities.

As an NGO or Individual

Matai Society is always open to collaborate with people and organisations working for women and LGBTQAI in difficult circumstances. We gladly share our materials, publications, policies, etc. for the benefit of others.

As a Professional Social Worker

If you are looking for an opportunity to work with women and LGBTQAI+in need of care and protection, then Matai Society can be a place of your choice.

PARTNER WITH US

Matai Society has acquired wonderful experience of working with various local and national donors and corporate organizations. In partnership with them, it has developed and implemented several projects for the marginalized community. To find out more about on the nature of our engagement, please write to us at: mataisociety@gmail.com

Media Reports

Matai Society's initiatives have been reported more than 30 times in the entire year for its various innovations, meetings, and collaborative initiatives. This has created ample visibility about the issue and organization, which leads to substantial support for welfare LGBTQ and other mariginalised persons.

<https://vartagensex.org/author/matai-society/>

<https://resources.vartagensex.org/covid19-resources/matai-society/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKYHFzEjRdk>

<https://www.tarshi.net/inplainspeak/a-space-of-belonging/>

<https://www.imphaltimes.com/news/matai-society-provides-aid-to-flood-affected-residents/>

https://hynews.in/article/your_story/mahei-centre-ndash-manipur-trans-queer-and-women-led-covid-economic-recovery-project-by-tchp-and-matai-society/1724

<https://www.thewitness.earth/fragments/trauma-response-center-matai-society>

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/2442399-dont-know-what-our-fault-was-agonising-ates-of-lives-at-relief-camps-in-violence-hit-manipur>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/south-asia/cries-bitter-anquish-civilians-are-crammed-relief-camps-manipur-628474>

<http://tehelka.com/education-in-limbo-violence-in-manipur-disrupts-childrens-future-relief-camps-see-support/>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/the-burden-of-riots-magazine-287805>



CONTACT US

Matai Society
Moirang Lamkhai Ward No. 1,
Bishnupur District, Manipur, India
PIN: 795133
Tel: +919892815573
Email: mataisociety@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.mataisociety.org/>