

2024



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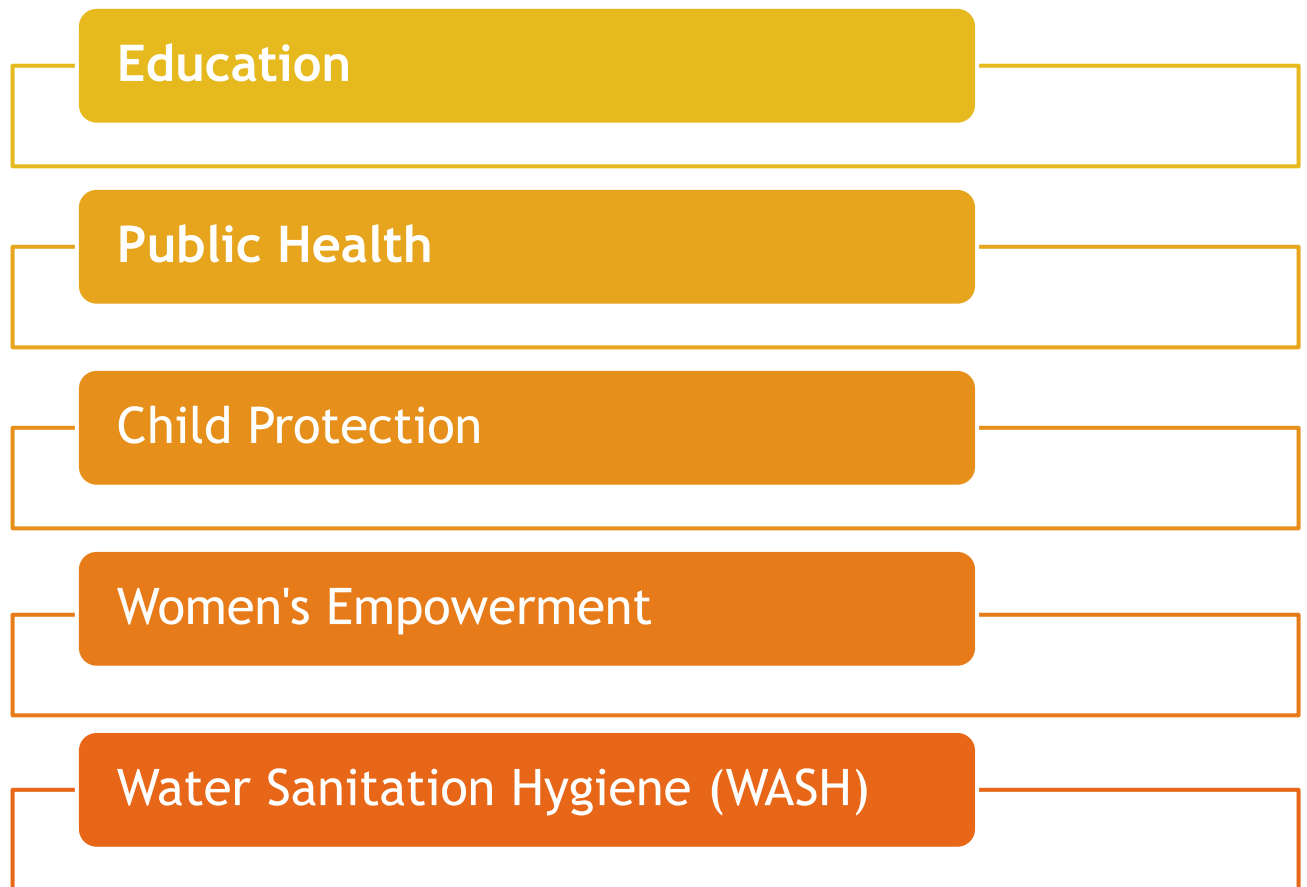
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# Thematic Areas



#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

The organization was founded in the year 1989 and field operations began from 1993. The little seed sown in the heart of the founders, over 30 years ago has now grown into a mighty tree with its branches spreading over three districts of West Bengal.

Development Action Society fulfils the purpose of its existence through education, child protection, health care, water sanitation hygiene (WASH), livelihood and women empowerment and protection.

It aims at developing the children, women and youth into committed people who would be putting meaning into their lives thus making a difference not only for themselves but also for the community as a whole.

The beginning of the new fiscal year of 2023-24 saw India's gradual recovery from the throes of an unprecedented COVID pandemic. The field based activities resumed and gradually gained momentum. The urban and peri-urban spaces of Kolkata that constitute the targets area of DAS operations became worst affected by this global pandemic as these areas are inhabited by highest number of TB patients along with co-morbidities and daily wagers.

This populace has been the worst affected as they have lost their livelihoods owing to the lockdown imposed by the Administration in wake of the pandemic.

Also to mitigate the income loss in a sustainable manner, DAS launched a livelihoods program for 100 women from COVID impacted families in its target areas. The project was a short term that lasted for 15 months and was implemented on a war footing to bring a lasting impact focusing on five trades.

To counter climate change in a small way DAS distributed 18,000 fruit tree saplings in various districts of West Bengal.

While we place on record the outstanding services of the staff, we also acknowledge their unflagging zeal in upholding the ideas and values of our organization.

We appreciate and highly value the constant support rendered during this crisis recovery phase by Mennonite Central Committee, Azad Foundation, Calcutta, Ambhuja Neotia, Quality Management Foundation, UTKARSH SFATIK, Toronto Calcutta Foundation, Samagra Siksha Mission (SSM), Team CAFÉ, SMILE Foundation, Cry America, Tecnita Alumni Association, Switch On Foundation, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Ashoka Hall Group of School, Mrs. Sushila Almal, Ms. Ritu Almal, Mrs. Aruna Gupta, Ms. Visakha Dutta, Ms. Lili Dutta and many others. They helped us immensely to raise funds to support our initiatives during the post pandemic.

I call upon our long standing supporters to further strengthen “Development Action Society”, so that the organization can keep itself relevant to the development needs of communities across West Bengal.

**Purabi Roy**

Director

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

We wish to offer our sincerest gratitude to the following agencies, departments, groups, individuals and staff for their support and continued patronage.

#### **Government Departments:**

Samagra Siksha Mission (SSM),

National Child Labour Project

KCLRCWS (Kolkata Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Society)

State Education Department

SUNDARINI

#### **International Agencies:**

Azad Foundation

Toronto Calcutta Foundation

SUAS Ireland

SMILE Foundation

TEAM CAFÉ

Mennonite Central Committee

Tecnita Alumni Association

### National Agencies:

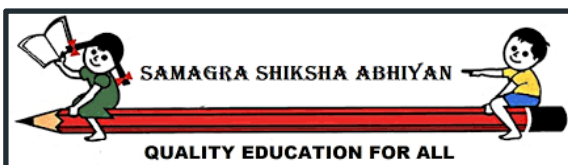
Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC)  
Tech Mahindra Foundation (TMF)  
Rotary Clubs  
Lions Club  
Jagori Rural Trust

### Individuals and Groups:

Shri Swapan Samdder, MMIC-Basti Development and Ward-58 Councilor, KMC  
Smt Nibedita Sharma, Ward-65 Councilor, KMC  
Shri Sushil Sharma, Social Worker, Ward-65  
Shri Sushanta Ghosh, Ward-107 Councilor, KMC  
Shri Subhas Chakraborty, Ward President & Social Worker, Ward-58, KMC  
Mrs. Susila Almal  
Ms. Ritu Almal  
Mrs. D. Kumar  
Mr. Nirmalendu Basu  
Ms. Vishaka Dutta  
Ms. Lili Dutta  
Ms. Sujata Kar  
Ms. Aruna Gupta  
Mr. Nitish Sapui  
Mr. Bablu Mondal  
Delhi Public School, Ruby Park  
Silver Point School  
Ashoka Hall School  
Riddhi Beauty Parlor  
Bantala Bhatri Sangha  
Kalarit Adarsha Shiksha Niketan  
Probir Chandra Chatterjee from Toronto, Canada  
Tommy Marren from Sligo, Ireland

### Our Donors: (LOGOS)

#### Government Departments

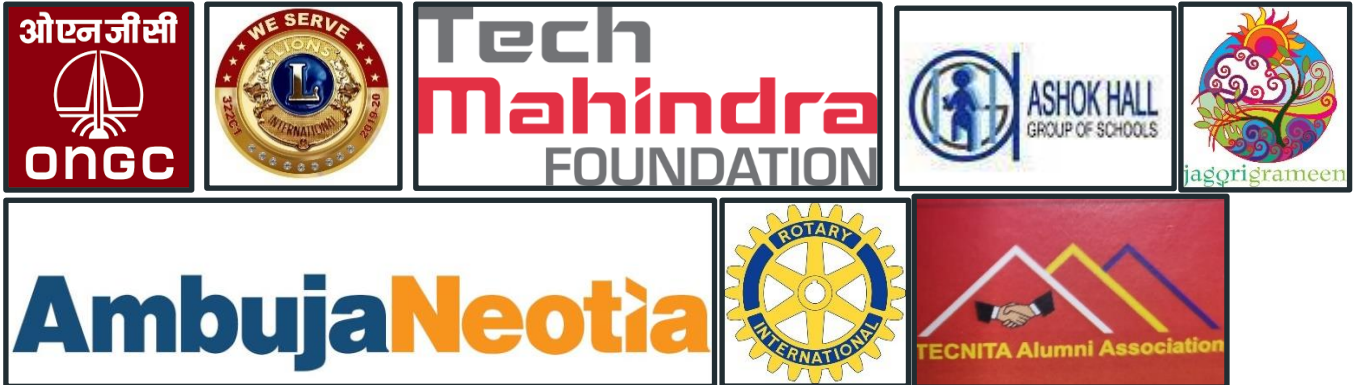


#### International Agencies





## National Agencies:



## ORGANISATION PROFILE

### Establishment and Legal Registrations:

Founded on 18 August 1989, Development Action Society is a not for profit, non-political, non-government organization registered under the Society's Registration Act XXI of 1961, registered under NITI Aayog, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and Income Tax Exemption U/s 80C and 12A.

### Mission:

Our mission is to empower women, children and youth to realize their rights and access resources, through quality interventions in education, health and livelihood, so that they are enabled to transform their communities.

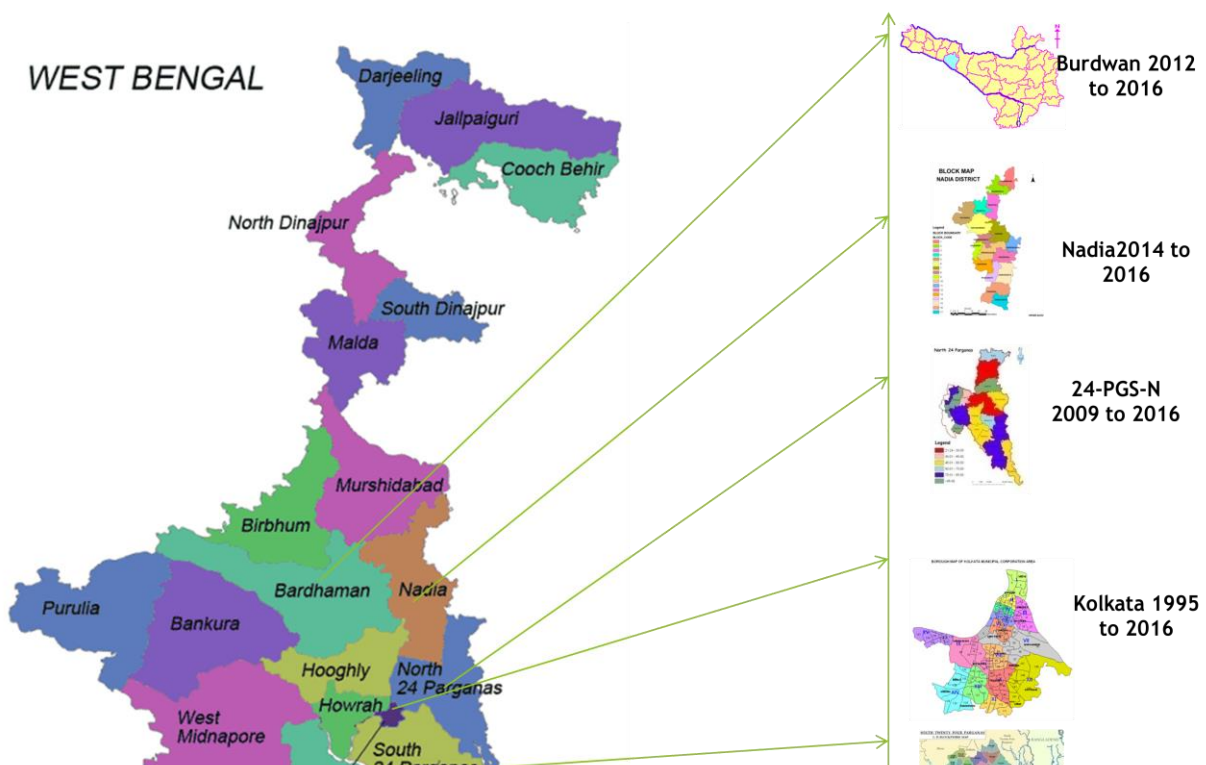
### Vision:

We believe in a world where every human being enjoys equal rights and opportunities in order to lead a healthy and creative life with dignity and self-respect.

### GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS 2022-2023

SL	NAME	DESIGNATION	OCCUPATION
1	Mrs. Subrata Kar	President	Social Dev. Professional
2	Ms. Aditi Deb	Vice President	Teacher
3	Mrs. Purabi Roy	Secretary	Full Time In DAS Mob.No.
4	Mrs. Rina Sukai	Treasurer	Housewife
5	Mrs. Sathi De	Asst. Secretary	Housewife
6	Mrs. Soma Basu-Mallik	Member	Social Development Consultant
7	Mrs. Soumi Ghosh	Member	Social Worker and Consultant to KMDA

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION & THEMATIC AREAS



### Urban:

- **Kolkata** → 15 Wards - 57, 58, 59, 65, 66, 67, 68, 80, 91, 92, 93, 94, 105, 107 & 108 covering 3 boroughs viz. VII, IX & XII under Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)
- **24 Parganas North** → 7 Wards – 1, 16, 17, 22, 23, 35, 38 under Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) & South Dum Dum Municipality
- **Burdwan** → Durgapur and Asansol Sub-Division

### Rural:

- **Nadia** → Panighata Gram Panchayat, Block: Kaliganj, Sub-Division: Krishnanagar Sadar,
- **24 Parganas South** → 7 Gram Panchayats and 5 Blocks viz. Bhangore – I, Bhangore – II, Sonarpur, Jainagar and Mathurapur-II
  1. Tardaha Gram Panchayat, Block: Bhangore-I, Sub-Division-Sonarpur
  2. Bhubaneshwari Gram Panchayat, Block: Jainagar,
  3. Pratapnagar Gram Panchayat, Block: Bhangore - II & and Partly in Block- Sonarpur
  4. Benota-II Gram Panchayat, Block: Bhangore-II
  5. Kheadaha-I Panchayat, Block: Sonarpur
  6. Kheadaha-II Panchayat, Block: Sonarpur
  7. Kumrapara Panchayat, Block: Mathurapur-II
- **Burdwan:**
  1. Kaichar I Panchayat, Block: Mangolkote

### POPULATION OUTREACH:

#### DAS Coverage Till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

DAS Project Coverage from 5 Districts in West Bengal Viz. Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Nadia and Burdwan	Direct Reach in Urban	Direct Reach in Rural	Total Direct Reach
Parameters			
No of Households	22047	6481	28528
Total Population Person	94483	28436	122920
Total Population Male	48624	14541	63165
Total Population Female	45859	13896	59755
Population in the age group 0-6 Person	7522	3428	10950
Population in the age group 0-6 Male	3883	1739	5622
Population in the age group 0-6 Female	3639	1688	5328
Scheduled Castes population Person	9643	14116	23759
Scheduled Castes population Male	4996	7182	12178
Scheduled Castes population Female	4648	6934	11582
Scheduled Tribes population Person	706	1151	1857
Scheduled Tribes population Male	362	586	948
Scheduled Tribes population Female	344	565	909
Literates Population Person	65148	18357	83505
Literates Population Male	34989	10158	45147
Literates Population Female	30159	8200	38358
Illiterate Persons	19507	10079	29586
Illiterate Male	8716	4383	13099
Illiterate Female	10792	5696	16488
Total Worker Population Person	32684	10224	42909
Total Worker Population Male	25246	8406	33652
Marginal Worker Population 0_3 Person	373	353	726
Marginal Worker Population 0_3 Male	224	204	428

Marginal Worker Population 0_3_Female	149	149	298
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## [A] EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

### DAS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME AIMS:

- Increased access of below 05 years children from numerous communities to receive pre-school education and be mainstreamed in the formal school.
- Increased number of children accessing mainstream formal education and being retained within that system to Class X.
- Increased access and retention in formal education, improving quality of life by reducing malnourishment and allowing students to become self-reliant, productive members of society.
- Inspiring youth representatives from numerous communities to be capacitated to advocate their issues on a larger platform.
- To inform all the children of their rights, especially their right to education.
- To provide back-up coaching support to marginalized children
- Residential education support to marginalized distressed girls

### ACTIVITIES:

All educational centers pre-schools, non-formal centers and remedial coaching centers had to be closed down due to the lockdown imposed by the Administration in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and gradually the education institutions have been opened. Initiation of 2023-24 academic year was challenging. Most of the children have lost their academic practices in their school and their classes have been shifted from online classes to physical classes in their school.

Owing to the pandemic the privatized education system has shifted to online mode based on the accessibility of the Internet. Despite feeble attempts by the governments the students from marginalized, lower socio-economic strata can hardly afford the requisite gadgets like Smartphones, laptops etc. There has been an alarming rise in the trend of student suicide all over the country which remains unnoticed by large section of the media.

Although it is quite clear that the Corona virus is causing people to be very ill, there are also alarming secondary impacts resulting from this pandemic. These include but are not limited to increased stress in the home, an increase in domestic violence including both physical and sexual assault, lack of income, an uptake in early child marriage and many more. The children have become more vulnerable due to the pandemic and the imposition of prolonged lockdown. Disadvantaged adolescents' girls and boys of the selected target areas are at a higher level of marginalization and social exclusion owing to: (a) the geographical location, poor infrastructure, inadequate knowledge and information, non-accessibility to the provisions and entitlements leads to social exclusion. (b) Migrants coming from remote places find it difficult to establish their identity to receive the Government Services. (c) The adolescent in particular lack basic facilities.

There is no one to give proper guidance to these children. In the absence of proper guidance and due to peer group's influences, the children mostly boys adopt unhealthy practices, such as substance abuse, drug addiction. Among these, adolescent girls are facing domestic violence; physical and mental abuses early marriage, trafficking especially in COVID-19 lockdown environment. The Children and Adolescent are also trafficked within the country and out of the country.

Through community mobilization DAS has been able to address the issues pertaining to child

abuses, early marriage prevention, prevention of human trafficking, prevention of common diseases, substance abuse, vigorous counseling to prevent suicidal attempts, protection, livelihood education.

## A.1 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

Supporting Agency: SAMAGRA SIKSHA MISSION (SSM) GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL

Target Children: 163

### BACKGROUND:

This project has been initiated for providing basic education to street, underprivileged children from both urban and rural areas. DAS operated two residential units at Kasba, Kolkata comprising school drop-out children and children who never enrolled in schools. These units serve as full-fledged secondary schools along with residential hostel facilities. These homes for girl students offer education and residential accommodation to 200 children. The parents of these children are satisfied to see their girl's pursuing education without obstacles. Maximum girls from single parents and few children have no parents.

The Children in the homes starts their day with a morning prayer followed by a brief study session. The children take their shower, get ready for school and have their breakfast by 9:30 AM. The children return from school by 4:30 PM and quickly change into casual clothes, clean themselves up and go out into the playground every day to play games like badminton, football, cricket, kho-kho, skipping, etc to name a few.

After the children get back from playing, everyone washes their hands with hand-wash and take their evening snack. By the time they finish, Tutors who look after the children's educational needs arrive. The tutors teach between 6:00-8:30 PM, shortly after which the children have their dinner and retire to the dormitory where they sometimes engage in group studies or collective cleaning of the room or simply spend some time talking with friends. By 10:00 PM, the children go to bed, with another promising day to look forward to. During the weekend the children undergo various training cultivating their hobbies like sports, art and craft, painting, singing and dancing. Special counselling sessions and Parent-Staff meetings are arranged every fortnight to provide guidance and care.

The student social worker observed that the Residential School has proper clean washrooms with pad vending machine and a incinerator present in the washroom. The Residential School has blue station facility for drinking water but still it was known from some of the students of the Residential School that the water didn't taste good and contained some type of foul smell, while interacting with the students the students also complained that good quality food was not provided to them as it contained insects. Some students of the Residential School also complained about few teachers.

It was also observed by the student social worker that the Residential School had only the capacity of taking 100 students and also observed a part of a procedure of admission of a student in the Residential School.

A residential school is an educational organization where students live within the institute's premises. They are given formal instructions and moral learning during their stay on the school campus. These schools also follow a different curriculum and their course module stretches far beyond formal classroom education. Moreover, students are allowed to go home only during vacations. The advantages of studying in a residential school are as follows:



- **Confidence and self-reliance**

Students who gain learning experience from a boarding school are more likely to be self-reliant. Moreover, they gain clarity on handling various life situations. As students solve most of their problems independently, they gain confidence. In addition, they know ways to tackle future challenges.

- **Regular guidance**

Students in residential schools get regular guidance from teachers and administrators. Moreover, they learn from their peers and get one-to-one guidance from educators. In addition, students can approach their favorite teachers anytime. As a result, students get undivided attention and support from their teachers.

- **All-round development**

The comprehensive development of children is crucial for parents and teachers. The leading boarding schools help in the holistic development of their students. As a result, they include multiple academic and extracurricular activities in their curriculum. Activities like social service, art, drama, sports, singing, debate, and much more help in the personality development of children.

- **Cost:**

Boarding schools are more expensive than regular day schools. However, these schools provide accommodation, meals, and health benefits to students, so they charge a bit extra than day schools.

Bidyadharpur high school for girls, is a well-known institution in the Jadavgarh area, it has a glorious past of more than 60 years. It was established by a few learned men and women of this colony area with the sole intention of spreading education among the girls of this locality. From its humble beginning it grew into a secondary institution. Now this institution boasts of running two residential units under the Sarva Shiksha Mission for the street children (girls only) of Kolkata and its suburbs, with a capacity of accommodating two hundred students. The school also imparts Vocational training to give the students stability in their future life. Apart from brilliant academic results in the secondary examination the students of this school have also earned fame in the field of co-curricular activities. A strong and dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching personnel forever strived for the all-round development of the students and the betterment of the institution.

While observing the school the student social worker got to know that the school has blue station for drinking water and orange station for washing hand. The school also had facility to provide nutritional meals to students.



In the Bidyadharpur High School for Girls the student social worker along with co-worker had an interaction with few of the students of the school and while interacting with them the student social worker came to know a lot of information about the school.

It was also observed by the student social worker that while admitting a child to the Residential School the parents or guardian are made to sign a document where it states that they can only meet the child on Saturday or Sunday from 4pm to 6pm and not before or after that, then the child can only go home in vacations or special occasions. Then if the child is lost or runs away from the Residential School it is the sole responsible about it.

## **MID-DAY MEAL:**

Mid-day Meal to all students has been distributed in the form of dry ration to the families once a month as per the Government rules. Essential commodities (groceries/clothes/sanitizers etc.) are distributed regularly by Development Action Society to children under poverty.

## TARGET POPULATION:

The project aims to provide development through quality education to children of six selected underprivileged community living such as remedial back up support, youth empowerment in the community of southeast Kolkata and South 24 Parganas. In this context the strategy had been taken to involve work at several levels for achieved change within the project, involved expertise for local leadership and working with existing networks.

## INTERVENTION:

Multi-grade coaching centers (coaching support offered to students from Classes I to X) conducted in 02 locations among the semi-urban and urban slums of Kolkata. These centers cater to mainstreamed students of formal schools who are mostly First Generation Learners. The coaching helps them to cope up with the academics of the schools and therefore continues largely to the retention of these students in education. The NFE centers promote school-going habit and help the community of understand the significance of education in the progress and development of the community at the micro level.

## ACTIVITIES:

- Educational support to school goes through remedial back up support classes helping them to prepare themselves to perform better for formal schools and secondary level support.
- DAS had taken initiative to decrease the percentage of school dropout, education issues and available Govt. services through arranged monthly awareness
- Parents meetings, stakeholders' meetings in community and also taken informal tracking system through door-to-door home visits.
- Skill development of adolescent groups, emphasizing specialization in particular aspects helping them to generate employment opportunities leading to self-reliance in future.
- Capacity building of educators on Teaching Learning Methods, Child psychology, appropriate school curricula.
- DAS had taken initiative on a fundraising approach programme for few corporate persons, community stakeholders and NRI persons who belong to our country due to those marginalized children who are experiencing endemic poverty and can't get any kind of basic survival materials.



## A2 PROMOTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (ECCE) AMONG MARGINALIZED CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION ON RIGHTS IN SOUTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT

Supporting Agency: Mennonite Central Committee of India (MCCI)

Target children: 141 preschoolers

### Activity Details

#### Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):

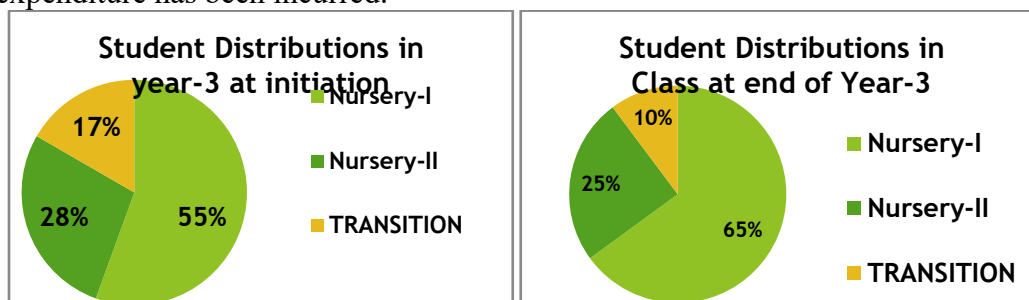
1. **Outcome 1: Children in the age group of 2 to less than 6 years will get proper Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and will be mainstreamed into formal school with best practices on health and nutrition.**

#### Activities

- What activities related to Outcome 1 have happened during this reporting period?  
For each planned activity, describe:
  - **how** activities were carried out and what happened
  - **how** often the activity occurred
  - **who** and how many people participated, disaggregated by men, women and other categories.

#### 2.1 Operating three pre-school centers with 120 children in each year:

137 (Boys-75 & Girls-62) Enrolled children from four education centers in 4 pre-school center and they are receiving education and nutrition support in this reporting period. During the period of April-2023 to March 2024, only, 205 school days have been conducted. But due to monsoon average children attendance was 87 to 90%. An additional 15 marginalized students took admission in Nabaday, Bantala Center. So, a little excess expenditure has been incurred.



Status of Enrolled Students at beginning of Year-3, after mainstreaming and new enrollment



Kishalaya Center      Nabaday Center      Nabaneer Center      Sisumukul Center

Adequate colour pencils, TLMs and Toys have been purchased and distributed among enrolled students for the purpose of their cognitive and locomotor development. Center teachers prepared different TLMs. Bantala Nabaday center received one sound system for class activity. Due monsoon and trend of viral fever, students' attendances were affected. So, center teacher conducted regular home visit to address the absenteeism.



At end of year-3, student assessment has been done in all the 4 pre-school centers and the results are as follows –

According to overall trend of progress till March 2024 62.22% children obtained A+, 32.59% obtained A, 4.44% obtained B and 2.22 % obtained C in half-yearly assessment. **(Details also mentioned above)**

## 2.6 Provision for Nutrition of children for early childhood education centre:

During the period of year 3 cooked food has been provided to the children during 205 Days. Accordingly, growth monitoring is done at the end of each quarter, growth monitoring of the children was conducted through measuring body weight. According to interpretation 3% preschool children are severe malnourished as mentioned in Red Colour at the initiation of year-3 intervention due to their frequent morbidity trend and at the end of year-3 severe Malnutrition 2% reduced. Accordingly moderate malnutrition decreased 4%. 7% normal nutritional status increase among the children.

Nutritional status of children enhance due to leaning of best practices like safe sanitation practices, safe water handling and personal hygiene. Morbidity trends remarkably decrease due to positive behavioral changes among parents and students. Home visit and follow-up the hygiene practice status are being monitored by Center Teachers.



## 2.7. Awareness of mothers on education issues and available govt. services:

03 Awareness meetings have been conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at all three education centers, 206 Participants (Female-191 and Male- 15) (Without Repetitions) have attended the event from Ucchepota, Kalarkhal, Bhagwanpur and Bantala Center have attended the event in four centers. Mr. Partha Sarathi Das form district education cell facilitated these sessions in 4 centers. The meetings has the following objectives –

- To aware mothers' entitlements for children including educational and protection rights

- To aware mothers and caregivers Education scholarships like mission “Batsalya”
- To aware about home-based hygiene practices at home especially for small children; using of hand sanitizer, face masks and washing hands with soap before meals.
- To aware on low-cost nutritious foods which can maintain the age-appropriate growth of the children



Ucchepota Center



Bantala Center



Kalarkhal Center



Bhagwanpur

#### **Outcome of awareness event:**

- The participants developed clear understanding of the factors influencing child rights with reference to pre-school education
- Income less parents can apply to Govt. of West Bengal Education department for bearing the education cost of children of incomeless parents
- End of the session participants came to know about the areas of child rights violation in education centers
- Teacher In-Charge from Nazirabad FP School had participated the session for strengthening the mainstreaming.

#### **Changes to activities**

- If applicable, explain why planned activities did not take place during this reporting period, including changes in participant type or numbers. Note when they will take place.

#### **Outcome 2: Targeted adolescents will be equipped with life skills which will help address child protection issues and will develop community-based child protection mechanisms.**

##### **Activities**

- What activities related to Outcome 2 have happened during this reporting period?  
For each planned activity, describe:
- **how** activities were carried out and what happened
- **how** often the activity occurred
- **who** and how many people participated, disaggregated by men, women and other categories.

#### **2.8 Formation of CPC groups in three centers and awareness meeting on Child Rights:**

19 Child Protection Committee meetings have been conducted in Year-3 in 3 project locations viz. Kalarkhal, Ucchepota and Bhagwanpur with 111 participants (Girls – 89 and Boys – 22).

The **objectives** of the meetings are as follow –

1. Reformation of 2 child protection committees (CPCs) in Ucchepota and Bhawanpur
2. All 3 CPCs group name finalization
3. Sharing Role and Responsibility of new members of 2 child protection committees (CPCs) in Ucchepota and Bhawanpur
4. Creation of Whatsapp group for sharing the community level child protection issues
5. Learning related documentation process like writing meeting minutes, incidence report and case reports
6. Listing of CPC group names recognized by Panchayat
7. Post exposure sharing by participants.
8. Kheyadaha Panchayat and block visit
9. Learning related documentation process like writing meeting minutes, incidence report and case reports for Ucchepota and Bhagwanpur Child Protection Committee



### Outcome:

1. 2 CPCs have been reformed in Ucchepota and Bhagwanpur as few members were unable to devote time to the CPCs because of their studies and migration
2. All 3 CPC groups have finalized their names viz. Uran (Bhagwanpur), Rokkha (Ucchepota) and Padakhep (Kalarkhal)
3. Accordingly, all the groups have opened their WhatsApp Group with their group names and accordingly they have started operation through sending pictures related local level child protection issues.
4. Group members learnt the writing of case study, meeting minutes, taking issue-based pictures etc.
5. CPC members has explored the local support system and accordingly they have prepared a list
6. Discussion made about child safety and precaution mechanism during festival

### 2.13: Quarterly meetings with the school authorities on Child Rights issues:

17 Meeting Conducted on in year – 3 with 77 Participants (Male-56, Female-21) e.g. 11 Govt. schools and 6 private schools under Kheyadaha-II GP on following issues –

- Identification of school level issue related to child protection mechanism
- Strategies strengthening the child parliament through capacity building of child carbonate members
- Interfacing of child parliament members with community level child protection committees, school teachers and Panchayat



### Meeting outcome:

- Still Chamurat FP School is prone to accident due to not have their school boundary wall,
- Child parliament need to be reframed and capacitated through orientation of their role, responsibility and reporting mechanism
- Interface meeting required for developing institutional and community level child protection mechanism

### 2.14: Awareness of school adolescent on Child Rights:

2 School awareness program was done at Nazirabad FP School on 27 September 2023 and Kharki FP School on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with 67 Students (Boys-36 and Gils- 31) on following topics –

1. Understanding child rights and protection issues in the school
2. Function of child parliament
3. Preparation of action plan to make child parliament active and properly fictional



Nazirabad FP School on 27 September 2023



Kharki FP School on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Changes to activities

- If applicable, explain why planned activities did not take place during this reporting period, including changes in participant type or numbers. Note when they will take place.

### Outcome 3: Mothers/caregivers will be sensitized on ECCE enabling them to be better in child health & hygiene practices, proper nutrition and access to govt. entitlements.

#### Activities

- What activities related to Outcome 2 have happened during this reporting period?  
For each planned activity, describe:
  - **how** activities were carried out and what happened
  - **how** often the activity occurred
  - **who** and how many people participated, disaggregated by men, women and other categories.

See the attached Activity Report.

### 2.4: Bi monthly meeting with mothers on progress of children:

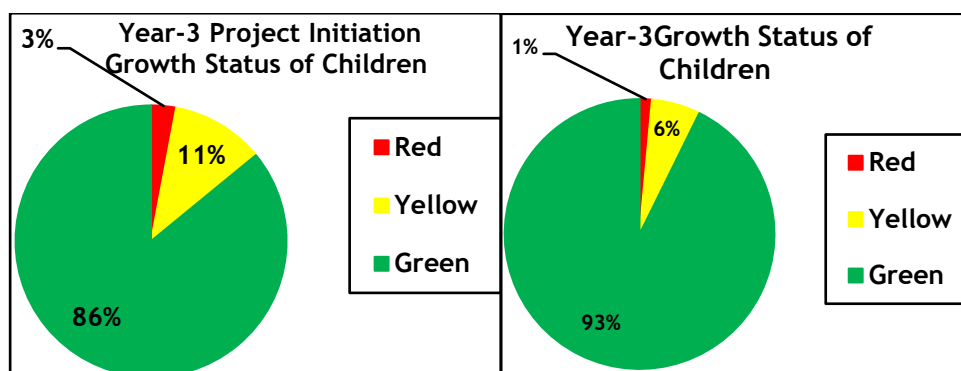
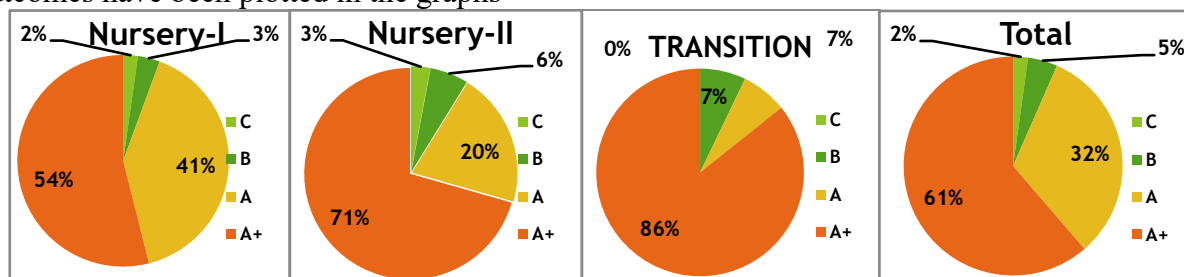
24 Bi-Monthly Meetings have been conducted in three centers' location. All 4 pre-school education centers and 191 Mothers and 15 Fathers of enrolled children have attended the meetings.



1. Every other month this meeting is being conducted so we try to share the progress report with the parents for they can track the growth of their children and they can guide their kids at home accordingly.
2. Shared progress on education and growth:
  - We are providing daily nutrients also monitoring physical growth through body weight, so asked parents that is sending their children to our center having a positive impact or not?
  - In this discussion we received positive responses from parents

3. Discussed health related issues of children and how to take care of them, when everyone is having viral fever with body ache.
  - Not to allow children to have access of cold water. If they have fever for more than 3 days then immediately seek medical attention and debar them from coming to school. Also started preparing the parents about future admission of children, who will be completing the pre-primary education from our center.
4. Some of our children will be of proper age to be mainstreamed after this year, so we started mentally preparing parents to think of the new school, where they want to put them.
5. Progress in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter has been discussed with parents
6. Entitlements: Discussion was made on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, SC-ST Cards,
7. Discussion was made on students' attendance and home visit
8. Nutritious low-cost home-made food during the monsoon,
9. Health and hygiene measures during monsoon

The outcomes have been plotted in the graphs-



Year-2 Initiation of Project

Year-2 Annual Status

Nutritional status of children enhance due to learning of best practices like safe sanitation practices, safe water handling and personal hygiene. Morbidity trends remarkably decrease due to positive behavioral changes among parents and students. Home visit and follow-up the hygiene practice status are being monitored by Center Teachers.

## 2.5. Awareness of mothers and care givers on Child Rights (break up in detail costing sheet):

2 Awareness events were conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Ucchepota, Kalarkhal and Bantala and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 in Kalarkhal, Ucchepota and Bhagwanpur involving parents from 4 preschool education centers. Total 206 Participants (Male-15 and Female-191) participated in these awareness sessions.



Kalarkhal



Ucchepota



**Bantala**



**Bhagwanpur**

- Basics of child rights shared with the participants
- Understanding local child protection issues at school level and within the intervening communities
- Conducting few sports events through involving the preschool children for supporting and creating the child friendly atmosphere within the intervening communities.
- Exploring the local, block level, district level and state level supporting child rights protection mechanisms
- Situation of community-based child protection mechanisms
- Revision of basic child rights
- Immunization and others health rights
- Different forms of child abuse and its mitigation measures

**2.9: Monthly meetings with mothers/women on issues related to education, health and Govt. services:** 49 meetings have been conducted in all 4 pre-school education centers and 191 Mothers and 15 Fathers of enrolled children in year 3 project intervention.

1. Sharing knowledge on related entitlements and linkage process,
2. Understanding the Growth status of children and Monitoring.
3. Prevention and control of Dengue, viral fever, Conjunctivitis and diarrhea
4. Discussions were made on seasonal morbidity
5. Discussion about assessment and progress
6. Way forwards of project and its sustainability



#### **Changes to activities**

- If applicable, explain why planned activities did not take place during this reporting period, including changes in participant type or numbers. Note when they will take place.

**Outcome 4: Key stakeholders will be equipped to better manage and govern issues on pre-school education, child health, child protection and community linkages with govt. entitlements**

#### **Activities**

- What activities related to Outcome 2 have happened during this reporting period?  
For each planned activity, describe:
  - **how** activities were carried out and what happened
  - **how** often the activity occurred
  - **who** and how many people participated, disaggregated by men, women and other categories.

## **2.10: Quarterly meetings with the Panchayat members on the social issues surfaced and the status: (17 Participants (7 Female and 10 Male))**

Meetings have been done with Panchayat Pradhan, Siksha Karmadhaksha (Education Officer), Swastha Karmadhaksha (Public Health Officer) and Women and Child Development Officer 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 30<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 regarding following issues –

- Conducting Duare Sarkar Camp in All 3 centers viz. Ucchepota, Kalarkhal and Bhagwanpur.
- Water connection in Kalarkhal center
- Conducting outreach immunization camps in abovementioned 3 centers
- Involvement and recognition of Center Teachers and Members of local child protections committees (CPCs)

### **Outcome of the Meeting:**

- Duare Sarkar Camp conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 (Sunday) in our all three centers
- **Water connection already sanction for Kalarkhal center**
- Outreach immunization camp conducted in 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in each month
- Center Teacher from Ucchepota Pre-school center has been included in VLCPC in Kheyadaha-II Panchayat and all the members of local CPCs have been recognized by Panchayat.

## **2.11.: Workshop with Panchayat members on Govt. services / entitlements:**

1 Workshop Conducted with Panchayat Members, community key stakeholders, community mothers and DAS staffs on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with 53 Participants (Male-11 & Female-42) Regarding the following issues –

- Sharing the progress of Project
- Recognition of Pre-school in Panchayat Education System
- Recognition of Child Protection Committees in three location and make them the part of Village Level Child protection Committees (VLCPC)
- Role Siksha Karmadhaksha in mainstreaming of students in nearby Govt. Schools
- Support to 2 ICDSs in Kheyadaha-II Panchayat viz. Chamurat and Kharki-Kanthipota
- 



### **Outcome of the workshop:**

Following assurances and supports have been made from the end of Kheyadaha-II panchayat authorities –

- Panchayat will support for next 3 years, which 2024 to 2027 for running the intervention in 3 project locations and including 2 ICDSs for the development and support to preschool children for their preschool education support and nutrition.
- Panchayat will involve local child protection committee members with panchayat pre formed VLCPC for awareness generation programme and addressing local child protection issues.
- Problem of water connection in Kalarkhal center has been solved through sanctioning the water connection.

## **2.16 Celebration of Special Days (Teachers Day & Children Days):**

Following special days have been celebrated in 4 ECCE center s

Total Students is 137 (Boys-77 and Girls-59)

Kishalaya Ucchepota Center – 31 (Boy-19 & Girls-12)

Sisumukul, Bhagabanpur Center - 30 (Boy-20 & Girls-10)

Nabaneer, Kalarkhal Center - 31 (Boy-14 & Girls-17)  
Nabaday, Bantala Center - 45 (Boy-22 & Girls-23)  
12 Teachers and helpers  
Children Celebrated Rabindra Jayanti on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023



Celebrated World Environment Day in 4 education centers on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023:



Children Celebrated Rath Yatra on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023



Children Celebrated Independent Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Celebrated Raksha Bandhan in 4 education centers on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023:



Children Celebrated Teachers' Day on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023



celebration of Depawali:

Children's Day celebrated in all 4 pre-school education centers including all 141 students on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022:



Celebration of Christmas on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023:



Celebration of Swami Vivekananda Birth Day 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024:



Celebration of Annual Sports on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Celebration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:



## A.4 CHATUA FREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Introduction

Chatua Free Primary School in the Sunderbans has been in operation for the past 37 years in the Sunderban area. It is a private school without any government aid. The school is run by 05

teachers who are quite qualified, dedicated and skilled in teaching. The school has produced many meritorious students over the years. The government high schools are very keen to admit students from this school as their standard of education is quite high and these students win accolades for the Government High Schools in higher classes and Board exams.

The population of the village Chatua is nearly 2000. The main livelihood of the people is fishing. Some of them have small piece of land to grow paddy and vegetables. Many women from the village come to southern parts of Kolkata to work as domestic maids on a daily basis. They generally leave at 5 am and get back by 4 pm. The children remain in the village without parents for long hours. For this reason, they cannot attend government school situated at a distance of 3 km from their village. The means of communication is also very poor. Hence, the operation of this school assumes great significance for the education of the village children. The parents are also quite happy with the quality of education imparted at the school.

The area is quite socially excluded and very much prone to natural calamities like cyclone and flooding. The school is the only educational centre in the area. It also serves as a relief centre during disasters.

#### **School infrastructures:**

The school has its own land and building registered under a charitable Trust. There are 5 rooms with an office room in the building. The rooms can cater to students from Nursery to Class IV. There is a toilet and a large playground. The setting is very scenic.

#### **Present condition:**

Usually about 150 children were enrolled and attended classes regularly in the past. However, after this fund debacle, the strength has reduced to about 100 children. The teachers are very motivated to run the school and they are working without any remuneration all this while.

Since end of 2018, DAS is running the school as it had no external source of funding and had reached a moribund state. DAS also arranged repairs of the school building after the Amphan Super Cyclone (20 May 2021) which had damaged the roof of the one storied building. It also provided dry ration to 200 families during the COVID lockdown and post Amphan.

DAS has also mobilized some funds to erect the first floor of the school building by entering into an agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Trust. DAS and the Trust shall use the space to raise funds to cover the operational costs of the school.

### **A.5 REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF EDUCATION CENTRES**

**Supporting Agency:**

- 1) PROBIR CHANDRA CHATTERJEE FROM TORONTO CANADA
- 2) THOMAS MARREN FROM SLIGO, IRELAND
- 3) SNOW WHITE INFRASTRUCTURE PVT. LTD. KOLKATA

DAS undertook repair and reconstruction works of education centers and school at Bantala and Chatua Primary School at Sunderbans which were ravaged by the Amphan Super Cyclone last year.

DAS repaired the roof of the ground floor of Building 1 of Chatua Primary School. Also, another floor admeasuring 1500 sq. ft. is being erected over Building 2 of the school. The building will serve as a storm and flood shelter in the future. It will also serve as a training centre for women engaged in local livelihoods.

### **A.5 SPOKEN ENGLISH AND COMPUTER CLASS**

**Location:** ISRC Office

**Supported by:** ISRC, Kolkata

## OBJECTIVES:

- Teaching spoken English, including sentence structure, nouns, verbs, and tenses.
- To carry out a drive towards social commitment by providing free basic computer literacy training to women primarily in the rural areas so as to make them able to use computers and related technology efficiently and specially utilize the wide advantage of accessing the Internet.
- For these spoken English and computer skills to translate into real use of English and computers on a day-to-day basis.

The centre resumed successfully after the lockdown was relaxed. **20** adolescent girls and married women were enrolled who took lessons in English for communication and computer skills.

After completion of the course in March 2021, more than 10 students got jobs in different companies.

## C. LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMES

### C.1 JUTE CRAFTS AND PRODUCTS:



40 women trained under the Livelihood programme supported by GOAL India continued their activities in the work shed at Khanaberia. This has become a self-sustaining enterprise of the women who were trained over the years.



DAS procured orders from ONGC, Sundarini (Govt. of West Bengal) to support this initiative of the women who work under SHGs.

These women have been successful in staying away from hazardous activities like rag-picking and remained engaged in dignified yet productive activities which were the objectives of the project.

During the pandemic, over 10,000 masks were manufactured by the women's group and distributed as part of the hygiene kits containing COVID essentials like hand soap and hand sanitizers. These products were marketed by teachers of Ashoka Hall School, Kolkata.

### C.3 TAILORING TRAINING

Development Action Society has taken the initiative of providing the training of sewing and tailoring to those women who want to pursue this training to be financially independent and those who have the aspiration to make tailoring as their profession. This project is being supported by ISRC and implemented by DAS. Three days classes in every week have been scheduled for this program. 18 candidates (3 trainees are from old batch and 15 trainees from new batch) have registered their name for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch.

#### Aim of the project:

The centre has been organized with an aim to create an opportunity for alternative livelihoods for marginalized women living in the urban fringes like slums and squatters of Ward 107. With great enthusiasm 18 women have enrolled themselves at the centre till date. This began from 25 August 2021 after prolonged lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.



The women are attending regularly, learning fast and maintains the social distance and proper sanitization due to COVID-19. They aspire to have a skill which will fetch them additional income for the family. This will enhance their position in the family as well.



The syllabus has been designed for ONE year. An Aspiration Mapping for the aforementioned candidates will be done shortly to ascertain their aptitudes.

#### Examination:

In this session, there are



10 numbers of students appearing in the internal exam. The students have worked mainly on four items. All the students have learnt theoretically and practically. The items are 1.Kameez, 2.Petticoat, 3.A-line frock, 4.Panty. By dint of hard labour and perseverance all the students have successfully completed their curriculum and they prepared all the above-mentioned items independently.

#### **C.4 SAKHA: WOMEN ON WHEELS**

**Supported By:** CRY America

##### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Development Action Society (DAS), since its establishment in 1989, has focused on advocating for the rights of children and women and promoting their empowerment. A significant challenge for DAS has been transitioning women from hazardous work into respectable and dignified livelihoods. Despite the difficulties, a substantial number of women have embraced the alternative livelihood opportunities presented to them, leading many to abandon their roles as daily wage earners at dumping grounds.

A core component of DAS's intervention strategy is addressing gender and Inequality. DAS has consistently viewed the Women on Wheels (WOW) Programme as a transformative initiative that places women on par with men, shattering stereotypes and breaking through glass ceilings. Since 2018, the implementation of the Women on Wheels programme has provided an opportunity to advance gender equality and foster a more inclusive gender orientation within the community. This approach integrates women into the mainstream of livelihood participation, seeking to overcome gender discrimination by involving them in "non-traditional trades" such as driving, plumbing, house painting, baking, and home delivery.

##### **IDEOLOGY**

**The program is ideologically driven by the following non-negotiables:**

Commitment to working with resource-poor women, where "resource poor" goes beyond financial poverty to acknowledge the intersectionality of marginalization. Thus, "resource poor" refers to individuals disadvantaged by one or several of the following axes of inequality: social exclusion (based on caste, religion, ethnicity, race); gender; economic status; physical disability; sexual orientation and choices; habitat; and political exclusion (based on religion, language).

A comprehensive understanding of empowerment as both economic and social. Therefore, Women on Wheels is not merely a training program, but one that develops skills leading to "livelihoods with dignity." Empowerment, in the context of this program, is also understood as a process of building solidarity. Accordingly, the principal aim of the program is not only to impart technical skills; training on women's rights and self-development is an integral part of the curriculum.

##### **PURPOSE OF THE INTERVENTION**

- Mobilizing resource-poor women from urban slums or nearby suburbs according to established criteria.
- Delivering comprehensive capacity development programs to trainees, incorporating both technical driving skills and self-development and empowerment components.
- Providing ongoing support to trainees throughout the program, including assistance with securing necessary documents for obtaining a driving license, acquiring the license itself, and negotiating with trainees' families if needed.
- Offering job opportunities to trainees who successfully complete the program.
- Providing opportunities for trainees to participate in collective events and activities, as well as other opportunities to help them build social capital.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Forty young women will be identified from the targeted areas within a period of twelve months.
- Vehicle operators, training institutes, and associated costs within Kolkata will be mapped over a two-month period.
- Train forty young women for public vehicle (taxi) driving and operations.
- Connect them with Azad Foundation to help them start their careers.
- Educate young people in the targeted areas about hazardous occupations in the unorganized job sectors.
- Provide life skills support to the identified young women from the locality.



## **E. Annual Report on Friends of Calcutta**

The partnership with “Friends of Calcutta “started in the year 2013. The project supports education, health and livelihood programs for the children and youth.

**Education:** The project supports almost 800 students by providing them with quality education in the centers of Topsia, Tangra and Khidirpur. The Pre School caters to children between 3 to 6 years, who are also provided with wholesome nutrition. Children in formal school receive coaching support, five days a week from midafternoon to late evening. The teachers are qualified, dedicated and render great service in helping the children with their studies, many of whom are first generation learners. Capacity building of teachers is done every year to help them follow the latest methods of teaching and learning. Review meetings are held to take stock of different issues arising from time to time and further plan of action is initiated. Groups of children are taken for outings to different other centers like Bhuvneswari and Swapnopuri. This outing gives the children huge exposure and a refreshing change from their present living condition.

**Vocational Training:** The 3 centers Topsia, Tangra and Khidirpur also have vocational training units. Trained vocational staff prepare young drop out girls and women in tailoring and embroidery. The young girls and women are taught with a lot of care and soon they are able to start earning for themselves. They stitch uniforms for children of different centers, also get

orders from several people, thus they begin to earn a decent income.

**Medical:** Once a week, Health Clinics are run in the 3 centers under the supervision of a trained nurse. The nurse also links them to hospitals for advanced medical support. Medicines are also provided for common ailments. Health Camps are organized once a year in all the three centers. In these health camps special doctors are brought in and a total health check up is done for the children, youth and elders. Eye Camps were organized and spectacles given free to the community people.

**Sports and Games:** Regular indoor and outdoor games are organized in all the three centers by the sports in charge. The children look forward to this activity as it is a great stress buster and their energy too is well channelized. The Annual Rajiv Ganguly Sports Tournament a two day mega annual event organized by Friends of Calcutta provides a huge platform to the marginalized Children from different NGO's from all over Kolkata to showcase their talents in a whole range of sporting activities.

#### Photos:



## D. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:

Issues with gender inequality and domestic violence have become an ever-pressing concern in marginalized areas of India. In recent times the Coronavirus pandemic has spread drastically and has consequently resulted in staggered lockdowns across India.

Many men have lost their employment and migrant labourers have been forced to return home. These men face the lack of activity and distraction due to unemployment. These men also experience the fear of contracting COVID-19 as well as the lack of certainty around their future employment.

Adding to the stress these families are struggling to cope with, houses are over capacitated and therefore tensions have begun to arise. Domestic violence has therefore become increasingly prevalent and action must be taken to combat its devastating effects.

DAS aims to improve the situation by providing women with opportunities to engage in the production of affordable masks and sanitizers from home. With mentoring and support DAS believes that these women can earn an income and engage in saving to empower them. It is hoped this will also alleviate some of the pressure on men to solely support their families' livelihood at such a difficult time.

## OBJECTIVES:

- DAS seeks to foster and promote a more equal and sustainable environment for men, women and children; this is compounded by the fact that any serious shift towards creating a more sustainable society must include gender equality.
- Women in this area are victims of male dominance and thus face numerous issues. DAS seeks to promote the advancement of women in society by engaging in numerous projects which aim to provide women with the skills to realize their rights. The main strategies DAS have established revolve around advocacy, alternative livelihoods supports, counseling supports, legal services and gender research and development.
- Men too struggle with poverty, illiteracy, patriarchal norms, domestic violence, lack of access to Government schemes. A study published by Sanjay Deshpande in 2019 showed how the Indian family structure and society are changing. It provides startling insights into how men are also physically and mentally harassed by their spouses and in-laws. Domestic violence and gender imbalances are clearly not female exclusive, men face similar issues.
- DAS wish to take a balanced approach, aiming to balance the rights and opportunities of all genders. By focusing on empowering both men and women, DAS hopes to reduce the stigma around domestic violence and develop a more objective and open-minded outlook amongst local communities. DAS employs a skill focused approach, providing opportunities for men and women to develop their abilities. This seeks to augment their income and improve the quality of their lives and their children's lives.

## E. ENVIRONMENT

### **Project Title: *Project Oxygen: Plantation to Save Sunderbans*** **Introduction and background:**

The Sunderbans located in the south-west of Bangladesh and on the south-east of Kolkata and borders the Bay of Bengal. It is the largest single tract contiguous mangrove forest and the UNESCO natural world heritage site. Extraordinarily rich in biodiversity, this beautiful forest is intersected by a network of tidal canals, creeks, and rivers. More than 4 million people depend on the Sunderbans for their livelihoods. This has also been a huge natural safeguard against frequent cyclones, storms, and other natural disasters in the country. This is the strongest shield for the people to fight against climate change. This shield has endured severe damages caused by the super cyclones Amphan and Yaas in two consecutive years of May 2020 and May 2021.

Lives and properties of almost 50 million people will be threatened if there is no Sunderban. The Sunderbans is home to hundreds of animal and plant species, including the endangered Bengal tiger.

### **Project Goal:**

The project will work and contribute to arrest climate change by large scale plantation drive and work towards ensuring climate justice through community based livelihoods and nutritional support.

### **Project Objectives:**

- To arrest climate change through large scale plantation



- To ensure climate justice through community based livelihoods
- To ensure supply chain for nutritional needs particular among school children
- To sensitize school children on environment protection and hazards of climate change

### Why Trees?

Mangroves form the most important and unique feature of this area with their ability to thrive both in dry as well as flood-like conditions. Due to the presence of both saltwater and freshwater, both types of plants are present and support the habitat in their own unique way. The trees provide habitat continuation and form links in the area to prevent habitat isolation for the Tigers, apart from providing shelter and enabling them to camouflage.

Studies have found that land loss due to rising sea levels and erosion is causing the displacement of rural communities (entire villages in some cases) and exacerbating poverty. The loss of mangrove cover in the region is alarming, especially in the Gosaba block.

Climate change, sea level rise, sediment starvation all have contributed to land loss and thus loss of forest cover. Ecologists and environmentalists have indicated that Sunderbans have been steadily losing its famed mangroves and the role of trees and mangroves in food security, containing the effect of storm surges and tsunamis, creating livelihood opportunities, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, sediment trapping, nutrient recycling etc.



Thus, the large-scale plantation drives around villages at the select blocks directly impacts rural livelihoods by creating jobs in nursery and planting activities, improve fisheries catch, provide flowers, fruit, fodder and fuel to rural communities and wildlife, generate oxygen, reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, fight climate change, and benefit endemic wildlife including the endangered Tiger.

Reforestation thus provides ample livelihood opportunities for the people in the buffer area, preventing them from venturing into the forest and minimizing chances of conflict and empowerment of the dwellers as a result.

### Project rationale:

- The Sunderbans are threatened by various challenges, namely, population pressure, spatial transformation, excessive resource extraction, salination, sea-level rise, and climate change, thus, making it difficult for it to survive even till 2100 (WWF Report, 2017). The project aims to address some of these issues.
- There is an imperative need to restore the natural bio-diversity of the Sunderbans alarmingly destroyed by the two consecutive super cyclones viz. Amphan and Yaas.
- The deltaic soil is very fertile and conducive for horticulture
- The project will lead to creation of alternative livelihoods and job creation based on pastoral economy which is indigenous to the region
- The project will help build a supply chain toward maintaining nutritional equilibrium especially among school children
- Upon maturity, each tree can absorb approximately 20kg of carbon dioxide per year which is considered globally as a conservative estimate



- A strong demand has been generated by the beneficiary communities based on the experience of last year's plantation drive supported by TCF.
- This need for up scaling the plantation drive to at least 20,000 saplings of cash fruit trees like jack fruit, guava and mango has been voiced by the honorable members of the nodal authorities of the GoWB like Sunderbans Development Board and State Animal Welfare Board

### **Why DAS?**

- DAS has been working for development of the marginalised since 1989 mainly in the urban spaces. But after the natural calamities of Amphan and Yaas it has made sincere efforts to concentrate on Sunderbans which was ravaged by the cyclones.
- Over the years, it has successfully created strong networks of SHGs in the 04 Blocks of Sunderbans viz. Mathurapur II (Kumrapara GP), Patharpratima, Sagar (Gram Panchayats like Sagar, Dhoblat, DS II, Rudrapur) and Namkhana (Mousuni GP).
- DAS has been supporting a free primary school in Chatua village under Kumrapara GP and PS Raidighi, Mathurapur II Block since 2017. DAS helped in some minor repairs right after the Amphan Cyclone. Since autumn of 2020, DAS mobilized funds to overhaul the school building and has built another floor atop the ground floor of the main building. This building served as a storm shelter for 170 families during the Yaas super cyclone. DAS arranged breakfast, evening snack and milk (for babies and children and pregnant and lactating mothers) for the inmates who took shelter for over a month.
- It has built a strong network with the government schools in these Blocks. DAS has organized many workshops on environment awareness and climate change in these schools. DAS has encouraged children to believe on the motto of One Tree One Life.

### **Project Activities:**

- Identification of geographical areas for plantation based on need and other determining criteria like land availability, poverty assessment, willingness etc.
- Exploring and strengthening local networks of stakeholders and duty bearers like Panchayati Raj Institutions, SHGs, schools, community based organizations etc.
- Identification and short listing of beneficiaries.
- Distribution of saplings and oath taking
- Monitoring of trees by school students by training and organizing them into *paribesh bandhus* or friends of the environment.
- Naming of trees with the names of children to enhance ownership and belongingness.
- Branding and visibility activities on each tree
- Organize environment and climate change awareness sessions in government schools.
- Fencing of each sapling through community contribution (from the beneficiaries) using indigenous materials

### **Project Strategy:**

- Ensure community engagement at all levels from beneficiary to PRIs and Govt. officials to generate ownership of the project.
- Ensure quality control by 98% survival rate of trees
- Forge linkage with nurseries for ensuring replacement warranty within certain period.
- Establish linkages with agrarian activities for value addition.
- Naming of trees against names of children
- Formation of expert committee comprising of academicians, ecologist and environmentalists and social development professionals.

### **Project Duration:**

04 months with inauguration on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 commemorating World Environment Day.

### **Project Activity:**

DAS distributed 10,000 fruit tree saplings like Jackfruit, Mango, Guava and Coconut as per the table below:

Sl	District	Block	Villages	No. of families	No. of Saplings
1	24 Prgs (S)	Sagar	Bankimnagar	98	392
2			Chemaguri	140	560
3			Dakshin Haradhanpur	27	108
4			Dhablat	102	408
5			Gangasagar	55	220
6			Kamalpur	84	336
7			Kirtankhali	55	220
8			Manasadwip	132	528
9			Mritunjay Nagar	64	256
10			Purushottampur	72	288
11			Radhakrishnapur	72	288
12			Rudranagar	72	288
13			Shibpur	136	544
14			South haradhanpur	14	56
15			Sumati Nagar	56	224
16			Uttar Haradhanpur	71	284
17					
18		Raidighi	Chatua	75	375
19					
20			Baikunthapur	75	375
21	West Midnapore	Salboni	Dherua	140	560
22			Belpahari	25	100
23		Belda	25 villages	900	3600
			GT	2465	10010