



Development Action Society - Annual Report 2019/2020

DEVELOPMENT ACTION SOCIETY 1721
Rajdanga Main Road, Block: EC71, Kolkata -
700 107 Land Line No.: +91 33 2441-4431 /5124 Website: www.daskolkata.org
Email: developmentactionsociety@gmail.com; daskolkata@rediffmail.com; daskolkata@yahoo.co.in

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK : The organization was founded in the year 1989 and established in 1995. 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 year 2018- 2019 has seen DAS focus strongly on issues of urban/rural schemes and entitlements as one of the essential areas of work whereby people would gain increased accessibility to the much needed entitlements.

DAS also focused on national and international development goals in each area of intervention. Through our entire intervention das tried to address the issues of access the education for all, development of community level child protection mechanism supporting the govt structures, enhancement of health slicking behaviours addressing issues of child & maternal mortality and morbidity issues due to communicable and non-communicable diseases; encouraging community in safe accessing of potable water, sanitation and hygiene practices and facilities; Facilitate the skill building initiatives of women and youths and also facilitate the community level women empowerment mechanism through developing the financial and functional literacy. The child's interest and inherent potential are tapped not only in the classroom but also in other areas like sports [rugby], dance, drama, art and craft.

Like every year, this year too, we had eleven volunteers from Suas Educational Development, Ireland to volunteer as teaching assistants in our Educational Centres. They engage themselves in a number of activities that benefit the children.

DAS's experience has revealed that stand alone training inputs do not go a long way in enhancing the organization's capacities as these capacities are more often retained by the individuals trained and attrition leads to a drain of any such capacities built. A plan and design is in the process of being formalized and systematized where in a pool of resource personnel is created and retained within the organization thus overcoming this challenge.

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

We appreciate and highly value the constant support rendered by SUAS Educational Development, Save the Children Bal Raksha Bharat, Azad Foundation, Me-Importas, Mennonite Central Committee, Friends of

Calcutta, Toronto Canada Foundation , Samagra Siksha Mission (SSM), TEAM CAFÉ, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, ONGC, SMILE Foundation, Weavers Studio, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Urmibala Smriti Kalyan Sangstha, , National Child Labour Project, Sarva Shiksha Mission, Child In Need Institute (CINI) and Kolkata Child Labour Rehabilitation Cum Welfare Society.

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:

Samagra Siksha Mission (SSM) West Bengal Pollution Control Board National Child Labour Projects KCLRCWS (Kolkata Child Labour Rehabilitation come Welfare Society) State Education Department SUNDARINI

International Agencies:

Save the Children – BalRaksha Bharat Friends of Kolkata Mennonite Central Committee Azad Foundation Toronto Canada Foundation Me Importas SUAS Ireland SMILE Foundation TEAM CAFÉ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)

National Agencies:

Weavers Studio Resource Centre ONGC Urmibala Smriti Kalyan Sangstha Rotary Clubs Lions Club Child In Need Institute (CINI) Individuals and Groups Jagori Rural Trust Delhi Public School, Silver Point School Ashoka Hall Riddhi Beauty Parlor Bantala Bhatni Sangha Kalarit Adarsha Shiksha Niketan

Individuals:

Shri Swapan Samdder, MMIC-Basti Development and Ward-58 Councilor, KMC Shri Nibedita Sharma, Ward-65 Councilor, KMC Shri Sushil Sharma, Social Worker, Ward-65 Shri Sushanta Ghosh, Ward-107 Councilor, KMC Shri Subhas Chakraborty, Social Worker, Ward-58, Kolkata Mrs. Susila Almal Mr. Nirmalendu Basu Ms. Vishaka Das Ms. Sujata Kar Mr. Nitish Sapui Mr. Bablu Mondal

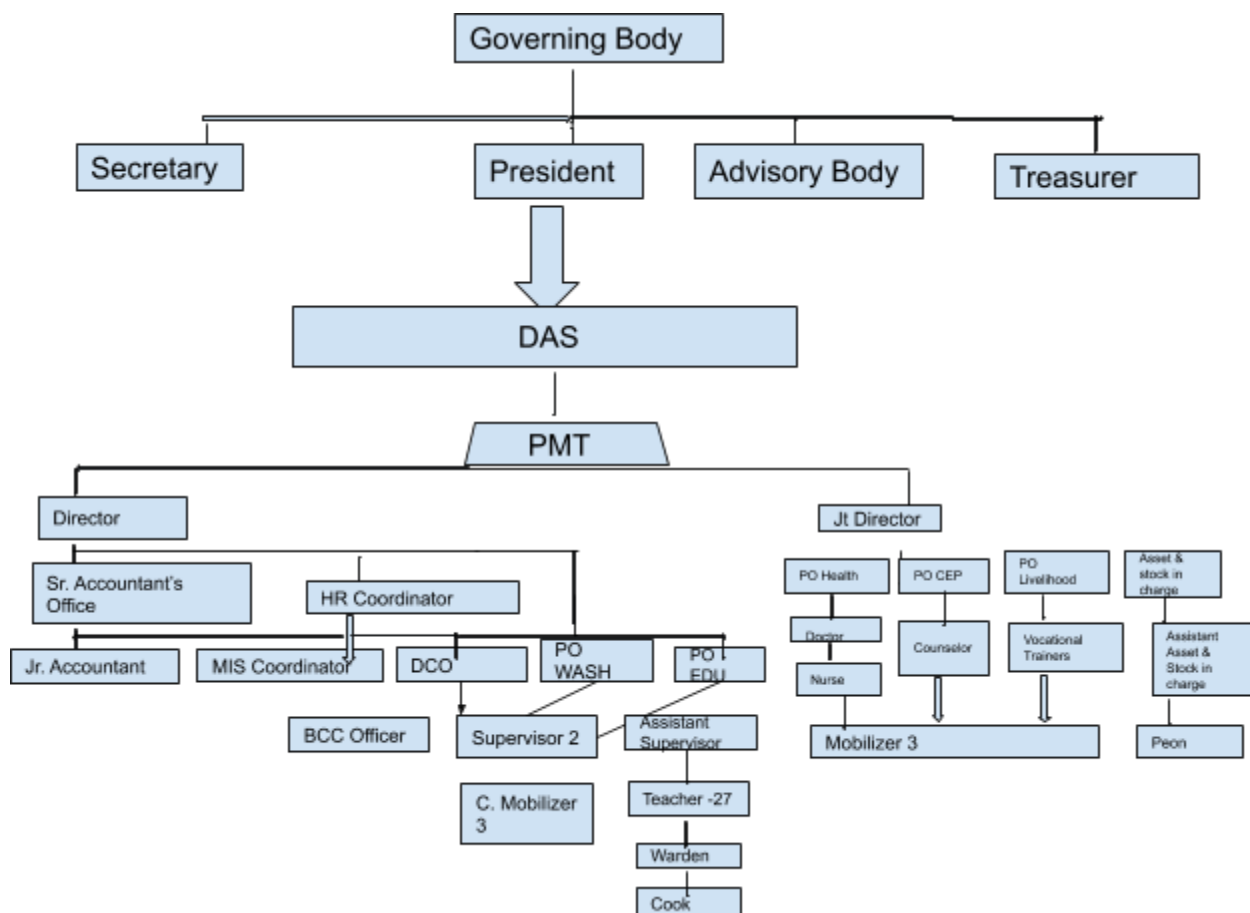
ORGANISATION PROFILE

Establishment: 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 NTI Ayog, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and Income Tax Exemption 80G 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 2019/20

SL NAME	DESIGNATION	OCCUPATION
1 MRS. SOMA BASU-MALLIK;	PRESIDENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	CONSULTANT
2 MRS. SUBRATA KAR;	VICE-PRESIDENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	PROFESSIONAL
3 MRS. PURABI ROY;	SECRETARY	SOCIAL WORKER
4 MRS. SATHI DE;	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	HOMEMAKER
5 MRS. SOUMI GHOSH;	TREASURER SOCIAL WORKER CONSULTANT-ENVIRONMENT	
6 MRS .BANI BISWAS;	MEMBER	HOMEMAKER
7 MRS. RINA SUKA;	I MEMBER	HOMEMAKER

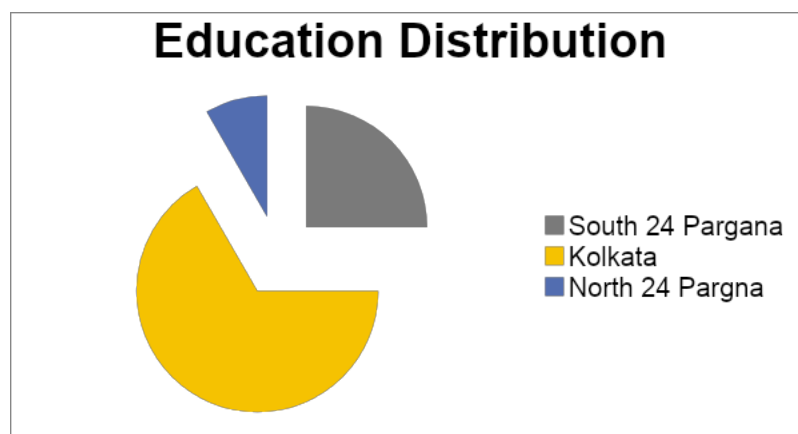
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION



Parameter	Total Populatio n Covered in Kolkata District	Total Coverag e in 24 PGS South District	Total Populatio n Covered Nadia District	Total Populatio n Covered in Burdwan District	Total Populatio n Covered in 24-PGS North District	Total Populatio n Coverage in West Bengal
No of Househol ds	180932	18279	6226	30526	25,973	261936
Total Populatio n Person	774172	81371	26906	137820	105,678	1125947
Total Populatio n Male	399793	41661	13843	71033	52,899	579229
Total Populatio n Female	374379	39710	13063	66787	52,779	546718
Populatio n in the age group 0-6 Person	68145	9898	3585	12914		94542
Populatio n in the age group 0-6 Male	35029	5048	1815	6811		48703
Populatio n in the age group 0-6 Female	33116	4850	1770	6103		45839
Literates Populatio n Person	591116	51383	16013	110662		769174
Literates Populatio n Male	317585	28969	8536	59323		414413
Literates Populatio n Female	273531	22414	7477	51339		354761

Illiterate Persons	183056	29988	10893	27158		251095
Illiterate Male	82208	12692	5307	11710		111917
Illiterate Female	100848	17296	5586	15448		139178

EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMES



DAS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME AIMS

- Increased access of below 5 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.

BACK-UP EDUCATION SUPPORT & PRE-SCHOOL

WITH SUPPORT OF SMILE FOUNDATION:

Development Action Society running the education centers in following areas with the support of Smile Foundation the centers are –

1. ANANDALOK : Anandapur – Ward -108, KMC, West Bengal
2. NABADEEP : Arupota – Ward -58, KMC, West Bengal
3. MUKULBITHI : Makhaltala - Ward -57, KMC, West Bengal
4. NABADOY : Bantala - Ward -108, KMC, West Bengal
5. Ucchepota - Ward -108, KMC, West Bengal
6. Chowriswar – Beonta -1 Panchayat, Block: Bhangore – II, 24 PGS South

Since 1997, Anandalok School has been contributing to the educational development of underprivileged students in the Anadapur area. The centre provides education to children whose parents are generally daily paid labourers. This project is partly funded by the **Smile Foundation**.

Anandalok School implements two teaching sessions, one in the morning from 9:00am to 12:00am and one between 2 to 8 years, including 50 students and an evening session for older children aged between 9 to 14 years old. The main



focus is on developing the childrens basic literacy and numeracy so that they will be eligible for admittance into the mainstream government schools. The students sit their examinations in the months of April and May, those who excell continue their education in the government schools. With the older students the main target is to enroll the students within a mainstream school within one year.

Two main teachers are responsible for the education programme at Anandalok school namely Shikha Chakraborty and Lalita Padra. They have taught here for twenty years and have seen many improvements despite the economics challenges. Many modern teaching methodologies are implemented for the students such as worksheets, flashcards, picture study and group work. The school also provides educational resources for their students. In this year the player from KKR delightedly interacted with the students and all students enjoyed the moment very much. Volunteers from SUAS



Ireland visit this school annually to initiate activities with the students for 10 weeks. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, SUAS volunteers instead engaged in a virtual volunteering

experience with DAS, collaborating on a number of projects.

Additionally, Anandalok provides a medical service to its students and their parents who can attend regularly for medical check-up.

STUDENT PROFILES:



SANTANU MUNDA is a nine years old boy and he studies in class III. He lives in the village of Ucchepota, P.O – Sonarpur, 24 Parganas (South). He is very polite, shy in nature and a slow learner. He studied here from his early age. He goes to kharki Primary School for his study. His father Dilip Munda works as a temporary labor and he earns about Rs. 4000/- per month. His mother Jhumpa Munda also works as a domestic maid in Ruby housing complex. He is the only child and he stays with his parents and grandparents. Earlier, he did not know any “Sarachinho in Bengali”, correct spellings etc. He did not know additions, subtractions, tables. He also could not read the book properly. But now he concentrates on his study and has improved greatly. He does his home tasks willingly. Their financial condition is very poor and he cannot afford private tuitions. Hence he comes to our centre. He attends the coaching classes regularly. He wants to be a teacher when he grows up. He loves to watch the cartoons, movies and cricket matches on television.



RIYA PRAMANICK is an eight year old girl who lives in Arupota, P.O- Dhapa, P.S –Pragati Maidan, Kolkata – 105. They have resided here for approximately twenty years. She enrolled in 2017 where she completed Class I. She has progressed and now studies in class II and goes to Boinchta Upendranath F. P School. She is a talkative, confident, bright girl who always bears a smiling face and completes every task with determination. She completes the lessons with concentration, she attends the class regularly and completes her home tasks on time. Her father Bibek Pramanick works in a car service centre which is located in their locality and he works as a car washer. He drinks alcohol regularly when he returns home from his job. He does not bear the family expenses and sometimes assaults Riya’s mother badly. Riya is very scared of her father and does not talk to her father. She loves her mother and also her

coaching teachers. Her mother Latika Pramanick is a housewife, they are very poor. Her mother wants to earn some money for their family but cannot leave the children behind alone. DAS has supported this family through the transformative power of education. DAS helped Riya establish her educational pathway which will hopefully equip her with a promising and successful future. Riya loves to play with her classmates and watches cartoons on TV. She is very ambitious and wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

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, youth, mothers and Community stakeholders in Tangra, Topsia, Khidirpur and Sunderbans.

Education: The project supports almost 800 students by providing them with quality education in the centers of Topsia, Tangra, Khidirpur and Bhuvneswari (Sunderban). The centers Topsia, Tangra and Khidirpur Educational and Vocational Centers are placed right in the middle of the slums, where a basic necessity for decent living conditions is few and far between. Bhuvneswari is a village located in a remote place in the Sunderbans under the Kultali post office. It is one of the largest islands in Sunderbans about 85% of the population is very poor. They eke out an existence collecting non- timber forest produce like tiger prawn seeds, fishing, vending vegetables and fish, and by working for a daily wage. 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 mid-afternoon to late evening. The children in spite of their difficult backgrounds understand the value of education and regularly come to the preschool and coaching centers. The teachers are qualified, dedicated and render great service in helping the children with their studies, many of whom are first generation learners. The children perform very well in the Board Exams and take admission in good colleges for higher studies. Capacity building of teachers is done every year to help them follow the latest methods of teaching and learning. Review meetings are held twice a year to take stock of different issues arising from time to time and further plan of action is initiated for the smooth running of the project. 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 who are skilled and dedicated, 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. A yearly assessment is done after they complete the two year course. Successful candidates are given sewing machines, thus enabling and encouraging them to be entrepreneurs in their own right.

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 and Dental Camps are also organized each year. Many Community people were given free spectacles.

Sports and Games: Regular indoor and outdoor games are organized in all the three centers by the sports in charge. Center Sports in all the four centers are organized each year in different events. The events are divided into two main broad groups' boys and girls and further divided on the basis of age groups. This encourages participation of huge number of children and prizes are given away as incentives. 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. The children from different NGO's enjoy the two day mega event.

Case Study:

MD.SANWAR aged 5 yrs is a cute super naughty little boy studying in our Topsia Pre School and is in the preparatory class. He lives with his mother, Swagufta Begum, his

step-father Sk. Sahenawaz and his little sister. His parents migrated from Bihar some 24yrs ago and settled in Topsia bustee, besides the Topsia canal. His residential address is Topsia Majudarpara, Police Station – Tiljala, Kolkata -39. He lives in a poor shelter made of bamboo and covered with plastic sheet. They have very little protection from the hazards of nature. In spite of his difficult background, he comes to school everyday and is a lively and mischievous child. His step-father is a Rickshaw Van puller and his mother works as a domestic maid. There is no one to look after him or take care of him. When he joined our preschool center in 2016, he used to come shabbily dressed, his shirt buttons would not be in the right button hole and his pants would be hanging loose as there was no button/ hook to fasten. He was deprived of a proper meal as he was not cared for. He would not study, but he gave verbal answers promptly. He was clever and intelligent, but whiled away his time after school in the lanes and bylanes of Topsia and would be involved in one mischievous activity or the other. His neighbours were fed up of him. When he came to the center, the teachers would feed him well and would counsel him to present good behaviour to all. Slowly he began to put his mind to his studies and is able to take care of himself. He now comes neatly dressed and being an intelligent boy he is also coping well with his studies. Teachers counselled the mother too and she now is giving a little more time to look after him. Sanwar is now a happy child and everyone speaks well of him.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This project is supported by **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**. This project looked after the marginalized children and women of the targeted areas in the villages of Tongpara, Andulgoria and Mousal of Tardaha Gram Panchayat.

Objectives:

- Targeted children will be mainstreamed and retained until up to the primary section of the formal system of education.
- Children and community stake holders will become aware and active on Child Rights and Protection.
- Linkage established between Government departments and targeted communities on all entitlements.

Target population:

Marginalized children, mothers and adolescent girls and boys of the geographical area.

Geographical areas:

Three villages Tongpara, Andulgoria and Mousal of Tardaha Gram Panchayat, under Dist. 24 Pgs. (South).

Facts & Figures:

Reach	Children (3-5 years)	Mothers	Total Adolescent Boys and Girls	Stakeholders
Direct Reach	90	90	30	30
Indirect Reach	30		10	20

Case Study: Tongpara village in Tardaha Gram Panchayat is one of the most backward and poverty stricken communities in Tardaha. They are scheduled tribes (Adivasi) having migrated from Jharkhand belt some 250 years ago. Generations after generations have lived here, working as daily wage earners and



primarily belonging to the scheduled tribe community they were ill-treated, neglected and dominated upon by the upper caste and others, no effort was made to improve their lot by the governments before or after Independence. Their socio economic status has



been pathetic. They are landless and have no Patta; a patta is a revenue record which is required to prove legal ownership over a specific plot of land. It is a document extract issued by the Registrar of Land holdings. It is important for its role as a proof of ownership and permissible evidence in the court of law. In the absence of the required documents, they face a lot of challenges; they can be evicted any time and their homes destroyed. Most of the people reside in mud houses with tiled roofs. They are illiterate and few of them are daily wage earners, the

other men folk sit idle at home and depend on the women to earn a meager income which is barely able to meet the daily needs of the family; over and above the men are addicts and squander away the little money earned by the women, besides the women are ill-treated by the husbands. Children are malnourished and usually drop out from

school, as the family background gives no importance to education and scope for children to study. Ever since we made our intervention in Tongpara with the support of MCC, in the areas of education, nutrition to the children, orientation of teachers and mothers on entitlements and child protection and overall women empowerment, there has been a noticeable change in the behavior and attitude of our teachers, community women and children. When we started our preschool center in the year 2014, teachers were selected from the community and we were very fortunate to note that the 3 teachers selected were all educated, having a minimum Madhyamik pass. From this center one of our teachers Pampa Munda is aged 28yrs and is married to Jayanta Munda who is only class 8 pass and works as a daily wage earner. They have a 3 yr old daughter. Pampa Munda was selected on the basis of her qualification, as it is difficult to get a lady teacher with a minimum Madhyamik pass from



that area. Pampa has passed her higher secondary examination. In the beginning she was timid, unsure of herself, spoke very little and used to be quiet most of the time. She used to listen a lot but was not vocal and uncomfortable and hesitant in sharing her views. The constant and continuous awareness meetings and exposure to workshops with Government school children and staff, interaction with Panchayat Pradhan, government officials, Panchayat members' health workers and community stakeholders over the last four years has gradually transformed her into a bubbly, lively, vivacious and enthusiastic young woman. She from the very beginning has been a good teacher and quickly followed the play way method of teaching preschool children, using the teaching aids to the maximum and showing keen interest and eagerness to learn and apply the knowledge gained from the capacity building programs and monthly meetings held. Today she is empowered, and oozing with confidence. She conducts the mothers and stakeholders meetings now and then. It is a matter of pride to all in DAS and MCC that she has been noticed by the party leaders and her name proposed for the Panchayat election from three villages namely Bhangarkhal, Haripota and Tongpara as a Panchayat member representing the three villages. The Panchayat election was held on 14th May 2018 and the results declared on 17th May. She has been elected as a Panchayat member of the three villages and she is the first lady member to hold this

position. People have a lot of expectations from her for the progress and development of the three backward communities, which have been neglected so far. She has been awarded the certificate of Panchayat Member from the Block Development Officer. The process of selecting the Panchayat Pradhan is on and she stands a chance of becoming the Panchayat Pradhan. In her own words she is grateful to MCC and DAS for enabling her to discover her hidden talent and potential.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

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 girls pursuing education without obstacles. Maximum girls from single parents and few children have no parents.



Supporting Agency:

SAMAGRA SIKSHA MISSION (SSM), KOLKATA

Target Population:

Girl students from Kolkata and neighbouring districts. The Residential Unit has provision for 100 girls. Currently there are 90 children enrolled in Bidyadharpur High School for Girls and 96 children in Kasba Modern Residential School.

Target Area:

Kasba area of Kolkata.

SHIKHA PROJECT~EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Background:

DAS is working in the rural-urban border of southeast Kolkata, with some of the target areas coming under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and South 24 Parganas. In this segment, an attempt has been made to look critically at the continuation of work on the need based section of education, health, youth empowerment and skill building of

women for employability. The programmatic intervention aims to increase access and retention in formal education, various awareness programmes and allowing students to become self society.

Supporting Agency:

SUAS Educational Development

Target population:

Children of vulnerable families residing in the project areas.

Target area:

Semi-urban areas of Arupota, Makaltala, Anandapur, Ucchepota, Chowbaga, Bantala in Kolkata and Chariswar in South 24 Parganas.

Significant Achievements:

- Door-to-door survey for identification of children; 77 children for pre-school and 109 children for back-up support identified.
- Carried out continuous assessment four times throughout the year.
- 159 pre-school admitted in government schools.
- 30 children from the back-up centres appeared for the 10th standard examination (Madhyamik) and all of them have passed successfully.
- 63 youths in the age group of 10–16 years participated in life-skill training.
- Ucchepota's Child Protection Group (CPG) was sanctioned a water tank by the Gram Panchayat for accessing safe drinking water in their locality.
- Exposure of art and culture to the children.

CHOWBAGA SPOKEN ENGLISH AND COMPUTER CLASS

Location: Chowaga

Supported by: **ISRC**

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.

MISSION EDUCATION

Background:

DAS has been addressing the issue of education and is yet working for the same target as the beneficiaries are primarily first generation learners who come with the problems related to it. The areas being underprivileged are highly neglected by the government. The people, who are most in need of the basic facility that the government commits, are all time deprived from it, which brings a constant fight for survival in their lives compelling them to pay less heed for improving their quality of life through proper education, personality development, health facilities and no gender discrimination. The situation naturally brings hindrances in bringing any kind of radical development in their lives.

Supporting Agency:

Smile Foundation

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 Paraganas. 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.



Activities Undertaken:

- 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 curriculums.
- 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.

Progress:

- 315 girls and boys received educational support through pre-school and remedial back up support.
- 400 parents and stakeholders from the communities already awarded and capacitate to access government schemes, linkages and facilities.
- Periodic evaluations of students have been conducted for children performance.
- We have conducted fundraising programmes through Women Empowerment, Sit & Draw competition, sports for community children. Few financially established persons also joined with those programmes and contributed dry food, copies, shoes, clothes, educational materials and classroom equipment.
- DAS organized an event to commemorate One Billion Rising especially for the women and girls. It was supported by Jagori Rural Foundation. The programme focused on solidarity. Many community women and girls, government primary school teachers, club members and local stakeholders participated in this programme. More than 300 people participated in the event. Most of them were from Self Help Groups, domestic maid servants, Muslim minor community women, men, adolescence girls and boys. They actively participated in the



event by singing, dancing, sharing their stories of freedom for more than four hours. Nearly 10 women shared their stories of struggle and success and how DAS held their hands in the journey. Few adolescent girls performed dance related themes. A popular women band performed by singing Tagore and folk songs. The programme was a huge success.

Achievements of the Projects:

- 23 students passed the Madhyamik Examination in the period of 2017-2018.
- 28 Preschool children have been mainstreamed in age specific classes at government schools.
- 10 youths from Makaltala completed the driving training and got individual licenses, training cost subsidy from government projects.
- 6 youths from Makaltala completed a beautician course and worked in popular parlors which were arranged by DAS.
- Few Local donors have liked our programmes and frequently joined us by donated money, usable equipment and also gave free services.

Case Story:



She is a 13 year old girl who lives in a village called Garumara near Bantala Hat. Her family relocated to this village a few months ago. Her father's name is Dharindra Roy and mother's name is Sita Roy. They both work as rag pickers in Dhapa dumpsite. She has three sisters and one brother.

Jhuma had never been to school in the past. From her early childhood she worked in a brick kiln as a temporary labor. At that time she lived in the village of Neruli, PO Malancha, South 24 Parganas District. They belong to the poorest of the poor family. Her parents and other family members also worked in the brick kiln. The family relocated to Bantala owing to occupational crises and moved to their relative's house.



Thanks to the DAS intervention in July 2018 one of the teacher-social workers of DAS visited the village with the purpose of regular home visits. She made an enquiry. Then she talked to her mother and convinced her to admit Jhuma in a government school. However, her age was not appropriate to admit her in Class I. Also she could not recognize any alphabet. Therefore our teachers helped Jhuma to prepare for the admission and convinced the Headmistress of Bantala F.P. School and admitted Jhuma

in Class-I. After mainstreaming, she also brought Jhuma to the Bantala Coaching Centre. The teachers put in great effort to help her catch with the academic curriculum of her class. Jhuma is very happy now to be connected with school and studies. She wants to complete higher studies. She loves her teacher very much. She is a regular student both at school and coaching centre. Jhuma is now a dedicated, diligent and enthusiastic student who believes in hard work and is committed to succeeding and developing her skills into further education. In the future, she is devoted to making a meaningful impact on her community and with DAS' help her future is set to be bright.



HEALTH PROGRAMME



STOP DIARRHOEA INITIATIVE (SDI)

Background:

In our country Diarrhoea contributes approximately 10% of the total under-five deaths every year. WHO estimates that 88% of deaths can be prevented just implementing the WHO/UNICEF 7 point plan that talks about Treatment packages and Prevention.

Supporting Agency:

Save the Children



Target Population:

Geographical areas include 73 registered Slums and colonies in Ward 58 and 65, both under Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Total population coverage more than 1 Lakh 43 Population

Target Area:

Target population includes children under the age of five, school going children, pregnant and lactating mothers, community people, and respective Government Officials as stakeholders.

Highlights of Progress:

- Involved 192 WASH Committee members and other community people to prepare area mapping process through PRA;
- Formed 17 new and revitalized 10 WASH committees through 45 meetings;
- Renovated 10 drinking water points, 9 Community Toilet Blocks and 3 additional space for urinals/change room/future expansion, 8 toilet blocks in 5 schools;
- Reached 7140 target community people through 19 education campaigns on safe water, water handling process and chlorination;
- Reached 948 community mothers for discussion on safe disposal of child faeces and promoting and washing with soap;
- Reached 614 community mothers and other stakeholders to address the 7 point plan of Diarrhoea Prevention and Control;
- Arranged 3 sharing meetings with 42 officials from concerned Govt. Departments;
- Organized orientation sessions on 7 point plan, diarrhoea- prevention and control in 18 schools ensuring participation of 1324 school children and 239 teachers / SMC /SDC members;
- Reached 467 community toilet user group members in 24 meetings, 4 CMT user groups formed and 2 restructured.

Significant achievements:

- Celebrating International days to make the project more viable and acceptable to local people and meet the government. interest. The international days are World Water Day, Global Hand Wash Day, Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) and World Toilet Days. World Breastfeeding week involving the 3 medical colleges in Kolkata Viz. Cihittaranjan National Medical College and Hospital (CNMC&H), Nil Ratan Sircar Medical Co
- Rapport building with different college and Hospital (NRSMC&H) and Calcutta Medical College and Hospital (CMC&H).ent Government Departments like MMIC-Health/Bustee Development at KMC, Directorate of Social Welfare-Salt Lake, District Family Welfare Bureau, ICDS- Entally and Belegghata, Borough



VII Office, Ward Offices, Ward Health Offices, Indian Medical Association (IMA), through regular interaction ensured their participation in sharing meeting/programme;

- Received permission from DFWO for displaying banner at all health service points in ward 58 and 65, received permission/NOC from Ward Councilors- 58 and 65 for initiating hardware intervention at CMTs/Water Points, received permission from SSM for initiating hardware intervention at schools;
- Developed rapport with Primary and High Schools in ward 58 and 65 running under SIRVA Siksha Mission, ensured participation of Head Teachers/Assistant Teachers in sharing meeting, children's active participation in awareness programme;
- Renovation of all CMTs, School Toilets and Water Points completed within timeline, displayed IEC materials at all hardware intervened sites.



TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH ACTION LEARNING INITIATIVE (THALI)

Background:

Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI) is a consortium based project led by World Health Partners (WHP) and supported by other consortium partners, Child in Need Institute (CINI), John Snow India (JSI) and Global Health Strategies (GHS).

The project is currently operational in 144 municipal wards of Kolkata Municipal Corporations, 17 municipal wards of Baruipur Municipality, 35 municipal wards of Rajpur-Sonarpur Municipality and 66 municipal wards of Howrah Municipal Corporations in West Bengal.



The project aspires to curb the disease of Tuberculosis through early identification of the disease and notify the government who are being treated in private sector, create

greater awareness of the population, contact tracing and adherence to treatment protocols.

THALI Community Engagement initiative is envisaged as a multi-pronged strategy for creating a local level network with the local key stakeholders through NGO led model. Child In Need Institute (CINI), being a part of the consortium, leads the community engagement domain to ensure increased social mobilization and community action towards fighting against the disease.

DAS is a community engagement partner of this initiative working in all the designated 08 KMC Wards of Tangra UHD under KMC-RNTCP.

The Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI) project's role is in improving the TB patient support system through a patients' centric approach in West Bengal. The objective is to engage community level human resources who will be equipped with solid interpersonal skills and knowledge to address TB prevention and care in the respective area. TA will serve as an intermediary between



community, private providers and public health systems as she/he will be collecting and maintaining accurate information of patients under the assigned operational areas. She/he will be responsible for individual counselling and support to the diagnosed TB cases and their family members, outcome of which will lead to an increased treatment adherence and completion rate in order to ensure the improved TB outcomes.

Objectives:

- To identify and map the vulnerable areas under the assigned territory with population
- To support all TB cases of operational areas in creating the base work for accessing benefits,



as per the guideline of RNTCP through DBT

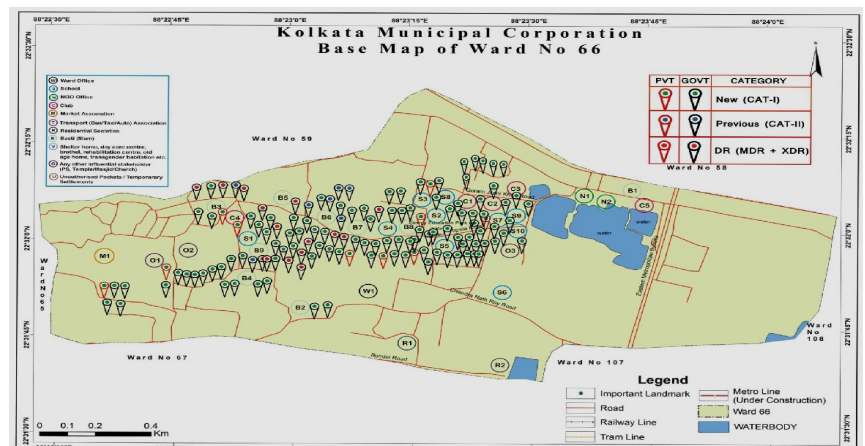
- To support the community-level workers and Targeted Outreach to Uplift Community Health (TOUCH) Agents and supervise their activities in coordination with the THALI field team where applicable
- To develop community-level system through CBOs to generate awareness on TB care, prevention and eligibility to receive the benefits under RNTCP
- To strengthen relationship with local government and line departments to create linkage between the patients and available government benefit options including social welfare schemes
- To create opportunity for the TB patients and their family members to link with insurance schemes and microfinance
- To demonstrate innovative community based models on treatment adherence support

Scope of work:

- Mapping and updating information on the vulnerable areas under the assigned territory with population covered
- Support field workers in connecting all THALI identified TB cases in the community
- Keep close contact with DTOs, STSSs, STLSSs to collect the list of TB patients from public facilities
- Create database of all TB cases in the areas for accessing benefits, as per the guideline of RNTCP
- Support the community-level workers /Targeted Outreach to Uplift Community Health (TOUCH) Agents for maximum utilization of their services and supervise their activities in coordination with the THALI field team when required
- Conducting community-level events to generate awareness on TB care, prevention and eligibility to receive the benefits under RNTCP guideline in coordination with local governments and respective departments by involving identified CBOs
- Create opportunity for the TB patients and their family members to link with insurance schemes and microfinance
- To demonstrate innovative models on community based treatment support and patient care and additional nutritional support if available.

Achievements:

- Mapping of vulnerable areas focusing strategic locations with population.



- Validation through home visit of the patients' list of all TB patients supplied by THALI and RNTCP under the assigned operational area.
- Collection of required information in the prescribed format regarding DBT from all existing patients, collation and sharing of data on all (Public, Private, DR,DS) TB cases under the assigned operational area.
- Creation of database in line with RNTCP and template available in the system and share the database of TB cases for accessing benefits, as per the guideline of RNTCP.
- The joint initiative provided services to 413 TB patients across 08 Wards under Tangra Urban Health District (UHD).
- Sharing of updated databases periodically with THALI team as per direction.
- Counselling of patients, care-givers and their family.
- Household visit around those areas where the patient is identified and beyond, for spreading TB prevention messages.
- Filling up the check list of household visits and weekly submission to THALI CE team.
- Facilitate sensitization meetings through community mobilization, especially in the priority areas, as and when required.
- Create a community level network of CBOs to support TB patients, community based care givers for counselling and education for TB patients.
- Keep a record of the number of community sensitization meetings held, and report the same on every week.
- Report on exploring and creating opportunity for the TB patients and their family members to link with insurance schemes and microfinance.
- Palliative care to identify TB patients in coordination with govt, as well as additional nutritional support, as and when required through community led models.



WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS FOR DHAPA REMEDIATION WORKS

Background:

DAS has received a consultancy service for communication and awareness campaign in project area closed Dhapa dumping site due to remediation, **funded by World Bank and supported by WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of the environmental risks in the absence of remediation work at the closed dumping site.

- Increase awareness of the social issues pertaining to the site during remediation work.
- Develop an awareness of the remediation needs for a safe and clean environment.
- Develop contextual IEC and promotional materials to educate the community stakeholders
- Capacitate the stakeholders to cope with the social and environment changes.
- The Capacitate project affected people with regards to the positive and negative impacts of social issues.
- Develop a community based mechanism to deal with the issues during and after the completion of remediation work.



Methodology:

Our first approach was to deliver a brief introduction about remediation work and its future impact on the community through meeting with the project affected people. Although the community of Makaltala is directly affected by the remediation work, we also took steps to raise awareness for the people who are indirectly affected. The methods of awareness were one-to-one interaction, small group discussion, focus group discussion (FGD) and advocacy and orientation workshops. We also developed and distributed IEC materials among community people written in Bengali script (local language) so that everyone can read and understand the information regarding remediation and its overall benefits.



To increase knowledge regarding health and hygienic practices, we implemented intervention programs on the correct ways of hand washing, safe drinking water, protection from polluted air and plantation and sanitary practices. Since school going and elderly people are more vulnerable we placed special attention on them and conducted orientation programmes on various health hazard related issues. We monitored and evaluated the programmes using suitable formats based on key factors to measure the changes.

To receive grievances anonymously from community members due to remediation work we have installed drop boxes at different locations of the community. We open the

boxes periodically to receive grievances if any and try to mitigate those through the meeting with community stakeholders.

A number of community members have lost their occupation as cultivation on Dhapadhipi. In response to this, as a part of social management, we introduced vocational training based on aspiration mapping. The approach of providing alternative livelihood training not only will remove the financial constraints of the male members but will also help the female members to earn money.

Outcomes:

Some observed positive outcomes from regular awareness and intervention programs are

1. The community have realized that there is a long term benefits after remediation
2. Community stakeholders have taken initiative to spread awareness to others
3. Young adolescents have formed a group to protect their environment by plantation and cleaning garbage
4. Mother's become more conscious regarding their families health, especially the health of their children
5. They have started using masks to protect themselves from the hugely polluted air due to the remediation work.

Challenges

- Difficult to get male members to attend regular meetings
- Initially community members were not willing to attend any meetings, until they realized that their dwelling would be at stake due to remediation
- Many people felt hesitant to participate as they were illiterate
- Most of the male members were reluctant about the workshops
- It was very difficult to change the daily practice of the disposal of waste at a dustbin instead of in the canal.

MINIMIZING AND ZEROING OPEN DEFECATION IN TARDAHA

PANCHAYAT THROUGH LINKAGE WITH GOVT. SUBSIDIZED TOILETS

Background:

Development Action Society (DAS) has started interventions in Tardaha Panchayat since March 2012 on four major thematic areas, viz. Health, Livelihood, Women Empowerment, Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) and Environment. Since Tardaha is an economically backward Panchayat, most of the people, especially children and elderly people are compelled to defecate openly. Most households are devoid of

individual toilets. They also lack access to community toilets. The situation of women is worse. Most of the women have to go for open defecation early in the morning. They often encountered harassment, snake and insect bites. The situation worsens during the monsoon season due to prolonged water logging and prevalence of water borne diseases. The population, especially under 5 children and elderly people have become extremely vulnerable.



In this context DAS and Weavers Studio Resource Centre (WSRC), focuses on facilitation of individual toilet construction under Govt. Scheme of Swaccha Bharat Mission and Nirmal Gram Abhiyan. For the 1st phase, 293 toilet constructions in 18 Sansads in Tardaha Gram Panchayat were facilitated. WSRC assured to provide Rs. 300/- out Rs. 900/- from the counterpart of selected beneficiaries. The major objective of this program is to facilitate construction of 293 low cost individual toilets under State and Central Govt. Sanitation Schemes for minimizing incidence of open defecation and reducing the trend of waterborne diseases.

Supporting Agency:

WEAVERS STUDIO RESOURCE CENTRE (WSRC)

Target Area and Population:

1500 marginalized and socio-economically backward people in 18 Samsads in Tardaha Panchayat in Bhangore-I, 24 Pgs-South



Highlights of Progress

- Home visit and meeting with identified HH & processing of the documents for govt. subsidized toilets.
- Meeting with service providers such as Panchayat Pradhan, BDO and TSC cell for finalizing the documents.
- Providing Rs-300/- to each of 293 households for applying to the government. subsidized toilets from WSRC and households have to pay Rs-600/- for each household toilet. Hence the total amount which will be borne by WSRC is Rs-87,900/-, which will be directly paid by WSRC.
- For facilitation and after completion of each toilet DAS will be received Rs-300/- as facilitation cost from WSRC.

- Visibility materials will be developed and DAS will ensure the visibility after completion of each toilet.
- Till date 197 toilets constructed under Scheme of Swaccha Bharat Mission and Nirmal Gram Abhiyan and WSRC support Rs-300/- to 197 poor HHs for building their individual toilets.

Significant Achievements:

75% of targeted populations are in safe defecation practices

STRENGTHENING WATER AND SANITATION IN URBAN SETTINGS

Background

India, as other South Asian Countries, is heading towards a freshwater crisis mainly due to improper management and use of water resources and environmental degradation. The stress on human populations and ecosystems from this depleting water situation is further aggravated by a rapidly declining quality – in particular in urban areas. While the challenges on better water management remain huge, the situation on sanitation is



much worse. Beyond the issue of infrastructure is the fact that the per capita water supply itself, being inadequate and less than 140 to 200 lpcd (liters per capita per day), is an impediment as these are estimated to be the minimum flows required for a sewerage system to function properly. Thus, focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), in many ways leading to the definition of purpose for policy makers, designers and implementers, a project has been taken up. The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) & Development Action Society entered into a partnership in the year 2015 in three urban slums in ward-58 under jurisdiction of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) viz. Dhapa Dhipi, Dhapa Durgapur and Dhobia Tala on the backdrop of the grave situation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene with regards to inadequate availability and accessibility (knowledge, resources and practices).

The Goal of the project: is to achieve sanitation targets, through enhancement of people's capacity to choose appropriate options. The activities of the project are in alignment with the approach of Govt. of India flagship program 'Swach Bharat Abhijan'. One of the aims of the project sets out to reach 50,000 beneficiaries in low income settlements.



Objectives:

- Conduct a comprehensive WASH related risk analysis, including the living, social, gender-related variables and occupational conditions and human health impacts in cluster of three slums in Kolkata Ward 58.
- Develop and implement participatory intervention strategies in DhapaDhipi, Dhapa Durgapur & Dhobiatala in Ward 58.

Supporting Agency:

THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Highlights of Progress:**1. Sample survey of 517 households in three clusters:**

This Baseline Study was a part of the programme supported by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) titled “*Strengthening Water and Sanitation in Urban Settings*”. The sample study was conducted in three urban slums of Dhapa Durgapur, Dhapa Dhipi and Dhobiatala covering a population size of almost 30,000, situated under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), West Bengal. The summary of the key findings of the sample study in a sample size of 517 Households (HH) are presented below which shall enable strategizing and designing of key interventions:

2. Facilitation of water sampling (NABL will collect the water samples in presence of TERI personnel)

Water testing was done by TERI personnel on the 24th & 25th of May 2016 in the three project locations in Ward-58, KMC. The test report is yet to be shared with us. The schedule is as follows-

3. Facilitation of four structured FGDs, TERI professionals will carry out the FGDs:

Nb.: As per the contract this activity was to be conducted by TERI personnel, since it is still pending we can carry-out this activity and send you the report if consent is given to us.

4. Regular community meetings/interactions for two years on urban WASH

In this activity total 12 meetings have been conducted with 829 mothers and community key stakeholders on community WASH issues. Information was shared to the community through a film show on relevant WASH issues. The community was sensitized on the following issues –

- Safe water handling,
- Safe defecation practices,

- Best practices related personal hygiene, community hygiene and cleanliness
- Prevention and control of waterborne diseases

5. Cluster based 4x1 day workshops having 40-50 participants from the community and important stakeholders spread over two years

4 x 1 day workshops with more than 50 community participants and stakeholders have been conducted in all the three project locations. Ward President, Ward Councilor and key stakeholders were present in all the workshops. 224 people attended the 4 cluster based stakeholders workshops from three project locations.

6. Development of two existing community based WASH organizations – sensitization and capacity building:

7. Development of Five community based WASH organizations – monthly meeting:

Composition of WASH committees:

- Each WASH committee consists of a minimum 20 members.
- Each member represents –population of 250 people within their community.
- Regular orientation of WASH committees has been done through meetings and training.

WASH committees have taken responsibility of the following:

- Identification of community level issues on drinking water, safe sanitation and hygiene.

Practices:

- Issues have been raised in the concerned departments.
- Community level WASH monitoring mechanism has been developed.

Activities accomplished within the reporting period:

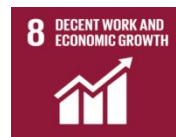
- 76 interested people from Dhapa Dhipi have been identified for formation of 2 WASH committees.
- 60 interested people were identified from Dhapa Durgapur and 2 WASH committees formed.
- 1 WASH committee formed in Dhobia Tala with 27 participants.

8. Mobilize the community using ‘citizen voice and action’ tool:

This activity will be carried out in the month of October 2016 and the report will be shared.

9. Other Major Events:

- TERI invited us to make a presentation on “Waste & Waste Management Solutions at School Level” where 100 KMC schools participated on 12th August 2015.
- We participated in “Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Urban)-Eastern Region” organized by TERI on 24th November 2015.
- We participated in a workshop on “Community Water Management Model” on 12th August 2015.
- We participated in the “World Water Day Celebration” at American Center on 22nd March 2016World Water Day Celebration.



LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMES

IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD OF 100 WOMEN THROUGH SUSTAINABLE POULTRY FARMING

Title: Procurement of Chicks to Mother Unit

Location: Korakhali Area

This project was initiated because it is one of the easiest means of livelihood in this area. Poultry, farming and animal rearing are activities that are easy and affordable for poor underprivileged people. This type of activity can help families to improve their economic condition. Male chicks can be sold as meat which is quite in demand in the markets. Similarly, female chicks can lay 10-14 eggs per month which can also be sold for money.

Objectives:

- To identify 100 participants for poultry training
- To strengthen the mother unit of rearing of chicks
- Economic upliftment of the 100 people involved in the programme.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR WOMEN OF JAMALPUR, NADIA.

Title: Textile Skills and Entrepreneurship

Location: Jamalpur, Nadia

Funding Partner: Urmibala Trust

Aims:

- Economically empower 23 women
- Learn and develop tailoring skills
- Gain knowledge of financial literacy and entrepreneur skills
- Utilise these skills as a future profession and means of income

Attendance:

- There were 23 students enrolled on 1st March 2018.
- Between March and September, 2 students left.
- As on 31st August 2018, there were 21 students.
- The average attendance of 21 trainees was 87% for the month of September 2018.

JUTE CRAFTS AND PRODUCTS, KHANABERIA KMC WARD 58

20 women trained under the Livelihood programme supported by GOAL India continued their activities in the work shed at Khanaberia.

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.

TAILORING TRAINING OF UNDERPRIVILEGED RURAL WOMEN & ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Funding Partners: TORONTO CALCUTTA FOUNDATION CANADA (TCF) & Associate Sponsor -Rotary Club of Calcutta Downtown (RCCDT)

Location: Korolberia Prathamik School, Charishwar Village, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

DAS is implementing a Tailoring Training Centre (**TTC**) project for teaching sewing skills to around 28 underprivileged rural women and adolescent girls who have no other livelihood means. It will be a 2-Year training programme. The project is being implemented in Charishwar village in South 24 Pargana District, West Bengal, India. Charishwar village is at a distance of 70 km (approx.) from Kolkata.



The project aims to provide not only tailoring skills but will also provide a measure of commercial and marketing skills for the students to exploit their learnt skills commercially. The implementation began from 17th June 2018 while the formal inauguration took place on 2nd July 2018.

The trainees were selected from the list of mothers who enrolled for the course. They were shortlisted based on their economic conditions, their enthusiasm for learning, their household condition (to determine whether it is possible for them to attend classes) and such other determining factors.



Attendance:

- There were 26 students enrolled on 1st March 2019.
- Between March and September, 1 student left.
- As on 31st March 2019, there were 25 students.
- The average attendance of 25 trainees was 78% for the month of March 2019.

Title: DAS - SUAS Collaboration on the development of Social Enterprises

Location: DAS community in Kolkata

Background:

- India is a country known for its Folk Culture and Folk Art. Indian folk artists are now struggling to sustain a livelihood due to the economic fallout from the coronavirus. The government is trying to help them by engaging in multiple schemes but the demand of such art is not generated yet in the urban places.

There are many art lovers who still appreciate this type of art who are making an effort to support but with the economy suffering, it will make it hard for these crafts to survive.

- Artists are limited in terms of opportunities, and they are not guided properly to showcase their art in more contemporary global ways.

Objectives:

- To generate an **income** and livelihood for those **Indian creatives** (women) within the DAS community who are **heavily impacted by unemployment** forced upon them due to the Coronavirus, resulting in many of them facing starvation. The money raised through this social enterprise, will mean that women will regain confidence in themselves, will earn money for their families and assist in the fight against the coronavirus. They will in turn be less exposed to violence in the home, and to dangerous jobs such as rat picking, and cheap labor risking their safety.
- To provide Indian Folk Artists a fair wage & **financial security** and access to a global market, increasing their knowledge of the global market and supply and demand of their products and how to modify to suit different cultures.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Gender Equality and the empowerment of women:

Issues with gender inequality and domestic violence have become an ever-pressing concern in marginalised 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 Covid19 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 sanitisers 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 realise their rights. The main strategies DAS have established revolve around advocacy, alternative livelihoods supports, counselling 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.



Name of the Project: **SAKHA**

Supported By: **AZAD FOUNDATION**

Project Summary:

The project will focus on **Female Youths**. Through life skill education and knowledge sharing specific areas the risk and vulnerabilities of the female youth would be addressed. These women are prepared to find dignified jobs focused on driving public transport vehicles like App-based cabs and taxis as they are being skilled technically. Life skill classes enable them to manage their crisis situations which are pertaining in health, education, livelihood and protection.

The proposed project location would be all the Gram Samsads of Tardaha Gram Panchayat under Bhangore Block I, adjacent areas like Bantala, Kheyadaha and all 144 Wards of KMC and 03 wards under Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

40 female youths will be provided with vehicle driving and other allied skills training in this specialized service sector. Development Action Society (DAS) will work with in liaison with various stakeholders like local schools, resident welfare associations, and network of youth clubs, police, education and labour department, media, corporate.

Specific Objectives:

- 40 women youths will be identified from the targeted areas within a period of twelve months.
- Mapping of vehicle operators, training institutes and its associated cost within Kolkata for a period of two months.
- Training 40 potential women youths for public vehicle (taxi) driving and operations.
- Link them with Azad Foundation to operationalize the profession.
- Educate the youths of the targeted areas on hazardous occupation in the unorganized job sectors.
- Provide life skill support to the identified women youths of the locality.



Project Outcomes:

- 06 staffs aligned and trained with “**Skill Building and Placement of Marginalized Women Youth**” project

- 40 women youth engaged in hazardous activities will be provided skill training on public vehicle (taxi) driving, and self-employment as a means of livelihood
- 40 women youths will be provided psychosocial support through counseling and play therapy.
- 40 women youths will be provided life skills, skill building training to develop discipline, work culture & ethics
- 40 women youths linked with formal financial institutions.
- 12 street plays/puppet shows/ Auto campaign conducted
- Interface meeting with all stakeholders at all phases
- 12 Project Planning & review meetings held
- 12 meetings with key stakeholders and stakeholders