



Kolkata Mary Ward
Social Centre



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

*Our gracious step towards
achieving ten years of success*



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Essence of **KMWSC**

VISION

The vision of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre is to ensure that the values of love, freedom, sincerity and justice are experienced and lived out by all.

MISSION

Our mission is to empower every person who is touched by our work through the values of love, freedom, sincerity and justice. We have a rights-based and participatory approach. Within this, we cherish a special love for and commitment to the poor, especially women and children. We try to show this love through our attitudes, structure and work.

GOALS

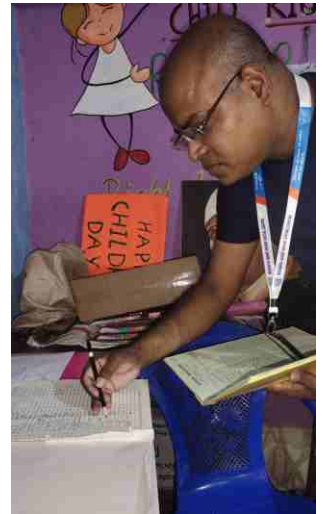
- To reduce all forms of violence and injustice against women and girls.
- To ensure, through our service, that every Child and Woman is supported with love and care.
- To promote gender equality and empowerment at all levels through education and creative opportunities.



Monitoring Visit



Monitoring visits were conducted for better transparency and accountability among the projects. The director, finance team and program team shares the feedback and more innovative ideas were generated after such fruitful visits. They play a crucial role in ensuring the effective implementation of the programs and encourage the building of relationships between our Director and the communities we collaborate with – helping us to journey and grow with others.



- Director's monitoring visit – in four phases
- Program team cross monitoring visit
- Financial monitoring visit



Governing Body Members



Name	Position
Sr Sabrina Edwards	President
Sr Priyanka Topno	Vice President
Sr Sanjyoti Kerketta	Treasurer
Sr Beatrice Stuart	Member
Sr Josephine Burh	Member
Sr Biviyana Lepcha	Member
Sr Monica Suchiang	Secretary/Director

Our Family Strength

Name	Designation	Email
Sr. Monica Suchiang	Secretary/ Director	kmwscloreto@gmail.com
LEAD PROGRAM TEAM		
Rina Kumari Singh	Senior program Team Lead: Education	kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com
Samata Bali	Senior Program Lead-Human Resource and Administration cum Livelihood	kmwsc.projects14@gmail.com
Sanjay Baxla	Senior Program Lead -child Rights and Community development	kmwscchildright@gmail.com
Nabanita Shome	Senior Program Lead- Protection and Prevention	kmwsc.redlightproject@gmail.com
Samrat Bagh	Senior Finance Officer	kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com
PROJECT TEAM		
Akhil Roy	Field Implementer- Brickfield School project	kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com
Sarmistha Acharjee Guha	Project Implementer	cr.kmwsc@gmail.com
Ankita Roy	Child Protection Officer	kmwscrankita@gmail.com
Pouspi Talukder	Project Implementer	kmwsc.documentation@gmail.com
Anup Biswas	Documentation Executive	programmes.kmwsc@gmail.com
Vidya Bhushan Singh	Field Mobilizer	kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com
Priti Kumari Singh	Field Animator	kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com
John Thomas Gomes	Accountant	kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com
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Gayatri Roy	Documentation Officer	kmwscatdoc@gmail.com
Sr. Preety Pratima Minj	Field Associate	
Hedaye Tullah	Office Assistant	kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com
OFFICE ASSISTANCE		
Ranjit Bag	Office Assistant	
Mukesh Toppo	Security Personnel	



Interns & Volunteers visiting **KMWSC**

INTERNS

Name	Universities/College
Augustina Paul	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Olivia Germain	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Anusha Poddar	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Avarna Sah	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Minati M. Tigga	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Anisha Kerketta	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Mou Mahata	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
Ayushree Mitra	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
Nelupha Abbas Sultana	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

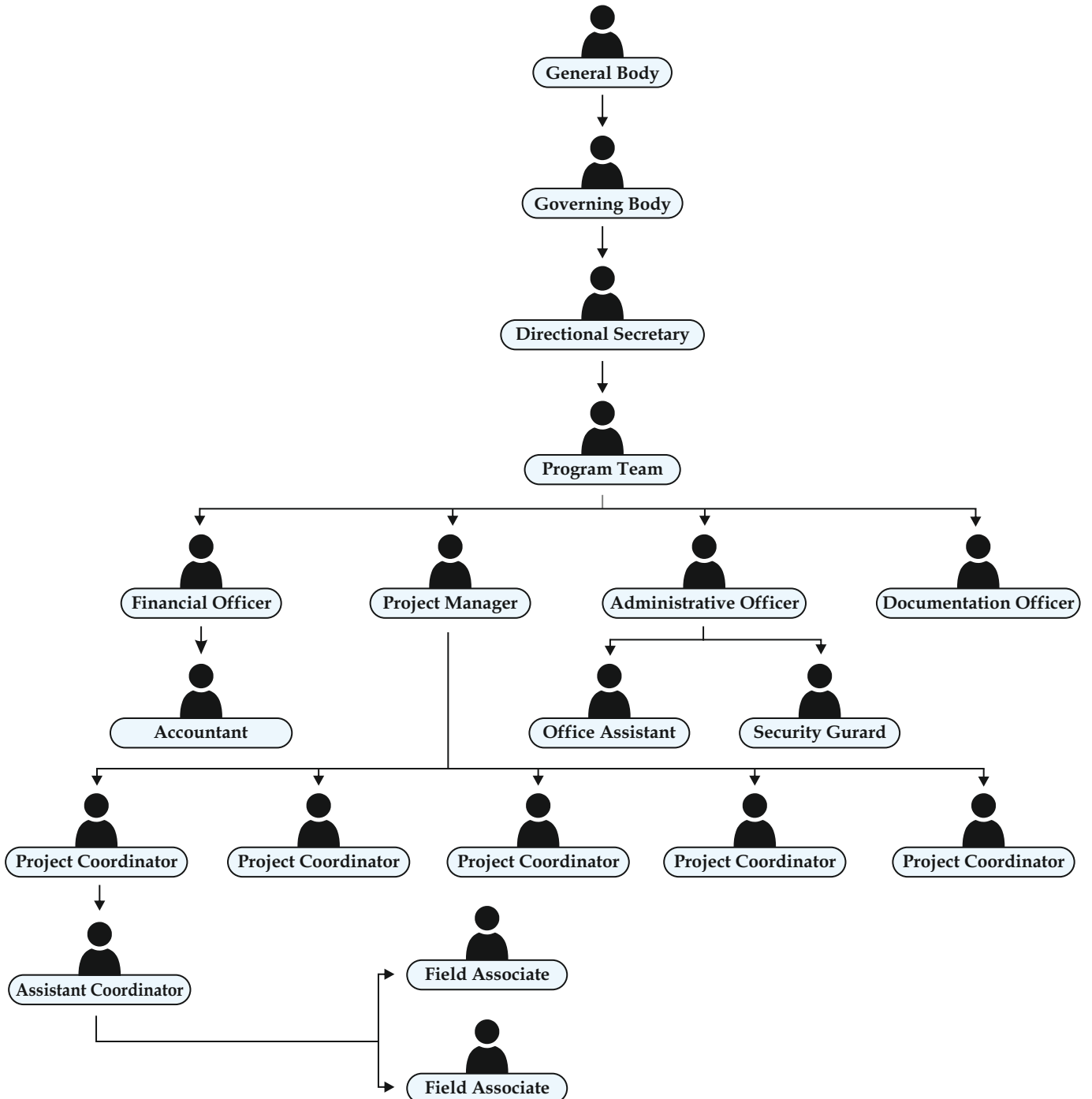
VOLUNTEERS

Name	Months
Sr. Bipasha	November 2023
Sr. Rajni Panna	
Gonzalo Bontet	May 2023

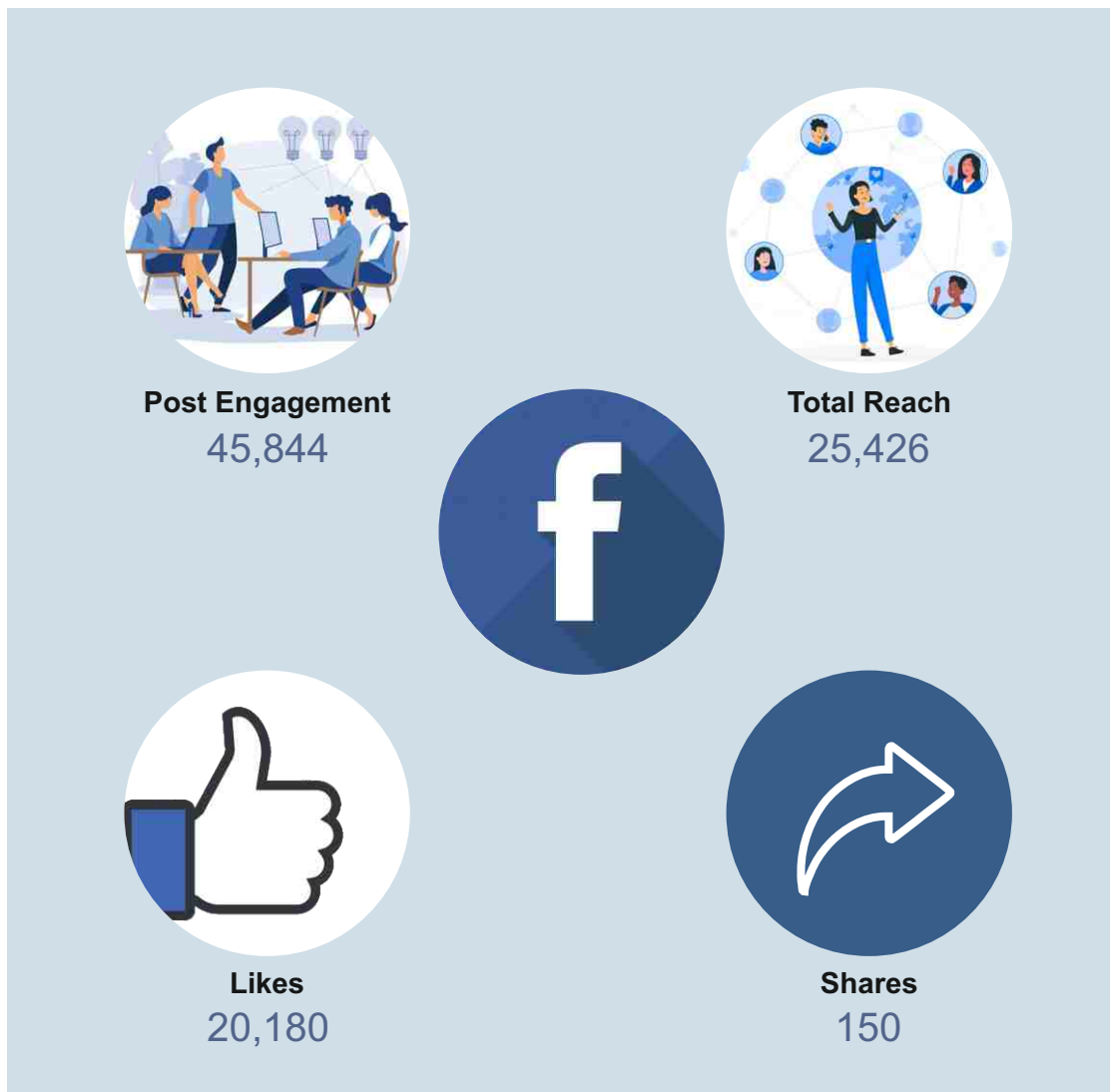


Orientation Session was conducted for 65 students of Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change on 9th November, 2023 at KMWSC office.

Organogram



Our reach out



In the Loving Memory of **Sr. Cyril**



Praying for the Eternal Repose of the soul of Sr. Cyril Mooney IBVM who has left for heavenly abode. Adieu Sr. Cyril, May your soul enjoy the eternal bliss in the arms of the Almighty.



Vice President's Message



'When you are Real, you are unique.'

Dear well-wishers, thank you for your time and keen interest in our work.

On behalf of the Loreto Sisters in South Asia, we sincerely appreciate your enthusiastic and continuous engagement with the KMWSC team across various locations in West Bengal and Bihar.

I, along with many others, can vouch for the continued inspiration provided by the dedicated service rendered to society at large by the vibrant team members under the spirited leadership of Sr. Monica Suchiang.

We are grappling with various global issues, our environment is clouded with ideas, and we have all experienced space constraints. It has become necessary to switch to a 5 Gigabyte bandwidth for faster accessibility. We are moving towards greater aspirations and accelerated progress. Let us also remind ourselves that we are the creators of imbalances and gaps in our own spheres.

KMWSC stands here with its constant initiatives as steadfast as rock, bridging bonds of fraternal care as responsible human beings. Their outreach, impact on lives, and support for our people have been exceptional. Their conscious embrace of our brethren with fraternal care has enabled them to face all challenges with confidence.

We applaud their commitment.

As we reflect on the year 2023-24 through the pages of this 10th edition, may we be urged towards taking a unique step forward...

Blessings of courage and perseverance to the KMWSC team as you look ahead to nurturing lives and deepening your roots of service and commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Topno".

Sr Priyanka Topno
IBVM

Director's Message



Standing on the verge of our tenth year of community service, we are overcome with a deep sense of appreciation and introspection. It feels like just yesterday when Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre set out on its mission, driven by a vision to promote social change and uplift the marginalized.

Over the past decade, fueled by our steadfast dedication to justice and equality, we have witnessed remarkable transformations within our community. Through an array of programs and initiatives, we have extended a helping hand to those in need, equipping them with the resources and support necessary for progress.

This journey has been marked by challenges and obstacles. Yet, each trial has served to fortify our determination and solidify our sense of purpose. It is through adversity that we have evolved, imbibing invaluable lessons and fostering deeper connections with those we serve.

Reflecting on the past year fills us with immense pride in our collective achievements. We have expanded our programs and introduced new initiatives aimed at empowerment, protection, training, and advocacy, significantly furthering our mission.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, supporters, educational institutions, corporate partners, and all those who have rallied behind our cause. Your steadfast commitment has been the driving force behind our success, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

Looking back on my tenure at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre over the past decade, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and humility. This journey has been transformative, shaping me into the person I am today.

During my time here, I have gleaned lessons that transcend mere professional growth. The myriad experiences and encounters have underscored the significance of empathy, resilience, and compassion. Witnessing the impact of individuals dedicated to uplifting others has inspired me to champion positive change in the world.

To all at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, including well-wishers, friends, and mentors, I extend my heartfelt appreciation. Each of you has played a role in my growth and learning that words cannot fully capture. Your guidance, encouragement, and camaraderie have been the bedrock of my journey here. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities, challenges, and shared victories we have experienced together.

As we embark on the next phase of our journey, we do so with renewed determination and optimism. With your continued support, we are confident in our ability to build upon the foundation we have laid over the past decade and continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

As I transition to a new chapter, I carry with me the lessons and memories from my time at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. I am proud to have been part of this exceptional community, and I remain steadfast in upholding its values wherever life takes me. Thank you for the profound impact you have had on my life.

Your ongoing support and dedication to Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre are deeply appreciated. Together, we can work towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all.



Sr Monica Suchiang
Director/ Secretary
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

Program Team Message



Nabanita Shome



Rina Singh



Samrat Bagh



Sanjay Baxla



Samata Bali

Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved and as a team we have witnessed the change and transformation happening among the communities, with children, adolescents, women and the stakeholders. As a program team this is our successful year of completion of the journey with KMWSC, April 2023 to March 2024. We are one drop Individually, Together, we are an ocean. We five individuals represent different qualities and skills but together as a team, we have grown up in our leadership, decision making and team building spirit along with KMWSC. This has also strengthened and deepened our inner being to be a better human person and serve the children, adults, youth, women, parents and the communities from different rural & urban parts of West Bengal and Nawada District in Bihar through different projects of KMWSC. Our commitment and dedication towards the organisation has enriched and have strengthened its values, its structure, process, system and its policies as a flourishing year of accomplishment not just for the organisation but for every member in the KMWSC family.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness to our mentor Sister Monica Suchiang and the entire KMWSC family from office and from field to help us grow and expand our learning curve. As a program team, we extend our sincere gratitude to Sister Monica for her innovative contributions towards empowering and facilitating the effective functioning of lay individuals within the organization over the years. As you conclude your tenure and transition to new responsibilities, we extend our heartfelt best wishes. Your guidance and mentorship will be cherished and carried with us throughout our lives, influencing not only our professional endeavours but also our personal growth.

We Look forward to a brighter future as individual, as team and as an organisation to 'Do good and do it well - Mary Ward.

Nabanita Shome

Rina Singh

Samrat Bagh

Sanjay Baxla

Samata Bali

Some Glimpses of our Project Work



Proud Moment of **KMWSC**

TELEGRAPH AWARD

KMWSC is extremely proud of our child parliament leader from the Human rights project at Diamond Harbour Ms Arifa Khatun for receiving the Telegraph Award for courage 2023.



BRAVERY AWARD

KMWSC congratulates to Dhruba Banerjee, Mohenwedden Sardar, Saruk Sardar, Shayoni Karmakar, Ananya Biswas, Bhoumika Biswas, Trishna Mondal and Rakhi Dutta for being the recipients of Birangana and Bir Purush Awards bestowed upon them by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) at a ceremony held on 30th November 2023 at Mohor Kunja. We are proud of them and hats off to their bravery.





Climate Action Award 2023 Second Place

Cultivating Hope: Empowering Brickfield Communities through Organic Sack Farming

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Loreto
Kolkata, India

JOHN MOFFETT
CEO, Misean Cara

KEVIN CARROLL
Chairperson, Misean Cara
Board of Directors

Profuse Visits

Dates	Name of the Visitor	Country & Organization	Projects Visited
13 th April 2023	Esther Sulker	Calcutta Rescue, Netherlands	Brickfield School Projects
18 th of April'2023	Kim Prodinger With Team	St. Ignatius College, Riverview, Australia	Skill Development Project & IDENTITY
8 th May' 2023	Bisakha Sen	Child Protection Officer for the developing work of the Indian Province	Brickfield School Projects
11 th of October' 2023	Derek O'Brien,	Member of Parliament	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre - Sanitary Pad Unit
5 th August 2023	Community Leaders	Loreto sisters	Anti Human Trafficking, Brick Field School Project & Child Rights Project
14 th October 2023	Ms. Jimena Francos	Manos Unidas - Spain	IDENTITY Project
14 th November 2023	Board members from SAC	Netherlands	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre - Skill Development Unit
November 2023	Bipasa Murmu and Rajani Panna	Loreto Novices	Lotus Child and Tribal Community Development and Empowerment Project
December 2023	Norma Matthew	England	Project visited at Sonagachi
10 th January 2024	Sr. Carmel Ibvm the Mother General	Rome	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
4 th January 2024	Sr. Kate Ibvm	Rome	Red-light Project
21 st January 2024	Lilian	Calcutta Rescue, Netherlands	Brickfield School Projects
1 st to 13 th February 2024	St. Stephen's Green	Loreto College Dublin, Ireland	IDENTITY Project
19 th February 2024	Henk Loos	Calcutta Rescue, Netherlands	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre





Skill Enhancement Training for Staffs

Successful staff skill enhancement sessions were conducted on 14th of April, 2023 on the Human Resource Policy, Child Protection Policy and Financial Policy at KMWSC office. A thorough training was attended by the office as well as field staffs.

Capacity Building Training to the KMWSC staffs on the photography on 23rd & 24th August 2023 by Fr. Arvind, Salesien of Don Bosco (S.D.B.) to record meaningful photos from the field level.

Capacity Building Training of KMWSC staffs on **Management and Life Skill Training on Challenges faced with adolescents** was successfully held on 25th August 2023 in collaboration with the medical institution - SSKM Hospital.

Capacity Building Training was conducted for the KMWSC staff on strong team building, improved interpersonal relationships and polished communication & interaction abilities on 23rd & 24th of January 2024.

KMWSC collaborated with Jay Prakash Institute of Social Change where 3-days prolonged training from 13th to 15th of December' 2023 was given to



the staffs attended which focused on the governmental measures for the differently-abled persons, functions of correctional home, children psychology and transgender rights.

Caritas India had initiated various trainings for our child leaders, for growing their capacity and developing them for working against child protection issues. These trainings include:

- Orientation and planning meet at SPMUS Training Centre, Murshidabad
- One day training program on volunteering, children parliament, Training of Trainers and Bridge Course, Child Trafficking, Life Skills,
- Youth facilitator training in collaboration with Campaign Against Child Labour for child manifesto
- Meeting & Discussion on Strategic Planning was held with the KMWSC team by the professional to determine the organization's direction and path for the next 10 years.

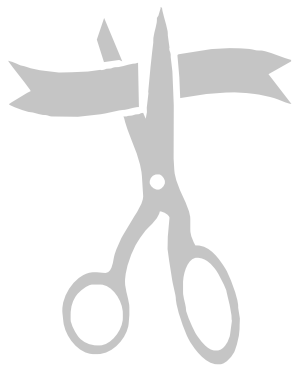
Monthly Staff Meetings were held at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre by the staff at the end of every month which was minited for proper documentation purposes. Through these staff meetings, the team gets a learning exposure from inter project activity, challenges, learning that were shared by each project team.



New Beginnings

INAUGURATION OF PAD ATM

KMWSC has introduced a new idea of Sanitary PAD ATM



A Free Sanitary PAD ATM was inaugurated at Basirhat, Border Security Force- Koijhuri Camp & Red-light area. The inauguration was held with a strong speech on the benefits and purpose of the ATM. This initiative was taken to make the program participants come out from the fear and hesitation of speaking on menstruation and taking care of their menstrual hygiene. It can be availed by adolescent girls in emergency situations and for those who cannot afford the cost of using a Sanitary Napkin. Along with this, it will also sustain the emergency situation for the trafficked victims at the BSF Camp.

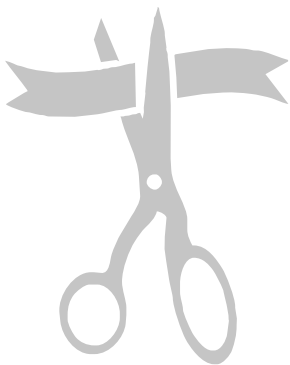


INAUGURATION OF SAFETY CORNER



Child Friendly Corner was decorated at Baduria police station at Basirhat as initiated by Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre under Anti Human Trafficking Project on 12th May 2023 to create a safe place for the children so that they can

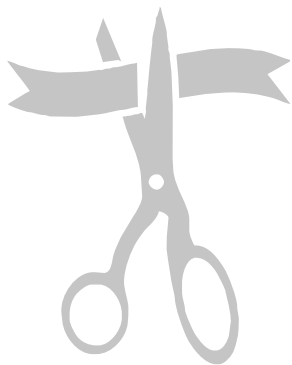
access the police station without any hesitation under a friendly environment with all the available facilities. The police staffs were also oriented on the same. Child Friendly Corner plays an important role to guarantee children's right to survival, development, protection and participation and specially protection in situation of crisis and insecurity, BSF Unit-102.



LAUNCH OF MY DAY-Z

WELCOME TO
THE LAUNCH
OF *"My Days"*

Date: 11.10.2023
Venue: K.M.W.S.C



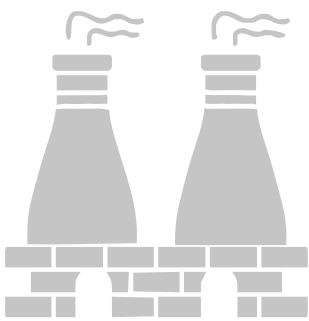
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre took a huge initiative with the launching of their brand of the Sanitary Pad Unit with the concept of –“Our Rights, Our Future” with an effective and encouraging programme. It was a small step taken towards the solution for a bigger problem ,that is, Period, Poverty and Social Taboos attached with Menstruation.

In an attempt to address both the issues ,the brand launch of the sanitary pad unit,“**MY Days**”took place, which looked to provide free access to sanitary pads and bring about an awareness on menstruation in the remotest and underprivileged areas where women, and adolescent girls remain unnoticed and uncared for.

The whole team of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre came together taking the oath to keep in mind the vision & mission of the brand launch which reiterates that women will fly high with dignity and respect with due regard to a woman's' body and will emphasise that “**NO GIRL STANDS ALONE WITH PERIODS**”.

Brickfield School Project

The Brickfield School Project endeavours to furnish education to children from both inter-state and intra-state migrant families, who relocate, along with their kin, to brickfields in West Bengal in pursuit to fulfil the needs of survival and livelihood. Throughout their stay at these brickfields, these children are deprived of educational opportunities. Our initiative not only seeks to impart education to these youngsters while they reside at the brickfields but also aims to reintegrate them into Government educational establishments upon their return to their native "source areas." Additionally, we extend basic healthcare and medical examinations to migrant families during their stay. Assistance is also provided in the form of institutional treatment in cases of medical emergencies. The project also provides training in tailoring to mothers and adolescent girls and boys of the migrant brickfield families engaged as labourers in the brickfields at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas district. Raising awareness on pertinent social issues among migrant families and engaging with various government bodies and project stakeholders constitute integral components of our mission.



LOCATION:

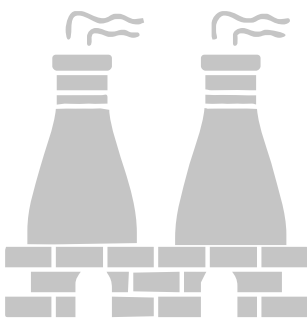
1) In West Bengal

- a) Budge Budge & Akra in South 24 Parganas
- b) Basirhat & Haroa in North 24 Parganas and
- c) Kalyani in Nadia district

2) Nawada district in Bihar

Direct Beneficiaries: 6,397

Indirect Beneficiaries: 18,549

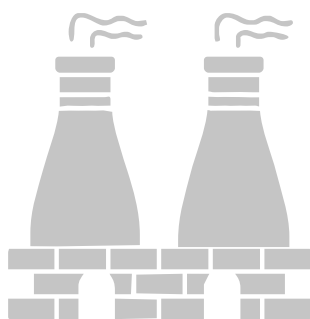


Important Activities

- 1 Leading teachers Training to strengthen their monitoring and supervision skills
- 2 Teachers training (field level) to strengthen their teaching skills and classroom management
- 3 Educating children through Open Air Trunk Schools to improve the quality of education among the children
- 4 Advocacy with Primary Health Centres (PHC) of health department, Government of West Bengal for all brickfield location
- 5 Advocacy with health department, Government of West Bengal, Vaccination of the BFS children and pregnant mothers
- 6 Advocacy with Government School (W.B.) & Nawada
- 7 Main streaming of BFS returning children, in formal education systems of the country.
- 8 BFS Health check-up & awareness programme
- 9 Annual Sports and drawing competitions were conducted with the children



- 10 Monitoring visit.
- 11 Emergency medical cases interventions
- 12 Ration Distribution
- 13 Advocacy with Education Department of Nawada for main streaming of Brickfield School Returning back children in Government Schools, children in residential homes, awareness programmes for community and trainings for Adolescent group.
- 14 Trainings for Government School Teachers in Nawada district to equip them with special teaching methodologies required to teach the brickfield returning children.
15. In the tailoring course program at Basirhat resource centre where 40 beneficiaries were registered and are successfully continuing the course to empower themselves. 24 from Adolescents groups 10 Boys and 14 girls and 16 mothers from the brickfields.



Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Budge Budge	260
2	Akra	408
3	Haroa	228
4	Basirhat	592
5	Kalyani	588



Anti Human Trafficking Project



SCAR-Sensitization of Communities and Adolescents at Risk: to combat Human Trafficking and Child Abuse

To create a safety net in the community to combat trafficking and re-trafficking. The project moves forward with the victim centric approach and focuses on creating a right based environment for the community especially for its Adolescent group members and the community vigilance group members who in-turn act as our eyes and ear in the community.

LOCATION: BASHIRHAT

Direct Beneficiaries: 3155

Indirect Beneficiaries: 8724

Important Activities

- 1 We have started 2 new child Parliament and Community vigilance group (CVC) in 2 new villages. Now we have a total 15 child parliaments and CVC group in Basirhat.
- 2 In the year, a total 12 Child Parliament (CP) and 12 CVC with 20 fixed members in each of the group adding up to a total of 136 CVC meeting in 12 months. (Total participation number CVC- 2476) 144 CP meetings were conducted in 12 months leading up to a total of 2650 participants.
- 3 Conducted 2 capacity building training of child leaders with 50 participants
- 4 1 no- cost Capacity building training of CVC members on mental health was conducted.





- 5 2 Exposure visits were conducted with total 100 participants.
- 6 6 staff capacity building trainings were held at KMWSC office on trafficking, child rights, child protection, POCSO, JJ act, HR policy and Finance policy of the organisation awareness on trafficking, child protection and gender equality laws and acts, child tracking, networking and relationship development with beneficiaries and government stakeholders
- 7 Formation of safety corner at Koujhuri Boarder Security Camp with safe zone register. The illegal cross boarder cases i.e. 15 trafficking case intervened by the BSF are recorded in the register and taken upon by the staff for case intervention.
- 8 Through the other set-up of child friendly corner inside Bhaduria Police station, KMWSC intervened in 4 kidnapped cases with help of the West Bengal Police.
- 9 6 Mass Awareness (participants - 8200), 12 community awareness (participants - 388) was conducted.
- 10 Peer to Peer tracking to track trafficking cases was on regular basis.
- 11 Capacity Building of child parliament leaders and members were conducted monthly.
- 12 2 No -cost activity "Railway station" mass awareness was conducted with the local Indian railway staff with total participants of 243 (M- 121 & F- 122).
- 13 4 School Awareness programmes were held at Bankra Madrasha, Balti High school and Dahltita High school in Basirhat with total participants of students 392
- 14 College Awareness : Awareness was held at Tutuila Collage with total participation of 132 students(M- 49 & F- 83) on trafficking





- 15 Leaflet and booklet distribution –number of activities were done with 351 participants.
- 16 Local case intervention through local networking with law enforcement, panchayat, Border security force.
- 17 Home visit : Home visit was conducted in 12 villages (M-407 & F-1234) to know the status of the fields.
- 18 4 ICDS, SHG, grampanchayat awareness meetings were conducted at Sayestanagar GP and Kaijuri GP with 78 participants (M-47& F- 31) on Child labour, Child Rights, Child marriage, Trafficking, Trafficking system, health and hygiene, Cyber Crime.
- 19 3 Sensitization meetings were held with Block, law enforcement and Panchayet on trafficking, child protection and gender equality. Total participants 69 with Males being -53 and Females being 16.



Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Bashirhat	32

Empowerment and Leadership of the Survivors

The project focuses on empowering the survivors from all kind of abuses and to promote social welfare and the well-being of survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, trafficking, abuse, indentured slavery and/or exploitation.

LOCATION: BASHIRHAT

Direct Beneficiaries: 20

Indirect Beneficiaries: 40



Important Activities

- 1 We have conducted 12 groups meeting with 2 survivor's group on preventing trafficking, laws and acts on trafficking and POCSO.
- 2 We are conducted 7 group counselling support for 2 survivors group in Baisrhat.
- 3 5 survivor's education has supported.
- 4 2 times survivors were given nutrition support for their livelihood and survival support.
- 5 2 Capacity building training has been conduct for the survivors.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Bashirhat	20



Supporting the **Rights** of the Marginalised **Children, Women** and **People**

with disabilities in the disadvantaged district of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal



The first focus of the project was safeguarding of children. The Child rights violations were generally not addressed because of a lack of awareness and family pride due to orthodox thinking. We aimed to address this by establishing child parliaments, through which, vulnerable children were identified and monitored. This monitoring system was an innovative, successful model recently developed by KMWSC that created a safety net in the community. By practicing the model, we recently intervened in 19 Child marriage cases, 7 trafficking cases, 7 missing child cases and 2 sexual abuse cases. 2 child parliament members received bravery awards from the government for their work.



A second focus area was on addressing gender-based discrimination and violence. Women often do not have a voice. This, combined with poor education, makes them vulnerable to domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, bondage labour and being trafficked. The project aimed to address this through the formation of Community Vigilance Committees (CVC) where we raised awareness on gender-based norms and empower women to fight for their rights. Men were engaged through awareness campaigns to change the mind set. We aimed to build a movement to change deep-rooted cultural norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence.



A third area of focus would be addressing the rights of people with disabilities who face enormous challenges, stigma and discrimination. The project worked to create awareness of their rights and guiding them through the process of applying for government schemes. Counselling



sessions were provided. Awareness was created in the local community on the myths and stereotypes ,related to disability. Sensitization of the community from orthodox patriarchal mindset to being aware on rights violation issues and thus in turn form safety net in community and act as protective shield.

Direct Beneficiaries: 1753

Indirect Beneficiaries: 2800



Important Activities

- 1 Child Parliament Meeting with adolescent group on human rights
- 2 Community Vigilance Committee Meeting on awareness on human rights
- 3 Mass Awareness and Community Awareness with community people on education, protection and health along with Workshop with local Vehicle union, shop keeper union.
- 4 Sensitization meeting on health and hygiene awareness
- 5 Meeting with PWD on health and hygiene awareness and Schemes available for disabled persons and children in special need.
- 6 Networking and advocacy with Govt. departments and providing hand hold support on POCSO cases.
- 7 Working together with CWC at South 24 parganas ,and supporting in Social investigation report in collaboration with Child Welfare Committee

Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Diamond Harbour	11

Red Light Project

- Mothers in Sex Trade (MIST)

Reducing the vulnerability of the sex workers at Sonagachi through awareness and advocacy by making them financially literate and making them aware on the importance of saving and planning. They usually lose all their assets to substance abuse, superstition or get cheated by people and brokers. Basic adult education is required for them to understand the school functioning of their children and to be able to sign their own name. The team not only focussed on creating awareness on good parenting, child rights, human rights laws and different government schemas but also on how one should undertake work with love, care and dignity so that the sex workers feel empowered to start a new journey towards a safer and secure future.



LOCATION: SONAGACHI

Direct Beneficiaries: 50

Indirect beneficiaries: 100.



Important Activities

- 1 Basic Education Classes
- 2 Free distribution of Condom & contraceptives
- 3 Free distribution of sanitary pad
- 4 Health and hygiene awareness meeting
- 5 Rights and legal acts awareness meeting
- 6 Financial and legal documents awareness meeting
- 7 Capacity Building workshop of MIST group.
- 8 Sanitary Pad ATM Inauguration.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Sonagachi	14

Red Light Project

- Providing Education and Protection to Vulnerable Children at Sonagachi

Children of 3 to 18 years receive holistic development from the project through therapeutically and remedial classes. The children have access to a child-friendly corner inside Sonagachi.

Rescue and rehabilitation support is provided. The children will have physical and mental development through counseling sessions, access to games sessions and nutrition support.



LOCATION: SONAGACHI

Direct Beneficiaries: 75

Indirect beneficiaries: 232.





Important Activities

- 1 Therapeutic Classes for MAC centre students- Arts & Craft, Karate, and Dance.
- 2 Child Parliament meeting with adolescent children
- 3 Group Counselling sessions
- 4 Exposure visit with the children
- 5 Five Sponsored children were provided Education support
- 6 Special day celebration- Christmas, Children's Day, Teachers' Day, Women's Day, Sarsawati puja, Holi were celebrated at the centre.
- 7 Conducted Annual Sports Day at the centre

Monitoring and Evaluation

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Sonagachi	14

Surokhit Shaishav Project - Promoting Safe Childhood



Basirhat subdivision is part of the Ichhamati-Raimangal Plain, located on the banks of Ichhamati river. Many remote villages of this sub-division share their borders with Bangladesh. KMWSC started to work with the community people and children focusing on the Protection, education of children in 21 villages under 3 Gram-Panchayats of Basirhat Block-1 near Indo Bangladesh border since October 2019.

The project has completed three years and now the second phase of the project is ongoing. Being the border villages the children live in high risk zones. Child labour, child trafficking, early marriage and pregnancy, pre- natal deaths are common due to child marriages. Sexual harassment and abuses are also a threat





for children in those border villages. During last three years of intervention in 20 villages through community awareness & mass sensitization campaigns, auto campaign on child labour, capacity building programme, formation of child clubs, periodic leadership training and workshop , formation of CBOs- mothers collectives, strengthening the child friendly police station , VLCPC, VEC, SMCs, home visits, guardians meet, networking and advocacy with the local governing body-CWC, DSWO, DCPU and police , the project has impacted the lives of the villagers and has brought change in the mind set of children and the community people at large. We have intervened the following cases during last 1 year in 2023.



LOCATION: BASIRHAT-1, North 24 Pgs, West Bengal (Near Indo-Bangladesh Border)



Important Activities

- 1 Half yearly / Yearly Awareness campaign to parents and care givers on early marriage, child abuse and labour and entitlement of children (Govt schemes, RTE, ICDS), in the Tourism sector and Travel Agencies & Job Placement Cells-
 - Village Awareness Campaigns were conducted in 9 villages with 315 numbers of villagers.
 - 4 times the Awareness Campaigns were run with 153 BN BSF-Ghojadanga and 102 BN BSF was conducted with joint collaborations.
 - Mass Awareness on Menstrual Health and Hygiene(Participants-100).
 - Awareness Programme with ICDS Workers, Health Workers at ICDS centres and Health Centres was conducted 8 times on Child Protection issues at 8 different villages under Gachha-Akharpur GP, Itinda-Panitor GP and Sangrampur-Shibhati GP.
 - 4 times Awareness Campaigns were conducted through postering, auto-toto campaigning and Sticker campaigning at villages and Day Celebrations.
 - Awareness Programmes were conducted through Cycle Rally along with BSF and Itinda Union School during the Child Rights Week Observation.
 - Awareness Campaign for linkage with Niramoy Card with 22 specially abled children.
 - National Legal Awareness by DALSA.





- 2 Observation of National level - Anti Child Labour Day and World Day against trafficking in persons.
 - Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day Celebration through Awareness Campaign.
 - Celebration of World Environment Day through Awareness Rally in collaboration with Basirhat Network Panitor Pally Unnayan Samity(NGO) and Itinda-Panitor Panchayat-planted 100 trees.
 - Observation of World Day against Child Labour through Street Play in collaboration with BSF and Gachha-Akharpur GP.
 - Observation of World Day against Trafficking in Persons through TiE at Gachha Akharpur Anchal High School(Participants-120).
 - Observation of National Nutrition Month with ICDS Workers through Awareness campaign with ICDS centre Children.
 - Observation of International Girl Child Day through Sticker campaigning of Child Leaders and Sharing on Menstrual Hygiene in the presence of State Level Govt Dignitaries.
- 3 Training / Orientation of Para legal volunteers on half yearly basis- Interaction and Sharing Meet with S-DLSA, ICDS workers, ANMs and CBO members was conducted at Basirhat Townhall for better collaboration in matter of child protection cases and better visibility of organisation.
- 4 Reconstitution / Strengthening of other Child protection systems- VLCPC, BLCPC and WLCPCs -Gram-Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee Re-formation and strengthening meeting was conducted at 3gram-pachayats.
- 5 Childs rights and protection orientation to CWPOs, Civic Police Volunteers and Police officials, members of VLCPCs, Panchayat functionaries.
- 6 Block level workshops on child related schemes, scholarships, and financial aid with community and Stakeholders - "Jan Sunvai".
- 7 Formation and federation of children's parliament in villages and blocks.
- 8 Counselling session for parents and care givers on good parenting, local Government schemes related to children - Education & Health
 - Awareness Session on Parenting and Child Protection (Participants-60)

- Awareness on Mental Health and Management of psychological issues in collaboration with Institute of psychiatric social work; Total- 57, (M-12, F-45)
 - 9 Sensitisation dialogues with CCI / OH and Transit Homes at Block and District Level , the Hotel & Restaurant associations, union of taxi drivers, shop keepers, boat union and employers and employers for creating safe spaces for children/towards pledging 'No to Child labour.
 - 10 Formation and Strengthening of Children Clubs.
 - 11 Regular Monthly Meeting for Child Clubs.
 - 12 Strengthening and Reconstitution of CBOs in intervention villages.
 - 13 Exposure visit of partners to gain field level knowledge and experience - in Areas of Child labour, marriage, trafficking and education.
 - 14 Parenting and child development training to care givers of CCIs, Observation Homes, Transit Homes and CR Program team /Capacity building of staffs on Government schemes, VEC, VLCPC, SMC etc. meeting conduct
 - 15 Formation of Teachers Forum on Child Rights.
 - 16 Life Skill Training for vulnerable Children and Adolescents.
- District Level Advocacy through Inclusion of Specially abled and Orphan Children on Children’s Day, 2023 (For Every Child Every Right).



Direct Beneficiaries: 2440
 Indirect Beneficiaries: 7320



Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Caritas Monitoring Visit	2 days
2	Director’s Monitoring Visit	01 time
3	PC and CPO monitoring visit	20 times

I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y.

- Involvement, Development and Empowerment of in need individuals through you Project

The project aims to identify the children working in different sectors as child labourers and main stream and reintegrate them into formal education system for their continuation of the studies subsequently which leads to obtain a dignified jobs and earning. Children between the age group of 6 to 15 would be mainstreamed into Government schools and the ones aged 16 and above would be admitted into the Open School system and bridge course. The other objective was to empower them with knowledge about Child rights and Child Protection issues and develop their leadership skills through periodic leadership workshops, which in the long term will help towards sustenance of the programme. Procuring Government Identity Cards for the slum dwellers and bringing them under respective development schemes of the Government is another key objective of the project.



**LOCATION: BUSIEST SLUMS OF KOLKATA
- HASTINGS, DHAPA, MOTIJHEEL**

Direct Beneficiaries: 325

Indirect Beneficiaries: 300





Sl No	Major Activities	Count
1	Mainstreaming children into government schools	61
2	Successful procurement of birth certificates	07
3	Successful procurement of aadhar card	03
4	Successful in getting of differently abled cards for one child	01
5	Enrolment of adolescent into an open school	01

Important Activities

- 1 5 Health Camps for the needy community people for free health check-up and distribution of medicines as prescribed by the doctor
- 2 3 Life Skill Trainings for Adolescents on Stress Management and coping with emotions
- 3 Annual Sports Day was conducted at all the three centres
- 4 5 Awareness Meetings with mothers on good parenting skills and menstrual hygiene were conducted
- 5 Capacity Building Trainings for Staff on classroom management, joyful learning and child protection



Distribution Programs

- 1 School Bags were distributed for 160 children
- 2 Health & hygiene kits for 300 community members
- 3 Study materials for 61 enrolled children into govt schools
- 4 Teaching Learning Materials for children as per field need

Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Hastings	2
2	Motijheel	2
3	Dhapa	2



Lotus Child Project

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality education for the children, focusing on their cognitive development through joyful and play way methods of learning. The project focuses on spreading awareness on menstrual health and hygiene among the villagers, mothers and adolescents. The project aims to facilitate the capacity of the adolescents to prevent and raise voice against the injustice in their own communities. The group works on child protection system which would be responsible for the incidents taking place violating child rights.



LOCATION: DULKIVILLAGE, SUNDERBANS

Direct Beneficiaries: 100

Indirect Beneficiaries: 200

Important Activities

- 1 HEALTH CAMP CHECK-UP : Keeping in mind the season change diseases, a free health check-up camp was conducted with the professional doctor where 92 members attended the check-up camp. Medicine was given and it was observed that mostly the children suffered from throat infections, cough and cold and diseases relation with season change.





2 ANNUAL SPORTS DAY : Annual sports day was conducted at Dulki village in Sunderbans under the Lotus child project with 70 participants along with teachers. 100mtrs race, maths race, balance race long jump, musical race, potato race, frog race, ball throw, and biscuit race were held.

3 CHILD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION : On 14th of November, a Toto Awareness campaign was held on Child Rights and the awareness sessions continued every day till 20th of November. On 20th November, Lotus child team celebrated child rights week at Dulki village. The guests who arrived there were:

- * The honourable Gram Panchayat,
- * Club President
- * Health Worker.

They were felicitated with a badge made of Sundari leaf from the famous mangrove forest of SunderbansDelta region which was made by the teacher's along with a hand-made bouquet.

A powerful and an effective dance drama by the children and the adolescent group was conducted which was focussed on child marriage.

- 4 TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP WITH FOLLOW-UP TRAINING SESSION : Teachers' training follow-up session and certification programme was conducted at Dulki village, Sunderbans for the aspiring teachers. They passed the follow-up session with flying colours and the eligible members were certified and there is a scope of implementation of the learned techniques among them.
- 5 PEER TO PEER TRAINING FOR CORE ADOLESCENT GROUP : Training programme had been organised to build their capacity on child rights and basic child protection issues to improve their understanding levels and to address their needs through group activities in their community.
- 6 NETWORKING WITH GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS : Gosaba Police, Health Centre, ICDS Schools, ASHA Workers
- 7 STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR TEACHERS : A fruitful training session was conducted by the professional for the women/aspiring teachers to develop their capacity to teach and learn. A session on joyful learning, and classroom management was conducted by the resource person.



Photography Training

Life Skill Training on working on adolescent group and



8 REGULAR REMEDIAL CLASSES

9 MASS AWARENESS ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE WITH THEATRE IN EDUCATION : An impactful mass awareness programme was conducted at Sunderban area. It was an effective program conducted in collaboration with THEATRE IN EDUCATION. The programme began with the introduction of menstrual hygiene and continued with a powerful play presented by the THEATRE IN EDUCATION team. The participants who attended the programme, were hesitant to even listen to it but as the programme continued they even interacted with the team and also discussed their queries and shared their experiences. 200 mothers and adolescents have attended the program. This mass awareness program had increased the visibility of the project in the village.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Dulki Village	4



Barefoot Teachers' Training



Objectives:

- To boost self esteem and develop self confidence in the teachers.
- Follow up visit to the area of teaching to access the application of the teaching methodologies at field of teaching.
- To impart teaching method and techniques which are practical
- To enhance the capacity of the trainees
- To encourage to use and prepare teaching and learning materials
- To show and guide them to make lesson plan and explain its importance
- To highlight the importance on area and culture specific language acquisition techniques.
- To observe class room in order to get lively demonstration of child friendly atmosphere.
- To make lesson plan according to the topic and teach the Children.
- The training procedure has helped to overcome the hurdles faced by the marginalized community people.
- Imparting an adequate knowledge of the subject

LOCATION : PAN INDIA

Direct Beneficiaries: 473

Indirect Beneficiaries: 1000

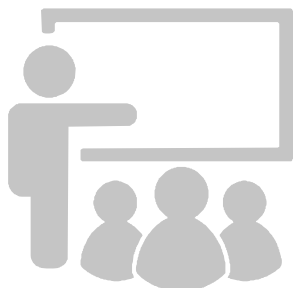


Important Activities

- 1 In house training
- 2 Out- station training at Nawada District in Bihar with Nawada Government school teachers.
- 3 Out- station- Dulki on follow up tanning and Certification.
- 4 Out- station training at Diamond harbour with Child Parliament members.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SI No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Dulki	1



Skill Development Project



There is a rigid tradition that is followed among the community members that there is no such requirement of the women to be empowered. They can only take the basic education and their prime role is to get married and settle down with their husbands and in-laws. There is a tendency to have complete control over females by the males. Due to financial and emotional dependency, the women have no choice but to accept this. Thus, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre is empowering and creating a safe space for the youth and women through Skill Development Project. This project includes Vocational Training Classes. And focuses to empower the marginalized women of the informal settings to help them re-start their career with the emerging time. It also empowers the marginalized youth who are unable to avail the courses of their interest due to lack of economical stability. The project not only believes in providing with the vocational training but also in the professional and personal growth of the enrolled trainees and thus includes various other extracurricular activities and sessions to groom, to counsel, to mentor and to guide them to upgrade their skills and knowledge.

LOCATION : BUSIEST AND UNNOTICED SLUMS / COMMUNITIES OF KOLKATA

Direct Beneficiaries: 105

Indirect Beneficiaries: 200

UNITS :

- **Tailoring & Fashion Designing** Units - 6 months course - (Monday - Friday)
- **Beautician** Unit - 3 months course - (Monday - Friday)
- **Computer** Unit - 3 months course - (Monday - Friday)
- **Cafe & Bakery** Unit - 6 months course - (Wednesday & Saturday)



Units	Months	Enrolment	Certification
Tailoring	January'23-June'23	25	4
	July'23-December'23	22	11
	January'24-June'24	15	-
Fashion Designing	January'23-June'23	5	3
	July'23-December'23	4	2
	January'24-June'24	5	-
Computer	January'23- March'23	16	6
	April'23- June'23	17	16
	July'23-September'23	12	2
	October'23-December'23	4	3
	January'24-March'24	16	-
Beautician	January'23- March'23	25	9
	April'23- June'23	37	12
	July'23-September'23	36	17
	October'23-December'23	12	12
	January'24-March'24	16	-
Cafe & Bakery	January'23-June'23	17	15
	July'23-February'24	13	13

Intervention in the Kolkata Slums for free courses

The slums of Kolkata are hubs of many income generating activities for the families where children too are driven to take part so that the family earns a bit extra. Through this project KMWSC focuses to create an environment where children are able to study and have a safe childhood likes other children. This project not only strives for their education but also for their wholesome development which in turn could enable them to dream something better for their life and achieve it for better future. The girls/women of slums aim at improving the quality of life of the adolescent & women and to equip them with a professional qualification. This project improves the quality of the existing vocational skill training, provides free admission for the interested trainees through acquisition of more training materials and instructors. These adolescent youth and women are brought to the vocational training centres at KMWSC providing them with transportation cost to continue their courses. It organizes vocational trainings for the disadvantaged adolescent & women, with the aim of offering vocational skills for jobs in the following skills areas; tailoring, beautician and computer skills. This project aims at making the girls/women in our society, self-assured, self confident and self-reliant for their personal safety.



Units	Months	Enrolment	Certification
Tailoring	October'23- March'24	3	3
Beautician Unit	January'24- March'24	9	6





ACTIVITIES -

- 1 **THERAPEUTIC SESSIONS** : Therapeutic sessions were held under the skill development project as a part of motivation for the students and to make the classes more interesting. The initiative was to increase the attention level among the trainees, and not leading to monotonous classes. These sessions helped them to focus more in their regular classes. These included-Yoga, Music sessions and fun games.
- 2 **PARENTS MEETING** : Meetings were conducted with the parents who were equally important since there was a requirement to acknowledge the feedback of the parents/guardian regarding the courses the trainees were involved in. The Guardians/Parents have shared positive feedback regarding the courses and the teaching. They were extremely happy with the project and its activities and have also shared that their children have learnt and gained more confidence than before.
- 3 **MEETINGS WITH BENEFICIARIES** : Monthly meetings were conducted with the trainees to take their feedback on the classes; what they have learnt and how will they move forward with their learning. The meeting went quite positive since most of the trainees had made proper future plans that they want to work on their learned skills and, will practice more. Many of them work as entrepreneurs as well. It is important to take their feedback since they are the direct programme participants of the project.
- 4 **SESSION ON BRIDAL MAKE-UP** : Special Professional Class was conducted on make-up for the beautician unit under skill



development by the professional make-up artist. The master tutorial classes on Bridal and self make-up was conducted by the professional make-up artist from Make-up Magic Studio. The trainees have learnt various new techniques and scientific application of make-up and have gained new knowledge and have developed interest in the field.

5 **EXPOSURE VISIT :** The trainees enrolled in the Beautician Unit were taken to the Milan Mela, Science City for as exposure visits where they acquired a lot of product knowledge and cutting techniques from various experts and professionals, which have given them a great exposure and opportunity to learn new things.

6 **COUNSELLING SESSION :** A through and effective counselling session was held for the trainees since it was observed that after the course completion, many of the trainees lose their track and discontinue following their passion which leads them to forget their acquired skills. This session was initiated in an attempt to keep the motivation and enthusiasm intact among the trainees even after the course is over. The consequences of implementing their skills and how they can develop themselves personally and professionally were discussed in the session.



7 **MASTER CLASSES :**

- Resource Person: **Monica Chen** - Master class on skin science and treatment was conducted for the trainees of the beautician unit by the professional.
- Resource Person: **Joy Ghosh** - A special detailed master class was conducted by the professional on makeup, for a full day for the trainees for the Skill Development Project students to encourage them and to give them an opportunity to learn and get detailed knowledge on make-up.
- Resource Person: **Sudipta Dey** - Professional class was conducted by the expert on hair colour for the Skill Development Project-Beautician unit This detailed course encouraged the students and gave them the opportunity to learn and acquire extensive knowledge regarding hair science. The trainees have gained knowledge on hair treatment and new techniques of hair styling and how to work on client's hair. The trainees were updated with the latest styling lessons and they have shared a positive feedback about the class.

Initiates takes by the trainees

An Exhibition was initiated by the trainees with the help of their teacher where they prepared various items on their own and successfully have put up stalls to sell and showcase their skills. It was a brilliant show put up by the trainees through which they gained the confidence. Some of the items displayed in the exhibition were: Scrunches, pouches, earrings by quilling, handmade embroidery cards.

Major Achievement

A networking seminar was attended by Anjali Singh, the beauty professional and students of the Beautician section organised by Professional Beauty India at Milan Mela on 10th and 11th of April. It was a great exposure for gaining knowledge on make-up. Professionals from various institutions attended the seminar and shared their knowledge. Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre was honoured to receive a prestigious award.



Overall Achievements

- All the trainees have now gained more enthusiasm to work outside. Many women have now managed to re-start their careers in their field of interest, have gathered courage and were constantly motivated by the entire team.
- 1 trainee has been absorbed in a reputed parlour as a professional beautician.
- 1 trainee is working in a non-governmental organization as a beautician teacher.
- 4 trainees are self-employed continuing to sharpen their skills in different families at their localities.
- The trainees who were enrolled for the batches were successful in making their own dresses and were confident to pursue it further
- 8 of the tailoring unit trainees have received stipends from the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre for beautifully stitching with perfection for outside orders.

- 2 trainees from fashion designing unit are now employed in reputed fashion industries and 1 of the trainees is working in a school as a fashion designing teacher.
- 3 trainees from the tailoring unit are now taking orders after learning the course and are self-employed.
- The computer unit students have planned to enrol themselves in various industries for internship and for more learning experiences with the guidance of their trainers and they will continue following their passion

Food ATM

an emphatic step to support the underprivileged from the local communities and help them fight hunger to some extent.



The Sanitary Pad Unit



The Sanitary Pad Unit initiated by KMWSC focused on creating awareness on menstrual hygiene, breaking the social taboos and reaching out to the women from unnoticed communities to give them the wings they deserve. In many cultures and societies, the taboos and stigma surrounding menstrual hygiene still prevails. Women are made to feel embarrassed about it; hence discussing any issues in this regard makes them feel uncomfortable, even with the healthcare professionals. There are people who still believe that Menstruation is unclean or impure, and which leads to certain restrictions on the activities that women follow every day. Many believe that menstruating women should avoid touching plants, cooking, or going to the religious sites. They are discriminated upon on these grounds in various ways, such as being excluded from social events or facing limitation on their mobility. In some places, women still use unsanitary items like rags, cloths, etc. They are not aware about proper menstrual hygiene practices, such as changing pads at certain intervals, washing hands before and after handling menstrual products or the proper





disposable of the used items. Therefore, it was necessary to make them aware about these practices and educate them for their betterment. Sometimes these taboos and stigma can have serious consequences on women's health and well-being. It is important to create awareness and create a cultural space where menstruation is normalized and women can get a hold of the available resources they need and also get proper education to manage their periods safely and comfortably.

After conducting successful sessions, the team distributed sanitary napkins to the women present there as a sign of support and change.

- 50,265 sanitary pads production was accomplished with the raw material and man power.
- 2,792 beneficiaries received free sanitary pads
- 48,040 sanitary pads were distributed freely

The mass awareness on the sanitary pads and menstruation involved that menstruation is a natural process in which the uterus sheds its lining, leading to bleeding from the vagina. Tips on Menstrual hygiene, the Do's and Dont's concept of period poverty, proper use and disposal of the pads were discussed during these sessions. Information to maintain proper hygiene in order to prevent infections and maintain good health was conveyed and it was outlined that one must choose sanitary pads instead of cloth and change every 4-5 hours to prevent odour and infection. Many tips were shared as It was important to keep the genital area clean, wash with water and mild soap if need be and avoid any perfumed product as that can disrupt the natural balance and cause itching. After using the products one must wash their hands and dispose the used product by wrapping it securely and dispose it in a waste bin. Also if one faces any issues they must immediately concern a healthcare provider for advice, without feeling uncomfortable about it.



January-July (2023)

Areas of Distribution	Number of participants	Number of pads distributed in packets
Local slum areas-Kolkata	50	100
Basirhat	50	100
Dhapa-Kasvi Learning Centre	40	80
Manmathanagar	50	100
Surendranath College	40	80
Barafkal	50	100
Hastings	100	200
Local slum areas-Kolkata	50	100
Gangasagar	150	150
Sunderban, Dulki	200	200
Bibibagan	100	100
Kapalibagan	100	100
Red-Light area - Sonagachi	25	50
Radhanath Chowdhury Lane	50	100
Hastings	36	72
Basirhat	50	100
Sunderbans-Dulki village	72	144
Local slum areas-Kolkata	30	60
Red-Light area -Sonagachi	25	50
Motijheel	25	50
Local slum areas	51	102
Local slum areas	51	102
Basirhat	100	200



July-December (2023)

Areas of Distribution	Number of Participants	Number of Pads Distributed in Packets
Dhapa	50	100
Teak Panja School - Diamond Harbour	50	100
Local community areas-KMWSC	50	100
Bhootnath Govt School	30	60
Kasvi Learning Centre	45	90
Red-light	30	60

January-March (2024)

Areas of Distribution	Number of Participants	Number of Pads Distributed in Packets
Pujali	100	100
Akra	100	100
Basirhat	100	100
Haroa	100	100
Kalyani	100	100
Dhapa	100	200
Hastings	100	200
Motijheel	100	200
Sonagachi	50	50

Outcome: The adolescents sharing their periods with the elders, women are now speaking openly on menstrual hygiene, proper disposal of pads, and against the social taboos and stigmas inherited about periods. They make other people aware of the myths and encourage them to not believe in primitive traditions. Earlier people used to follow these due to lack of knowledge but with the number of awareness sessions, the superstitions and fear of speaking on it openly, gradually disappeared. Many women/ girls as per observation and post session interaction were found to use sanitary pads instead of clothes. They understood the importance of hygiene and discarded the use of clothes. The project team also circulated a pre and post session questionnaire to assess the impact of the participants. These questionnaires are specially shared with the adolescent group, in the schools, colleges, since in most of the locations the participants are not able to read & write properly.

Tribal Community and Empowerment (TCDE) Project



This is the 1st year of intervention with the tribal and fisherman community in Gangasagar village in Sagar Island. With the regular home visits and parents' meeting, the mothers gradually accepted our field team. The families were far behind regarding education for their children, cleanliness, health and hygiene, medication and hospitals, cultural heritage and menstruation health and hygiene. They had their myths and beliefs and believed in superstitions, practicing quackery for their treatment of ailments. Migration to other cities for better income generation was very much prevalent in the families as they were completely dependent on the natural resources- (Rivers, Forest) for their survival. 15 dropout children were readmitted to government schools for their continuation of studies. Due to the closure of schools as a result of the lockdown, Santhali children were lagging behind in their studies. Once they had dropped out from schools, they never thought of coming back to schools. A new mentality change in the children was noticed, to grow up together with the children of Santhali and fishermen families through





special celebrations and regular tuition centre support. The children seemed to be happy and excited to come back to school life after being supported by the Centre. The tribal lifestyle changes developed in an alternate thinking and decision making. Forming groups of children made them aware of their rights and protection. Through health awareness camps the cleanliness of children has been changed. 5 tribal mothers have received Lakshmi Bhandar through Duare Sarkar Camp on government scheme initiative; the government scheme for the housewives. Mothers have started opening bank accounts to save money; emphasis is placed on communication with local administration and various stakeholders to create legal documents for Santhal people. They have never bothered about the legal documents and institutional delivery of the new born babies. KMWSC has been creating awareness consistently for the institutional delivery in the hospitals so that the babies are given the birth certificates that will ensure the further procurement of the documents as per the age appropriateness. The child parliament group has been formed to empower them with the information, knowledge, child rights and protection that these young boys and girls will bring the change in their own communities. In the coming years KMWSC hopes to empower this community to live a dignified life mentoring their children with the education who will secure a better life and that continues to upcoming generations down the lane.



OBJECTIVES:

- The holistic development of the tribal and fishermen communities, grooming the children, reintegrating them into mainstream school with the education to bring societal transformation among the tribal families. To break the issue of discrimination and inequality among them ,awareness and sensitization is integral to break the social taboos of menstruation in the communities. This would lead to a larger change in their local communities. Basic education through the learning centre, grooming them to be enrolled and mainstreamed into government schools and tribal hostels for further continuation of studies.
- Formation of mothers' group to educate and sensitize them on health & hygiene, cleanliness, government schemes, saving in the banks and good parenting.
- Free health camps to inculcate the habit of approaching hospitals for medical facilities and institutional deliveries of new born babies.
- Awareness and assisting them to procure legal documents as per age appropriateness for the tribal and fishermen communities.
- Formation and facilitation of adolescent groups / child parliaments to be the agents of change and leadership to raise voice for their rights.
- Awareness on livelihood for survival and saving for the

families. Linking the tribal families with government schemes for the sustainability of the families.

- Menstruation health and hygiene for the adolescents and mothers to break the chain of social taboos and stigmas, to talk and speak on periods with the elders in the families.
- Advocacy and networking with the government stakeholders for delivering better service to the communities as per the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 which recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

LOCATION:

Tribal community and fishermen community of Gangasagar village and Adibasi Hostel at Patharpratima Block.

Direct Beneficiaries: 450 & Indirect Beneficiaries: 1600



Important Activities

- 1 15 children (Boys-5, Girls-10) were admitted in Government schools
- 2 17 Lodha children (boys 6, girls 11) from the Lodha Community have been followed up in the hostel.
- 3 Santhal and fishermen children have received the legal documents like Aadhar cards to 14 santhal children (male 10, female 4), Pan card 23 (male 6 female 17) people, Physical disability certificate for 5



children (boy 1 girls 4), 2 Voter Cards, Birth Certificates for 3 children, 3 childrens' bank accounts children and Caste Certificates for 5 Santhal Children.

- 4 15 Santhal and Fishermen mothers have started saving.
- 5 10 women have been given the government scheme of Lakshmi Bhandar.
- 6 1292 (male 522, female 770) people have attended Mary Ward Day, Holi Utsob, Women's day, Rabindra Jayanti, Environment, KMWSC foundation Day, Independence day, World Anti-Trafficking Day, Children's Day and Christmas Day celebration.
- 7 5 awareness programmes on health and hygiene conducted
- 8 8 Awareness Programmes on Government schemes
- 9 3 Free health camps were held



- 10 3 Awareness camps on child rights was held
- 11 4 children clubs and 1 adolescent group has been formed
- 12 2 meetings conducted at the Panchayet level with 40 people (male-22 female-18)



- 13 2 teachers training programme was held for 36 teachers (male-7 female-29)
- 14 2 mothers' group have been formed
- 15 9 child parliament meetings held in a year.
- 16 9 children parliament meeting was held in a year.
- 17 3 periodic Leadership training programmes for Children Clubs was held for 105 participants (50 males, 55 Females)



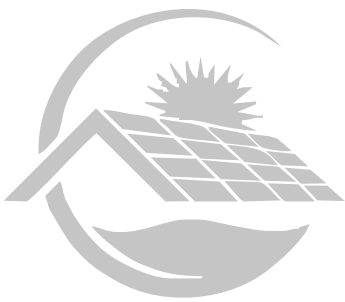


- 18 3 meeting and trainings held for 100 Children (male-35 female- 65)
- 19 90 children participated in the annual sports day
- 20 2 Livelihood and Capacity Building training programmes held for 40 mothers and adolescent group
- 21 2 Duare Sarkar Camp on Government Scheme was held at Tribal Learning Centre for 160 families (Santhal 33 families and 127 fisherman families)
- 22 2 Advocacy and networking meeting with stakeholders
- 23 5 follow -up visits to Adibasi Hostel at Patharpratima Block.

Monitoring and Evolution

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Tribal learning centres, tribal community, fishermen community and villages of Gangasagar	8 times

Solar Enlighten and Community Empowerment Project



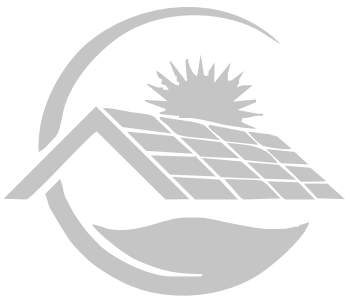
KMWSC has been intervening in the remotest villages of Sundarban - Manmathnagar, Bipradaspur and Chandipur by bringing in lights in the families, formation of child parliament, periodic leadership training of adolescents, home visits, stakeholders meeting, awareness on health and hygiene, legal documents, menstruation and health and hygiene, supporting SHG mothers with backyard poultry farming, kitchen gardening and tailoring course support to the women who are interested . The villages of Sundarban are surrounded by delta region with large mangrove forest which has diverse impacts from nature. These villages are surrounded by small rivers which are crossed on Engine boats for their daily marketing and survival. These villages are cut off from the main land. Sundarban consists of 102 islands; people



inhabit in 48 islands .54 islands are covered by dense forest with natural fauna. The people of 48 islands survive by fighting various adversities .The struggle for survival has become an eternal truth. The families are bound to face the natural calamities every year in that region due to tropical disadvantaged areas. The project has achieved the target set for the project cycle and has reached out to the village communities, mothers, children and adolescents with participatory approach.

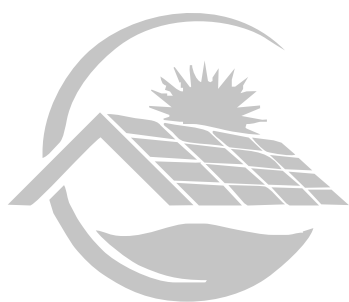


After the pandemic it was a difficult time for the families to cope up with the daily survival. These remotest families were the hardest hit during the pandemic. The havoc caused by cyclones broke the backbones of the means of income generation. The impact of Covid 19 continues to be the most challenging in the remote villages as the





family members are migrating again to the cities for income generation to support the families. Many social issues are creeping in such as unsafe migration, child marriage and drop out from schools. Changed behaviour of the children was uncontrollable as a result of lock down and schools shut down for nearly 2 years during the pandemic.



**LOCATION : BIPRADASPUR, MANMATHANAGAR
AND CHANDIPUR OF GOSABA BLOCK,
SUNDARBAN**

Direct Beneficiaries: 1850

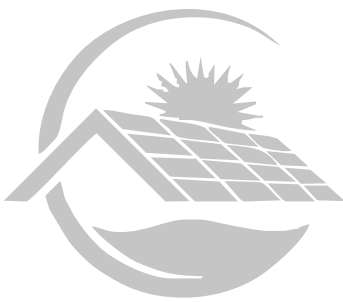
Indirect Beneficiaries: 3400

Important Activities

- 1 6 Awareness and sensitization programmes on child rights and child protection issues and the concept of sexual abuse to make the village aware of these issues.
- 2 Formation of 3 child parliaments with 60 children.
- 3 12 child parliament regular monthly meeting.
- 4 5 periodic leadership training for these 3 groups of children.
- 5 Procuring legal identities: 42 women were enrolled for Laxmi Bhandar, 21 people were taken to the local government office to get their Aadhar Cards made, 29 women opened bank accounts to save money and also to get the government schemes directly in their

personal account, 36 elderly widows of 3 villages were linked with widow pension schemes, 27 aged people (F-17) (M-10) were linked with the old age pension schemes, ration cards were made for 36 families and physical disability cards were made for 9 people (F-5, M-4).

- 6 Livelihood support through back yard poultry farming to 100 families by distributing 2300 chicks to the families.
- 7 Day Celebrations through awareness programmes and different activities: Children’s Day, OBR, Women’s Day, Education Day and Mary Ward Day.
- 8 The field staff took action against 1 child marriage and mainstreamed 1 child labour .
- 9 Tailoring course was provided to 20 women in Manmathnagar. 7 women are earning income after the completion of the tailoring course.



Monitoring and Evolution

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Gosaba	10



Empowering **Brickfield Communities** through Organic **Sack Farming**

The Organic Sack Farming project addresses the plight of families entrenched in brickfield poverty, offering a beacon of hope in their struggle. Amidst economic hardship and nutritional deficiencies, the initiative empowers these communities with low-cost organic farming methods. By utilising sacks as makeshift farms, it circumvents spatial constraints and provides fresh produce. The project's core objective is clear: to add nutritional value in their meals and also to equip families with farming skills, fostering ownership and pride. Through this, it aspires to redefine their future, earning the moniker "Empowering Brickfield Community through Organic Sack Farming."



LOCATION: 5 brickfields in BASIRHAT

Direct Beneficiaries: 600 (120 families)

Indirect Beneficiaries: 1684

Important Activities

- 1 Pre Project Meeting of Teachers and Lead Teachers were conducted to explain the concept of Sack Farming and procedure of cultivation with spot selection and area preparation to setup sacks for farming.





Procurement of Equipment and Materials required for proper cultivation was also a major activity inclined towards the development of project

- 2 Thorough engagement with Brickfield Owners and Managers to obtain permission for implementing Sack Farming Project in their Brick Kilns was done much prior to the project beginning..
- 3 Identifying families through extensive survey in the brickfields to include them as beneficiaries of the project. Preference was given to families with large number of members and malnourished children.
- 4 Three Training sessions for beneficiaries were conducted. The first one encompassed seed treatment, soil intricacies, and selection of plants. The second training was on preparing organic manure and the third training encompassed creation of micro-nutrients for plants
- 5 Laying of sacks and planting of saplings to initiate cultivation





- 6 Caring of plants and nurturing growth of plants to ensure healthy crop
- 7 Community meetings to explain the concept of Sack Farming to the beneficiaries and drawing their interest in the project.
- 8 Harvest of crops and its distribution among families included as beneficiaries of the Sack Farming project.



Monitoring and Evolution

Sl No.	Area of intervention	Number of Monitoring visit
1	Basirhat	293



Climate Action & Biodiversity Project

LOCATION: BIPRADASPUR, MANMATHANAGAR and CHANDIPUR OF GOSABA BLOCK, SUNDARBAN

Direct Beneficiaries: 350

Indirect Beneficiaries: 1400

The Sundarbans lie on the delta of the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal between India and Bangladesh, are home to the world's largest mangrove forests and are considered an ecological wonder. The region has several tidal waterways and many small islands with mangrove forests all around. It is considered nature's gift, but the residents of the area and the mangrove forests are facing huge threats. The frequency of natural calamities has increased and migration is very high due to the calamities, very limited income generation opportunities after the pandemic and the cyclones life in sundarban is tough and hard.





Lack of enough livelihood opportunities leads to excessive exploitation of natural resources and the fear of calamities are some of the biggest challenges.

The Indian portion of the Sundarbans is made of 102 islands, of which 54 are inhabited and the rest forested. Sprawled across 19 community development blocks in the districts of South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas, it is home to about 4.5 million people, mostly economically stressed and belonging to the backward classes. People here have lived with cyclones, floods, tigers and crocodiles for over two centuries and have adapted to it. But recent changes have distressed these resilient people like never before. The mangrove trees are disappearing due to deforestation, cyclones and floods. The rise of water level into the sea is alarming and threat to the families.

Every year the families are affected by the cyclones and floods as each village is an island surrounded by the rivers conditioned by the high and low tide. The impact of climate change has started affecting livelihood, resulting in



migration and human trafficking. “Climate change has had a direct impact on displacement, local agricultural and fish produce, affecting livelihood, prompting work-related unsafe migration and creating a conducive atmosphere for the perpetuation of human trafficking,”

The sea-level rise is pushing more seawater into the brackish water, increasing the salinity in rivers and creeks. Salinity is increasing even in surface water. A combination of increasing sea-surface temperature and increasing water salinity make traditional pisciculture practices challenging.

Important Activities

- 1 Setting up local tree nurseries as a business
- 2 Planting trees for improved environment and food security
- 3 Mangrove restoration
- 4 Local seed banks
- 5 Climate Resilient Farming techniques
- 6 Animal husbandry
- 7 Green Energy Education
- 8 Pisciculture



Special Day Celebrations

1. **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** was observed in two villages of Basirhat by spreading proper awareness by the Child Protection Workers on 30th June, 2023.



2. **International Yoga Day** was celebrated under the Skill Development Project on 21st June, 2023.



3. On 12th June, 2023, the **Foundation Day of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre** was celebrated under various project areas. These nine years of making memories together has helped us attain new heights here at KMWSC. This journey was inspired by the words of our much beloved and revered Sister Mary Ward – “to love the poor, is to live, die and rise with them”. Our focus as an organization has always been on the journey, “to love the poor” and assist in their transformation through solidarity, grace, love and justice.
4. The Child Rights team celebrated **World Environment Day** on 5th June, 2023 in collaboration with our partner at Basirhat and Itinda-



Panitar NGO Networks through an empowering and eye-opening rally. Saplings were distributed among 100 participants with few of the saplings being planted near the pavements.



5. KMWSC observed **Menstrual Hygiene Day** with an inauguration of a Free Sanitary Pad ATM at Basirhat Resource Centre. All women and Adolescent Group members joined the programme and participated in the inauguration of the PAD ATM. A short awareness programme was also arranged and they were encouraged to share their views on menstrual health and hygiene.



6. **Rabindra Jayanti** was celebrated at the Learning Centre under the Tribal Community Project on 9th April, 2023 in remembrance of "Biswakabi" Rabindranath Tagore with a detailed discussion on the current village situation, Child Marriage Prohibition Act and the roles a leader can carry out to stop Child Rights Violation.



7. The expression "**Raksha Bandhan**", means "the bond of protection, obligation, and care". Inculcating the bonds of fraternity, relationship and love, KMWSC celebrated the occasion with the children and the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) Chairperson and team by tying Rakhi at Basirhat and Gangasagar.



8. **Teachers' Day** was observed at KMWSC and in the project fields to honour the teachers for guiding and illuminating us to follow the correct path in both our personal and professional lives.



9. Surokhit Shaishav Team had arranged a programme with children of two ICDS centres of Basirhat for the observation of **National Nutrition Month** or **Rastriya Poshan Maash** on 25th September, 2023 which generated an awareness among mothers on the importance of nutritious food.



10. **CRC – Child Rights Campaign** – was celebrated by all the project teams at their respective locations



with an effective Cycle Rally with the school students of Itinda Union High School and with the Border Security Force of Ghojadanga Border to spread awareness on Child Protection issues through slogans.

Child Rights Week was celebrated at Dulki village with the felicitation of guests, followed by "Shishu Boron" along with a short introduction on CRC, dance performances, recitation, and a powerful dance drama on child marriage under the Lotus Child Project on 20th November, 2023.

11. **Children's Day Celebration** was conducted through various activities— essay writing, drawing, and dance competitions on child rights, child labour and child abuse, all pertaining to the various project locations.



12. Drawing competition and observation of **Education Day** at Manmathanagar under Solar Enlightenment and Empowerment Project took place on 11th November, 2023.



13. On November 10, 2023, **Cake Mixing Day** was observed at the KMWSC Bakery for celebrating its heritage. All the employees of the organization came together to celebrate the day with great delight and excitement.



14. The **162th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** was celebrated all over KMWSC institutions and across its various projects. The



children and staff sang prayers, recited poems and read out speeches about Swami Vivekananda.

15. **Cake Baking** – Another productive season of Christmas Cake Baking Celebration took place. In continuation of our legacy at KMWSC, Christmas Cake Baking, consisting of 622 plus kilograms of materials, for the families was completed successfully this year. We want to thank all our friends, well-wishers, families and staff who have stood beside us and helped us conduct this event.



16. 10th December, 2023 marks the anniversary of the **75th International Human Rights Day**. This day was observed to promote equality, peace, justice, freedom and protection of dignity of each and every human being.





17. **Christmas Day Celebration** was carried out on 16th December, 2023 with the participation of all field and office staff where the entire KMWSC family came together to enjoy the day to the fullest and engage in light refreshments.



18. On 26th January, 2024, the **75th Republic Day** was celebrated both in the field areas and at KMWSC. The flag hoisting was followed by a patriotic speech and a multitude of cultural events.



19. We observed **Mary Ward's Feast Day** on the 30th January, 2024 where the staff of KMWSC gathered together and shared their experiences of working at Mary Ward and how Mary Ward inspires them every day in a professional and personal aspect.

20. To mark **World Day against Trafficking in Persons** on the 30th July, 2023, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre conducted a successful program on the very issue at Basirhat with the motto "Reach every





trafficking victim, leave no one behind". The program started with an opening speech, and moved on to different performances by our child leaders and students of Kaijuri Girls High School and Gabodda High School. We shared case studies of our survivors and inaugurated a child safety corner and sanitary pad ATM at Gabodda BSF camps. This was followed by speeches by our eminent guests and ended with a rally. The rally was inaugurated by lighting the torch, the fire representing the strength to fight against trafficking. The torches were rotated by each stakeholder to showcase how we together can fight against trafficking and help rehabilitate the survivors. The rally ended with a slogan and the National Anthem. The eminent guests such as Asst. Commandant Sri Ashok Kumar Shah from BSF, OC J.P Barman from Swarupnagar Police Station, OC Jamuna Mondal from the AHTU Dept., Headmistress of Kaijuri Girls High School and Headmaster of Koijhuri Boys School stood beside us and supported our programme.

The participants present were our esteemed CP and CVC members, BSF officials, students from Kaijuri Girls High School, Gabodda High school, Kaijuri Boys School, and Women Development Cell from Basirhat College, Sayestanagar Panchayat members, Kaijuri Panchayat members and Brickfield School Project teachers.



KMWSC continues its legacy by observing the **World Day against Human Trafficking in Persons 2023** at office premises with its staff and Skill Development Students. The programme, graced by Sr. Monica Suchiang, the Director, included a speech and video on Anti-Human trafficking, a dance performance, a silent protest holding posters to stop Human Trafficking and the blowing of blue balloons with messages to stop Human Trafficking. The pledge was taken by each and every participant at the end of the event.



21. One Billion Rising Movement 2024 – Year of INSPIRATION and ASPIRATION

We at KMWSC celebrated 10 years of One Billion Rising in Kolkata on 14th February, 2024 at Loreto Day Schools situated in Elliot Road, Kolkata. This grand occasion calls us to Rise to Freedom. For this year's celebration, the day holds a special meaning for us all as apart from the One Billion Rising Movement it was also Valentine's Day, a day for spreading love to all.



This year the theme of OBR 2024 was "RISE FOR FREEDOM, BE THE NEW WORLD" ie., freedom from patriarchy, capitalism, impunity, poverty, oppression, division, exploitation, shame, control,



individualism, greed and violence prevalent in society. We will continue to ENVISION and CREATE new ways of being, seeing, living, loving and connecting, raising consciousness and deepening understanding so that our freedom and future are rooted in truth, love and community.

22. International Women's Day Celebration

On this special occasion, on 8th of March'24, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre acknowledged the incredible strength of women by celebrating the noteworthy day all over the project locations to leave a mark in society and throw a spotlight on women who inspire change in their respective communities, acknowledging their journey towards a better and safer tomorrow.



23. **Holi** was celebrated by the KMWSC office and field teams where they gathered together with their friends, colleagues and beneficiaries to adorn each other with colours so as to celebrate the vibrant festival of colours thereby spreading joy on 24th of March'24.

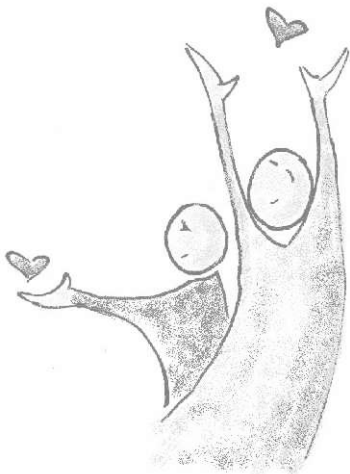


KMWSC Being Grateful

We would like to extend a big thank you to **Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Midtown** for supplying our Tailoring and Fashion Designing Unit with Usha Tailoring Machines and helping our trainees to learn its usage.



We would also like to extend our thanks to **Dhritiman Abilizing Infinity Foundation** for providing our children with the wonderful opportunity of having access to the library and a games corner in the remote village of Sundarbans and also, for providing healthy and nutritious food to the impoverished children.



Our heartiest gratitude to **Loreto School, Bowbazar, Loreto House and Loreto Day School, Elliot Road**, for supporting our Food ATM with nutritious food items and for distributing clothes to the economically vulnerable strata of society.

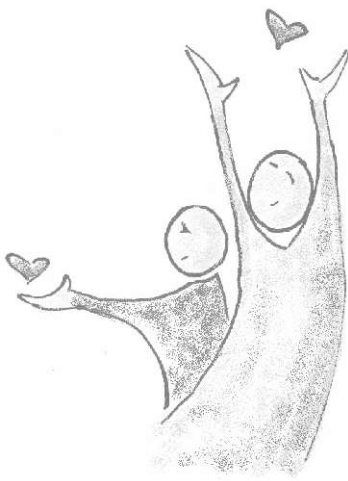
We are extremely grateful to **Indus Valley School, Kolkata** for providing stationary kits to the children of the destitute communities.



We are extremely grateful to our **Friends of Mary Ward** for organizing Christmas celebrations for the project children in the Red-light area.

KMWSC is also thankful to **EMAMI** for providing Kalyani Brickfield with the required homeopathic and allopathic medicines and doctors as per field requirement and also for helping out with the completion of the health camp.

In collaboration with **GKB Opticals**, the Brickfield School Project team under Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre successfully and safely conducted the free eye check-up camp at Basirhat for the beneficiaries.



Collaborations and Building Relations



- In collaboration with Misesan Cara's Dublin office, Sr. Monica Suchiang, who in her role as Director of the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, leads her team to uphold civil liberties and social justice attended the meeting with the Members and Officials of Misesan Cara in their Dublin office, they shared the work of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in detail and a fruitful exchange was initiated. The director also had meetings with Louise Martin Zelig Foundation and Well Wishers of our Barefoot Teachers' Training Program.
- **Surokshit Shaishav Phase-2 Project Team** attended a three-day programme orientation-cum-planning meet of **Caritas India** at SPMUS Training Centre from 27th April- 29th April, 2023. The two concerned partners of the meet were SPMUS and KMWSC. Sessions have been conducted on Prohibition of Child Marriage, Child Labour, Child Trafficking and similar co-related issues. Discussions have also taken place regarding Laws and Acts of the aforementioned subjects, National Education Policy, New guidelines of Child Protection Committees and Mission Vatsalya, etc.
- A two-day workshop was attended by the staff of KMWSC on formation of Child Parliament, menstrual health and hygiene in collaboration with **ABCD – Association of Bengal Collaborators for Development**.
- On 15th April, 2023, Child Rights team conducted an awareness campaign on Child Protection Issues at Ghoadanga village in collaboration with **Border Security Force** to inform and sensitize the villagers on child protection issues. Moreover, the presence of the Border Security Force created a stronger impact upon the villagers.
- A networking seminar was attended by Anjali Singh and students of Beauty Department held by **Professional Beauty India** at **Milan Mela** on 10th and 11th April 2023. It was a great exposure to the world of makeup which enlightened the students about prospective careers in

that sphere. Professionals from various reputed institutions also attended the seminar. On account of this seminar, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre was honoured to receive a prestigious award.

- KMWSC also collaborated with prestigious beautician studios such as **Joy Ghosh Academy, Magic Studio, Monica Chen, Kriss Beauty Parlour** for conducting Master classes within the skill development project under the Beautician unit to provide the enrolled trainees with a greater learning exposure and an expansion of their knowledge beyond the prescriptive syllabus.
- A session was held on mental health and management of psychosocial issues for children and adolescents in collaboration with **Institute of Psychiatry** at Basirhat Town Hall on 15th September, 2023 under **Child Rights & Anti-Human Trafficking Projects** to make the beneficiaries accustomed with the concept of mental health and the taboos attached to it.
- A programme was organized by **Surokshit Shaishav Team** at Basirhat Town Hall in collaboration with Sub-Divisional Legal Service Authority, ICDS – Integrated Child Development Services, ASHA workers and Community Based Organizations’ members on Legal Awareness and Child Protection Issues on 19th September, 2023. The interactive meeting resulted with a few important facts and decisions shared by Hon. Advocate Shri Pradip Biswas, Secretary of S-DLSA and legal volunteers of Basirhat District.
- In collaboration with **Theatre in Education**, various projects under Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre conducted street plays on social issues such as child labour, internet addiction among children and youth, and adolescents losing interest in studies thereby leading to school drop-outs. Issues regarding the importance of menstrual hygiene and taboos attached with it in different project locations was also showcased to create widespread awareness.
- KMWSC is extremely thankful to **West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)** for extending an opportunity to the children of our project by providing education and protection to vulnerable children in Red-light area. The children had also availed an excursion on a steamer on 24th November, 2023.
- KMWSC had participated in three-day workshop organised by **AMRAT – Talitha KumIndia** which is the International Network of



Consecrated Life against Trafficking In Persons from 24th to 26th November, 2023.

- The child leaders of Child Rights Project had an exposure after visiting the **Child Welfare Committee of North 24 Parganas** on 12th January, 2024 at Barasat, so as to commemorate the National Youth Day. They were made conscious of the roles and responsibilities of the **Child Welfare Committee**, pertaining to the protection of children.
- A street play was held at Hastings in collaboration with **Theatre in Education** on internet and mobile addiction among children and adolescents leading to school drop-outs upon losing interest in studies. The entire event was conducted under IDENTITY PROJECT on 27th January, 2024 and 11th March, 2024, respectively.
- In collaboration with the **West Bengal Child Protection Commission of Child Rights** and with the support of the District Magistrate, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre have successfully participated in the **District Level Consultation Meet** at Barasat Titumir Hall on Child Labour, Anti-Human Trafficking, Child Marriage and POCSO with effective panel discussions and presentations. This **District Level Consultancy Programme** was conducted in collaboration with **West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)** and District Administration at Barasat, North 24 Parganas with fruitful and beneficial panel discussions on Trafficking, Child Labour and Child Marriage discussed in the presence of the Hon. Chairperson of (WBCPCR), Advisor (WBCPCR), District Administration, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), DLSA Secretary, Police Commissioners, POCSO Officer and other eminent government officials.
- In collaboration with Bitan NGO a workshop was attended by two staffs from Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre on Child Rights and Child Protection Issues for better field work implementation at project levels along with the project staff. The workshop was held at at Subanno Building at Kolkata.



The meet was conducted on 20th February, 2024 by the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in collaboration with WBCPCR at Zila Parishad Titumir Auditorium, Barasat where the main focus of the meeting included two panel discussions which were moderated by the WBCPCR:

PANEL DISCUSSION-1

Concentrated on role of Law Enforcement on preventing Child marriage, Trafficking and Child Labour.

PANEL DISCUSSION-2

Focused on essential Child Protection Practices revolving around prevention of Child Marriage, Trafficking and Child Labour.

The panel was graced by the presence of Smt. Tulika Das, the Chairperson and team of **West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights**, ADM members, DLSA Secretary, DSP of Bangaon HQ, DSP Barasat, OC of AHTU Dept., Barrackpore, OC of Women PS, Chairperson CWC and members, JJB members, Special Public Prosecutor, DSWO, DCPO, Superintendent of Sukanya Home, DMCHO, DI and DLS, Barasat, Panchayat Pradhans and representatives from various NGOs.

KMWSC was honoured to have the Hon. Chairperson of WBCPCR Smt. Tulika Das, and the entire team of WBCPCR, DCPO and DSWO coming together to form a wonderful collaboration and to organize this convergence meeting successfully.



- Teaming up with **District Legal Service Authority**, Anti Human Trafficking Project Team conducted three mass awareness camps at the villages of Indo-Bangladesh border at Basirhat. These camps concentrated on Compensation Policies for the rescued traffickers and spreading of awareness on trafficking.

Collaborating with BSF (Border Security Force), Anti Human Trafficking Project Team conducted five mass awareness camps at Indo-Bangladesh border villages in Basirhat spreading awareness on the concept of trafficking and its preventions.

- Anti-Human Project Team had participated along with **BLCPC -Block Level Child Protection Committee** meeting at Swarupnagar block in Basirhat. Being a member of BLCPC, it focused on the development of the Basirhat community.
- **District Level Consultancy Programme** was conducted in collaboration with District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), South 24 parganas, and Diamond Harbour BDO-I on Child Marriage, Human Trafficking and POCSO in the BDO-I Office Administration Building at Diamond Harbour, in the presence of representative of DCPO, South 24 Parganas, OC of Women Police Station, Diamond Harbour, and Deputy BDO-I of Diamond Harbour.



- On behalf of **CWC – Child Welfare Committee**, South 24 Parganas, KMWSC contributed into the **92 SIR – Social Investigation Report**, in South 24 Parganas district.
- KMWSC investigated 3 POCSO Cases in collaboration with DCPO, South24 Parganas and vital contributions were made by the **Human Rights Project Team**.
- Sr. Monica Suchiang attended the **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) – NGO Management 1**, at United States in March 2024 where the Department of State had outlined specific objectives which were specified in the meeting.

THE OBJECTIVES INCLUDED:

- Examination of innovative NGO, non-profit, public service, and advocacy organization management strategies in the United States.
- Exploring the diversity of the non-profit sector in the United States and the dynamic relationships among business, government, and non-governmental organizations.
- Reviewing NGO strategies for strengthening leadership, engaging volunteers, using technology and social media for fundraising and furthering the organization’s mission.

THEMES OF THE MEETING:

- Federal legislation and policy governing NGOs.
- Capacity Building workshop with the centre for non-profit excellence.
- NGO influence on legislation
- Civic Leadership Development
- Volunteer Management
- Rights for marginalized group

Through the meeting, Sr. Suchiang had numerous opportunities to engage with the representatives of NGOs and non-profit organizations.



U. N. MEETINGS & INTERACTION

Dates	Interaction Topics
15th May, 2023	Representation of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre by Sr. Janet Palafox, Sr. Cynthia and Sr. Imelda Poole
8th July, 2023	SDG Summit – NGO Committee for Social Development Grassroots Project
30th January, 2024	Networking with Sr. Janet Palafox and Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development







COLLABORATION WITH THE AMERICAN CONSULATE

Advance martial arts workshop was initiated for the children at sonagachi with the support and motivation of the American Consolate



With effective collaboration with the American Consulate a wonderful workshop was conducted by Mr. James Rozario on Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling and Dark Web for our KMWSC team and the certificate of participation was given to each pne for attending the workshop.



Challenges Faced

- Lack of limited resources to track the trafficking victims and conduct rescue operations result in delayed response. Sometimes harrowing and life-endangering night visits for staff is mandatory.
- Language hurdle – The medium of instruction for both our Bengali and Hindi trainees under the Barefoot Training Program was painstakingly hard due to the language barrier. The training had to be carried out in both the languages simultaneously.

Due to the familial and social reasons of the candidates, it was often difficult to get the required quota of applicants at the grassroots level to join the training session.

The process of constructing the Sack Farming Project Roads for the Organic Sack Farming Project was not always smooth and easy. The project had its own share of challenges, and ups and downs which are commonly associated with agricultural and community development projects. Ensuring active and sustained participation from the community members posed a challenge when production of bricks reached its peak season.

Weather Conditions and Seasonal Variability:

Extreme temperature during the mid-summer months affected the success of crop cultivation. Adapting the farming practices to different seasons and ensuring a continuous supply of fresh produce throughout the year also posed a challenge in this regard.



Land Availability and Permission:

Obtaining sufficient space for sack farming in the brickfields and securing permission from brick kiln owners was a logistical challenge at the outset of the project.

- Non-availability of electricity in the evenings in the Gosaba area under the Solar Enlightenment Project on roads was one of the major issues along with difficulties faced during monsoon due to muddy and water-logged roads. Also, the entire Manmathanagar and Bipradaspur village does not have safe drinking water. They are frequently faced with natural calamities like cyclones, flood, etc.



- The engagement of adolescent boys and girls in the brickfields, who work alongside their parents, became a hindrance as they stopped attending classes during peak brick production seasons. This resulted in a significant drop in attendance at the Model Centre as students faced challenges balancing work commitments alongside their lessons. Mid-term dropout of children from the school resulted in a challenge in sustaining education for all enrolled students.
- Concerning the Source Area Intervention, securing dedicated and qualified staff in Nawada has proven to be a considerable impediment. While the region demands specialised attention, identifying individuals who possess both the requisite education and commitment to efficiently execute responsibilities remains elusive.



- Since the government officials were very frequently transferred from the government offices at different project locations, building rapport with government stakeholders was time consuming. During that intermittent period, the victim's life was endangered as he/she could also be shifted to an unknown place. Thus, entire operation falls through and the rescue process gets delayed or even remains unsuccessful.
- While applying for the ID cards for differently-abled children, there was a challenge faced by the staff since the government hospitals took time for processing the ID cards which required around two to three visits with the concerned people. It was a herculean task to make the children involved in begging understand about the importance of education since they were inclined towards small accessible earnings, instead of studying. The process of acquiring the legal documents was lengthy and tedious and multiple visits had to be made to the government offices.
- Initially there was less or no cooperation from the community members, especially the club presidents and Gram Panchayats to work on Child Protection Issues in the remote villages. The situation got worse during the elections at the village since there was a political turmoil which stopped the teachers conducting the classes regularly. In case intervention was needed, the team had to face various challenges in the communication process as initially no co-operation came from the government stakeholders or villagers.
- Many children who were groomed to join the sex trade as a source of income from a young age or got addicted to that lifestyle very early in life are deemed to be at high risk. The police usually refused to take such cases with seriousness when any child of a sex worker has been trafficked.
- We also faced challenges regarding the constant supply of raw materials since it was delivered from another city, but gradually



connections and infrastructure was developed along with local vendors without compromising the quality or price thereby, keeping this as a viable solution to maintain the stock of the raw materials.

There have been issues in time management with the trainees quite a few times with their work and academic schedules, which have led to a conflict with the timing of the course.



Learning through the Challenges

1. It was enlightening and eye-opening to work against Human Trafficking in the Indo-Bangladesh border since it is the main transit point for human trafficking. We have also learnt how to work with government stakeholders for rescue operations. Although the rescue processes have been very challenging, providing legal support to the survivors and making them confident helps they lead a better life.
2. We have learnt the process of generating awareness amongst the trainees about Child Rights and UNCRC.
3. After getting solar lanterns the lives of the economically impoverished became better. Their children can now study more proficiently and women can also do household work efficiently. As the people of the community came to know about several Govt. Schemes and procured widow pension, disability pension, legal entitlements, child rights and the like.
4. The child members of the children clubs are becoming vocal and active day by day. They are talking about creating a safer and healthier community and also, undertaking responsibilities to do so.
5. The Santhal Community was ashamed to go to the administrators to convey their problems. At present the Tribal community can appeal to the administration about their documents or needs and have the courage to speak to the concerned officials by themselves. The little experience and interaction we had working with the Santhal community led us to believe that they accepted life as it came. Therefore, they are dependent on natural resources for their survival.



6. The child leaders are learning to prevent Child Marriages in their communities. Children, local police, BDO and Panchayats have all come forward to aid in the prevention of Child Marriages happening in the villages.



7. Engagement with the community is crucial for the success of any project. Understanding their unique challenges and expectations can result in more effectiveness and sustainability.

8. The project emphasises upon the significance of allocating resources effectively, especially in the selection process, striking a balance between inclusivity and resource constraints which is critical.

9. Weather conditions can significantly impact project implementation. This generates the need to plan activities around seasonal variations, thereby providing necessary facilities for beneficiaries, especially children.

10. Various Mothers' groups have taken the initiative and put in considerable effort so as to change the mindset of their respective communities. With the help of Field Animators, they are able to communicate with local stake-holders regarding Child Protection issues in their respective villages.

11. After conducting **Child Rights Awareness** camps and spreading consciousness regarding prevention of child marriages in the villages of the project areas has led to the reduction in the rate of child marriages.

12. While implementing the projects, we have been exposed to the benefits of strong networking and rapport building. In Dulki village, initially the main Government officials were against our programs, but recently



they not only joined our program but have also started supporting our work.

- 13. We received essential support from the villagers especially, mothers and adolescents.
- 14. **Child Parliament** group meetings and peer-to-peer monitoring systems has aided in the development of a strong networking system among the children, creating a foundational basis for equity for learning which is established by providing regular remedial classes.



Short inspiring evidences

Bina Biswas

Gaborda, Swarupnagar, North 24 Parganas

School: Gaborda High School

Bina, who lives in a village near the Indo-Bangladesh border, has been witnessing the atrocities committed in the dark across the barbed wires dividing the two countries. While growing up, suspicious movement near the border at night had come to her notice. When she tried to ask her family about it, she was asked not to pay much attention to those occurrences, and was ultimately silenced. Though she was curious she kept mum. When Bina started going to school she noticed many of the senior students of school were suddenly disappearing without a trace. When she enquired after them, different people provided different accounts of the same – either marriage or career prospects in metropolitan cities. But what caught Bina’s attention and made her think was that none of the said students contacted their family and it felt like they never existed.

Later, when Bina joined the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre – Anti-Human Trafficking Project, Child Parliament, she was made aware of cross-border trafficking, and how West Bengal is one of the transit points for trafficking wherein, under the pretext of good job opportunities in metropolitan cities or good marriage prospects, traffickers entrap innocent children and adolescents from small villages. Bina was shocked as she could put the pieces of the puzzle together. Bina asked all the questions and doubts pertaining to the subject and instead of being silenced, they were welcomed and answered. During one such workshop, the Border Security Officers also provided guidance on how the traffickers were using the wide range of the border for trafficking as it was not possible for the BSF to monitor all the points at all times. So if any of them had any information which could help control the situation, they were encouraged by the BSF to let the concerned authorities at KMWSC know. The provision of identity security was also ensured.



Bina had the habit of taking early morning and evening runs as she wanted to be physically fit so as to appear for the physical exam, which would help her to become a Law Enforcement Officer in future. During her run she used to notice suspicious movements around the border. Often, she saw many unknown people loitering around the fences which made her sceptical about their activities, but she kept it to herself. Upon encouragement from the KMWSC staff, she decided to stand up for the country's good and reported such activities to the concerned authorities.

Over the years, with the information provided by Bina, and quick thinking and close monitoring on the part of the BSF and KMWSC staff, three cross-border trafficking cases were stopped.

1. Once, Bina and a few of the villagers saw a girl crying a lot and a man who was trying to stop her from attracting a lot of attention. It was evident that they were not from the village and when she and a few of the villagers went to them and started asking questions, the man said that she was his daughter but the girl refused to admit so. Bina found the entire matter suspicious and contacted KMWSC staff who got in touch with the BSF. The girl disclosed that she lives in Mumbai and was going to her maternal house. Her mother handed her over to this man in Kolkata and said that she would soon follow, but never came. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that this man intended to sell her in Bangladesh. Due to the quick thinking of Bina the girl was rescued in time.
2. Sahanara Khatun aged 14 years, and Tahezin Islam aged 13 years were trafficked from Bangladesh and were put up in a house near Bina's village. The plan was to take the kids out of the area late at night to avoid being detected by the BSF. But as Bina was living near the said location she got the information and immediately contacted the KMWSC staff who informed the BSF. Together they rescued the kids from being trafficked.
3. Mahim Sardar aged 14 years, lives in Kolkata but his maternal grandmother lived in Bangladesh. To meet her, he crossed the border illegally and paid for it. While coming back, his grandmother gave a middle-man money to help his grandson reach Kolkata safely. Bina saw an unknown face loitering around his village for a few days and she informed the same to KMWSC staff who, in turn, alerted the BSF who discovered the boy to be Mahim. He was never taken back to Kolkata but was kept with a trafficker who was planning to sell him.



Bina who has taken the pledge to make her village safe from the traffickers and is instrumental in creating awareness among the other Child Parliament leaders with the help of the KMWSC team. She encourages them to step forward so as to voice their concerns and not stay quiet to prevent trafficking. Bina is in the most real sense a hero without a cape for she wishes to continue her good work and stop many such trafficking cases in her area.

Munna Das

Choto Bankra, Swarupnagar, North 24 Parganas

The incident pertains to the occurrences in Munna Das's life. This incident not only narrates the difficulties of a socially deprived adolescent girl but also reveals the various problems and challenges faced by her in society. It makes us aware about human trafficking and teaches us how to confront and deal with such a situation.

Munna lives in a small village near Indo-Bangladesh border of West Bengal. She belonged from an underprivileged family but her father never deprived her of education. Munna's father is a daily wage labourer and therefore the family's financial condition was not very stable.

In addition to having such glaring financial problems, Munna's life became even more complicated when she noticed a boy, Atanu Mondal (name changed) and a few of his friends stalking her. Gradually, it became a daily occurrence, especially during her journey to school and back wherein the boy used to harass her by catcalling and eve teasing. She was scared that if her family came to know about the boy, they would stop her from going to school and she would have to leave her dreams of becoming a school teacher. The incident resulted in a sudden change in Munna's behaviour for now she seemed too anxious and nervous which led to her grades getting affected.

Munna tried her best to ignore the boy and his advances. As time passed, the boy's behaviour started getting more aggressive until it culminated into a proposal on the boy's part. Munna didn't want to attract any trouble and politely declined his proposal and begged him to leave her alone, but the boy was not ready to accept her rejection. He started to threaten her for he believed that she was playing hard to get and would ultimately accept his proposal. After repeated refusals by Munna, Atanu (name changed)



presented Munna with two options – he will either throw acid on her beautiful face so no one will want to marry her or he would kidnap and rape her so that her family would beg him to marry her. He viewed her as his object possession and would go to any length to keep it that way. Munna undauntedly refused him and warned that she would take any and all necessary action against him.

For a few days the boy stopped harassing her and she thought that her warning had had the desired effect. One day Munna and her friends noticed the boy was waiting with a car. He suddenly leaped out of the car and ambushed Munna with the full intention of kidnapping her. Her cries for help were quickly responded to by her friends, who had by then gathered a crowd which made the boy flee out of fear. Munna, with the support of her friends, took the decision to inform the KMWSC team as one of her friends was a child parliament member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Project of KMWSC in her village. She shared all details of the incident with them. They consoled her and a team went to meet Munna's parents and made them understand the situation thereby convincing them that their daughter was not at fault. It was suggested that some action must be taken to stop the boy from harassing Munna and other local girls. The local Panchayat was called into session where the boy and his family were summoned. It was decided that he was to apologise to the girls and stay away from them at all times and never harass them from then onwards.

Munna lost all her confidence and felt judged by her friends for she heard many of them discussing how her behaviour must have encouraged the boy. But, the KMWSC team took it upon themselves to create awareness among the girls of the village about how blaming the victim is wrong and how they should encourage Munna to return to her normal lifestyle. Munna has started encouraging other girls from her school facing a similar predicament to stand up for themselves and has even persuaded the child parliament to stand up for women's rights. This led to the formation of a group which protects other girls from being harassed or assaulted.

The fearlessness of Munna not only prevented her from getting kidnapped and sexually assaulted but also opened an avenue for other victims facing similar situations.

One of her friends who was a Child Parliament member of AHT project under KMWSC received a Bravery Award from the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights for assisting Munna during her kidnapping and acid attack.



A Ray of Hope in Latika's Life

A woman named Latika Singh, aged about 37 years old, is married for 20 years to Mantu Singh. They live at Manmathanagar village under Gosaba block, Sundarban. They have three children – two girls and one boy who study in class III and VI respectively. Her husband is a farmer who works as a contractual labourer at a paddy field, turning out a monthly income of Rs. 2000/- only which is not sufficient to feed a family of five. Sometimes Latika does kitchen gardening to support the family but due to high soil and water salinity in this region, leafy vegetables like spinach, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, pumpkin are unable to grow easily. They often had to deal with food shortage which led to starvation. It was often seen that after feeding the three children, Latika and Mantu had no food left to feed themselves.

Latika rears goats and sells them or their products so as to support her childrens' studies and to provide basic medical treatment and amenities. Latika, her husband and her son used to go out to the riverside while it was dark to catch fish and crabs to sell them in the market.

Due to lack of proper electricity connection in the houses and village streets, the villagers are prone to be bitten by poisonous insects and even snakes. Moreover, since the bathrooms are not attached with the houses (normal house planning of villages), it is a great risk, especially for womenfolk.

After a thorough survey our field associates provided the family with a solar lamp, which was a source of relief for them. Now, the children are able to study at night effortlessly. Though the problem of electricity deficiency was solved, the lingering problem of financial instability was still prevalent. To solve Latika's monetary issue, her family was provided with a brood of chicks (10 in number) by our field associates on August 8, 2023. After they became fully grown chickens and layed eggs, she sold some in the market and kept the rest aside for the family. With the money she received after selling the chickens and eggs in the market, she invested some in the studies of her children, keeping the rest aside for the treatment of the family. She also bought certain grocery items and vegetables from the market with the money received. Her house was subjected to regular visits by the field associates to ensure proper maintenance of her growing poultry farm. As of now, the reports conclude that she is the proud owner of 40 chickens in her blooming poultry business.



She stated in an interview to KMWSC in Bengali, 'আমি এখন আমার পরিবারের পাশে দাঁড়াতে পারছি। বাচ্চাদের পড়াশুনা করাতে পারছি। আমি চাই আমার ছেলে মেয়েরা বড় হয়ে আমাদের মতো কষ্ট না করুক। আমাকে সাহায্য করার জন্য কলকাতা মেরি ওয়ার্ডকে অসংখ্য ধন্যবাদ জানাই।' (I can now stand beside my family. I can fully fund and support the education of my children. I do not want my children to struggle hard like us. I heartily thank Kolkata Mary Ward for helping me in this difficult situation.)

Story of a Santhal child of Adivasi Para at Gangasagar

Child Name: Deb Murmu

Age: 13 years

Father: Indrajit Murmu

Mother: Mamani Murmu



13 year old Deb of Santhal community lives with his parents in Gangasagar. He has two siblings, Bharati Murmu (7 years old) and Shubhankar Murmu (5 years old). His father is a both-leg amputee from birth. He uses his hands as support to walk. He cannot do any work to feed the family. Both Indrajit Murmu and his wife earn money by begging near the Gangasagar temple. Deb and his siblings also used to beg with their parents. Their monthly income was approximately Rs. 2500/- which is not sufficient to feed a family of five.

Tribal community Development and Empowerment Project staff visited the family, after which they came to know that the family was a permanent residence of Kakdwip block. The family used to beg every year at Kapil Muni Temple during the Gangasagar Fair. They could earn more during that time. Indrajit thought that they could earn enough to feed the family of five if they lived at Gangasagar permanently. Since then, the family shifted to Gangasagar permanently. But Indrajit and his wife could not manage a suitable place to house themselves and had to settle on a dilapidated thatched house which was destroyed by a cyclone.

Deb, who was eager to study and play sports, could not realise his dream due to his family's severe financial constraints. His educational qualification was only till class III in Sreedham Gangasagar Swami Kapilananda Vidyabhaban (H.S) with an irregularity in attendance. But during the pandemic, extreme poverty drove Deb and his siblings to beg

along with his parents for a living. His sister Bharati was completely deprived of any formal education by her father.

Our main challenge was to generate awareness and make them understand the importance of education for a better future of their children. After several home visits, Indrajit Murmu and his wife agreed to come to our community meetings and awareness programmes. Now they are regular participants in aforementioned meetings. Apart from this, they also send their children to our Learning Centre regularly which has resulted in a gradual yet great improvement in their studies. His mother had personally requested our teachers to admit Deb in a reputable school. In March, 2023 our project staff re-admitted the child to the 6th standard Sreedham Gangasagar Swami Kapilananda Vidyabhaban (H.S). His two siblings also got admission in Gangasagar Panomajhiyani FP School in Class I and PP respectively. After getting admitted, Deb said, "I wanted to learn for a very long time. Now my dreams of studying have come true. I will study attentively and grow up and be like Sir Tufan. When I grow up, I will earn a good amount of money and support my parents". Indrajit Murmu said, "My family and I are grateful to KMWSC for all their help and support. We want a better future for our children."



Name: Anisa Khatoon

Class: VIII

Address: Chanda, P.S- Basul Danga

Dist: South 24 Parganas.

For girls like Anisa, it is a challenge to overcome adversity. Her tough fight for survival began at a very young age when she lost her mother and since then, she has had to face the dark side of society. From her childhood, Anisa's life was a far cry from that of the other children, as her poverty-stricken life encompassed only hardships and a broken home.

Anisa's life came to a standstill the day her father began abusing her mother in front of her three year old brother and herself. Day by day the intensity of abuse increased until a time came when her father evicted both mother and children from his house. He cut all familial ties, remarried and started a new family.

Anisa's mother took the two infants and went to her maternal uncle's house, because there was nowhere else to go. But gradually, Anisa's mother started to fall ill, the domestic torture taking a toll on her health. Her mother

slowly succumbed to her injuries, leaving behind young Anisa and her brother. An arrangement was made for Anisa's brother, who was sent off to a madrasa for his studies. The problem arose when financial issues began due to Anisa's addition to a family of six. Anisa had to endure the torture of her aunt though she helped her aunt in household work. Her uncle was employed in a tailor shop, while her grandfather owned a betelnut shop, generating very little family income around only three thousand a month. In light of these events, Anisa's grandfather decides to fix her marriage. But upon vehement opposition by Anisa, her grandfather finally had to call off the marriage.

Now, Anisa is studying in Class VIII and is a member of our Child Parliament. Since she joined, she has been made aware of her right to choose and of the consequences of child marriage. She states, "I will be half-fed, but I will not stop studying after getting married." As she continues her battle against the adversities in her life, even though the expenses incurred due to her education and commutation often hamper her progress in this very field.

We at KMWSC salute her fight against such odds.



Blooms of Resilience - A Tale from the Brickfields of Hope

In November 2023, as the brick kilns in West Bengal sprung back to life, a silent migration unfolded. Families, hailing from different corners of the country, flocked to the brickfields to toil as labourers. Amidst this seasonal revival, the Brickfield School Project team prepared for the upcoming session, embarking on field surveys to identify families and enrol their children in the brickfield schools.

On the morning of 7th November, 2023, in the heart of UMA Brickfield at Budge Budge, South 24 Parganas District, a poignant encounter unfolded. Amidst the dusty landscape, the team stumbled upon Juli Kumari, a pregnant woman in the throes of her labour pains. Juli, wife of Sulachan Kumar, had just migrated from Jayantnagar, Kochgawan of Nawada district in Bihar. Far from her roots, she was a woman on the precipice of motherhood.

As a beacon of humanity, the NGO's field staff could not turn a blind eye. On that fateful day, they acted quickly to admit Juli to Budge Budge

Municipal Hospital. Juli gave birth to a baby girl, amidst all the hullabaloo. Yet, a poignant truth unveiled at the hospital - both Juli and Sulachan were below the legal age of marriage in India reflecting a complex tapestry of life in the brickfields.

The following morning, the field staff returned to the hospital to seek updates on the newborn girl and mother. Upon enquiry, they learnt that though Juli was recovering, her baby was born with complications which were being treated. But, that same night, the baby's condition became further complicated, and as the Municipal Hospital lacked the necessary infrastructure, they were referred to Chittaranjan Seva Sadan & Shishu Sadan Hospital in Kolkata which was a specialised hospital for new-borns.

On the morning of 9th November, 2023, Juli's husband informed our staff about the situation. Realising the urgency of the situation our field staff of Budge Budge sprang into action. The discharge formalities were completed immediately and an ambulance was arranged to transport the patients to Kolkata.

The days at Chittaranjan Seva Sadan & Shishu Sadan Hospital brought about a lot of anxiety in both the field staff and the father. With each progressive day, the child's condition improved. The project staff handled with a steadfast presence, the legal entanglements that emerged which pertained to the parents. The NGO, in an earnest plea, tried to evoke sympathy about the family's economic struggles and societal unawareness which led them to take such a step as child marriage.

On the 16th of November, after eight days of treatment, the hospital, satisfied with the recovery, issued the discharge certificate of the mother and her new-born. This story stands as a testament to resilience, compassion, and the delicate threads that weave us all together in the intricate tapestry of life.



CASE STUDY

Name - Smita Mondal (name changed)

Age - 16+ years

Case Type - Child Marriage

Class - X

On 6th May, 2023 we received information regarding a child aged 16 years from the AHTU 153 BN BSF. The child's father is a mason and the mother, a housewife. She studies in Class X at Dumdum Bidyalaya UP High School.

She was in a relationship with a boy and thus, her family decided to get her married as soon as possible. We had received information that a child marriage was taking place on 7th May, 2023 at our intervention area. We reached the spot immediately and informed the matter to the Police Station. The matter was also brought to the notice of the North 24 Parganas Childline. Meanwhile, the BSF also reached the marriage venue upon tracking the child's activity. We came to know that the child was to come to the marriage venue in the evening.

The child was rescued just as the wedding was taking place and under the explicit orders of the CWC, she was handed over to Nijoloy Home. After rescuing, we came to know that the child is a resident of South 24 Parganas and after the child's address verification, she was handed over to her parents on 22nd May, 2023.

Now, the child has successfully passed the Madhyamik Examination and is continuing her studies in standard XI.



CASE STUDY

Name - Ravi Kumar Bhuyia

Age - 33

Case Type - Identity Card Issue

"I am Ravi Kumar Bhuyia, residing in Hastings. I have been differently-abled since birth. After hearing about the card that is provided by the government for people suffering from the same predicament as I am, I had applied for the same but was not able to procure it. The teachers of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, who come regularly to teach the children, have helped me a lot regarding this matter. They also accompanied me for the registration procedure at a reputable government hospital - Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital. After visiting the hospital three times with them, the final process for the card is ongoing. I am very grateful and thankful to the teachers for the help they have rendered to me for the fulfilment of this procedure."

CASE STUDY

Name - Rima Mandal

Class - IV, Age - 14 years

Address - Dulki Village

Rima Mandal belongs to a very economically backward family. According to her family, educating the girl child is not important. Educating the girl child is still not considered vital among many families in the rural areas. Rima was very much interested in studies and wanted to continue her academics. But due to poverty and the rigid mentality of her family, she dropped out of her primary school while she was only in standard IV. Young Rima had no choice but to agree with her family and succumbed to the situation. Gradually she suppressed her wish to study further and started assisting her parents with household chores. After conducting surveys, our team reached out to her, carried out home visits on multiple occasions and one-on-one interactions with the girl and her parents to convince them and make them understand the importance of education, especially of the girl child. After a lot of home visits and direct interactions, the team succeeded in enrolling her in our centre and helped Rima regain her self-confidence.

Recently, Rima's parents have amended their previous perspective and allowed Rima to continue her studies from the coming session in the local government school. It was a difficult task to make her parents understand the long term impact of receiving proper education which the constant effort of the team of teachers has made possible.



CASE STUDY

Name - Shibani Das

Age - 17 years

Address - Dulki Village, Gosaba, South 24 parganas

Shibani is a resident of Dulki village and belongs to an economically backward family. The core adolescent group of our project team had identified that the girl was married at 17 and was living along with her husband in a separate accommodation. The team members visited her house in the name of conducting regular surveys, to know in detail about her marital status and collect more information. It was discovered that their marriage was consensual. The teachers informed the same to the Gram Panchayat who were uncooperative and showed no inclination to take any action for the same as they believed that if the marriage is consensual, they had no say in it. She left her education midway and became invested in starting a family with her husband. The project team visited the Gosaba Police Station and after waiting for four hours they got an opportunity to

meet with the Station Head Officer. They provided all details of the case, submitting a letter describing the child marriage incident and asked for their co-operation. The police intervened in the case and presented a warrant stating that both the girl and the boy are to live separately until the girl comes of age. The adolescent group is now keeping a proper track on their activities and are responsible for informing teachers and the police if the concerned individuals are found to be staying together or engaging in common marital activities. The adolescent group is also sincerely keeping tabs on them and are keeping in touch with the teachers on a regular basis.

CASE STUDY

Name - Ruma Das (Name Changed)

Sonagachi - Red Light Area



Ruma Das is not your usual teenager; she is the daughter of a sex worker. Thus, a safe childhood was a luxury for her in the unsafe lanes of Sonagachi. From a very young age, due to her exposure to various atrocities committed in her surroundings like the catcalls, and unwanted lustful male glances, the greedy eyes of the pimps, etc., she had to mature before time.

Ruma is an active child parliament member of the project inside Sonagachi led by Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) which made her aware of her rights and the various legal provisions in place to protect herself and the other girls. She could now differentiate between the good and bad in her surroundings.

Anima was a victim of her mother's profession. She had been sent by her mother to live at a relative's outside Sonagachi. Anima befriended Ruma when she was sent back to her mother at Sonagachi by her relative, when Anima's mother failed to send money as promised for her upbringing.

For Anima, since the surroundings were new, Ruma took it upon herself to guide her. Though Anima missed her life in the village with her aunt and her cousins, she had to accept her stark reality and began to adjust to her new life. Sadly, her mother considered her to be a burden and a hindrance to her independent lifestyle. Anima used to feel very uncomfortable with the glances she received from her mother's male clients and even though she shared her concerns with her mother she refused to acknowledge them and dismissed it.



Therefore, Anima started confiding in Ruma who very well knew what she was going through and lended her support to continue her life. One day, Anima informed Ruma that she would no longer be living in Sonagachi and that her mother was sending her somewhere else. She also shared that her mother's attitude towards her has changed drastically as she was now buying her clothes and providing her with healthy and nutritious food. She was happy as she thought that she was finally receiving her mother's love. But, Ruma was suspicious of the sudden change in Anima mother's behaviour. She began keeping a close watch on the mother-daughter duo.

A few days into her investigation, Ruma heard some gossip about Anima's mother negotiating with the highest bidder about selling her twelve year old daughter, Anima. She did not have any solid evidence until she overheard Anima's mother finalising the sale of her daughter with a madam (pimp) in Sonagachi for a large sum. Anima would be taken outside Sonagachi and would be groomed to entertain clients.

Since time was short, Ruma knew that swift action needed to be taken to save Anima's life. Therefore, she contacted KMWSC staff and shared the required information. As per their direction, Ruma informed all the Mothers' Group members of the project and other Child Parliament members so as to mobilise support. All of them restricted Anima from being sold until KMWSC staff arrived. Upon strict questioning by KMWSC staff, the pimp left the premises as she could understand that the situation was getting out of hand. Though her mother tried to pressurise the other residents of Sonagachi with the help of local goons, all of them stood their ground, and with the support from CWC, Anima was rescued and shifted to a safe place.

Anima could be saved due to Ruma's presence of mind, who felt that it was her responsibility to help to save her from such a predicament. Thus, Ruma's small approach turned out to be a life altering decision taken for Anima. Ruma continues to be a prominent Child Parliament leader and has guided many more girls in her area of work to stand strong against any form of abuse – physical or mental.

From Scepticism to Success - Lipika's Journey with Organic Sack Farming

"Organic Sack Farming" instilled doubt in Lipika's mind, making her sceptic about the concept. Since she was not familiar with the concept, she

wondered whether it could truly make a difference. However, she amended her thoughts after attending her first training session at our resource centre in Basirhat. The demonstration provided by our resource person was extremely successful as when she returned to the brickfield with the newly acquired knowledge, Lipika decided to try her hand at it. She set up a few sacks with the materials we provided, planting seeds and saplings.

As the fruits of her labour started showing, her initial scepticism transformed into a deep-seated interest for the program. She cared for her plants with unwavering dedication, frequently seeking advice from the project supervisor to ensure a bountiful harvest. Two more training sessions followed, and Lipika, like many other mother trainees from the brickfields, was a regular attendee. During the training sessions, her inquisitive questions helped her expel any lingering doubts regarding this field of work.

When the first harvest was obtained, Lipika was overjoyed. Her children revelled in the newfound variety in their meals. The impact of 'Organic Sack Farming' was not merely limited to nutrition but also led to more diverse and balanced meals and a proper diet. Now, Lipika's 'Organic Sack Farming' extended beyond vegetable farming as she began exploring fruit cultivation as a viable option through this innovative method. Including fruits in her children's diet which previously seemed a luxury, could now be achieved.

Lipika's story is a touching reminder that with determination, knowledge, and innovative solutions, families in a similar predicament, can afford nourishing and nutritious meals and even consider 'Organic Sack Farming' as a possible career option.

CASE STUDY

Name - Ramprasad Biswas (name changed)

Class - X, Age - years

Address - Kolapota Village

"Namaskar! My name is Ramprasad Biswas (name changed) and I am a resident of Kholapota village, studying in Itinda Union High School. I am a student of standard X. Usually in our area, boys are not allowed to speak about menstruation openly and have minimal knowledge about the subject. It is rumoured that this is a very secret topic and must not be discussed in public, especially with boys. But after the intervention of the



Sanitary Pad Unit under Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, the women, adolescent girls and boys have attended several awareness programmes, where they got to know about many things pertaining to menstruation and menstrual hygiene which helped them realise that this is a very natural process for each and every female. We learnt about periods, its process and effects on the physical and mental health of women. We were also informed about maintaining menstrual hygiene. Moreover, the taboos and superstitions attached with the process of menstruation were dismissed from my mind and I have also been instrumental in educating my family, particularly the female members, in this regard. They were pleased to know that I had learnt many things from these awareness sessions. Also, free sanitary pads were distributed to the women and adolescent girls. I am very thankful to Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre for this great initiative undertaken to educate our village on the subject of menstrual health and hygiene.”



Testimonies

- Experience Report to KMWSC



My name is **Mou Mahata**. I am a 4th semester student of Rabindra Bharati University and I have completed my 45 days of internship at KMWSC. We had a three-day training on social defense at our university where two employees from KMWSC came. I came to know about KMWSC from them. After talking to them, I decided to do an internship in KMWSC. My joining date on the 17th January, which was my joining date, I went to KMWSC and met Mr. Sanjay Baxla. Then he handed me over to their project team under which I was sent to Motijheel for field work.

A teacher in Motijheel not only educates the backward children but also motivates them to attend school. Various child awareness programmes from KMWSC are also run there.

After going to the field work, I conducted video visual activities for the children, made them study and also went on home visits and surveys. Through these field work, I observed that the backward children and their parents are taught how to move forward to a safe, strong and prosperous life. This definitely motivated me more for social work. KMWSC arranges food for the backward community people every Friday from morning to afternoon. Joining this endeavour, I felt emotional and got tremendous joy by distributing food there. At the end of the internship, I got the opportunity to participate in projects conducted by KMWSC, Some of these are mentioned below-

- 1) Solar project in Gosaba of Sundarbans.
- 2) Project on Human Rights at Diamond Harbour.

I have benefited a lot while on this 45 day internship and all thanks to all the employees of the team. Last but not the least, I am most grateful to Mr. Sanjay Baxla for being cooperative at every step.

Finally, a big thank you to KMWSC.

Mou Mahata



My name is **Ayushree Mitra**. I am a 4th Semester student of Rabindra Bharati University Distance and Online education. I decided to join KMWSC for a 45 days' internship from our University. Here, we first contacted Mr. Sanjay Baxla. I joined after knowing about the several projects and activities running there, through him.

Over there, I was sent for field work at Hastings along with their team members. Going there, I saw that all the children who are in the slum area are provided with various instances of help from KMWSC.

I was made aware of the various problems of each family through the survey being conducted by the members of KMWSC.

I learned about the educational process of the children with the teachers of that centre. I have seen and tried to do what the kids are taught there. They were engaged in many activities; various topics were discussed with the families of children through weekly meetings. I saw the necessity items such as food, health kit etc. being distributed there.

Apart from studying there, all these trainings were provided by KMWSC for those who wanted to pursue other activities like tailoring, makeup, fashion designing.

Food distribution is done every Friday from morning to afternoon in the main centre of KMWSC and I was not only a witness to that but an active participant too. Apart from being emotionally joyous, while distributing food, the level of satisfaction and gratification was uppermost in my heart. I even participated in the projects offered by KMWSC during the final stage of internship.

One of which was at Sundarban Gosaba. This was a solar project and the other one in which I partook was at Diamond Harbour for the Human Rights projects. Along with this, I attended a programme on Women's Day on 8th March, 2023.

Through this, I benefitted a lot and fruitfully fulfilled our training objectives and improve my personal learning curve.

Let me begin by thanking Mr. Sanjay Baxla and to all the members of KMWSC for helping me complete my internship properly and for their unstinted support for my endeavours.

Thank you.

Ayushree Mitra



Being an intern at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre for these wonderful 45 days, I have learned to live happily with obstacles.

Out of 17 projects in Kolkata Mary ward Social Centre, I was deployed in some of the utmost interesting projects.

One of the project is 'Identity Project' where children learn the subjects by activity learning process, maintain self-hygiene and enjoy every moments of life.

The activity learning process helps to establish a great connection between the teacher and the children.

Teachers not only teach rhymes but also help children learn through games, transformational activities, conversations, dances, songs, etc. They teach children through stories, rhymes and organize various awareness sessions for children and mothers of children. Find children who drop out of school and re-educate them in primary education and enroll them in traditional schools. The teachers of this project are trying their best so that the light of education reaches all the children and the children can create their own identity.

Another project in Mary Ward Social Centre is the Food ATM, where I gained work experience regarding nutritious and adequate food with special focus to the economically weaker or disadvantaged people to improve food services through distribution and to prevent nutrition-related diseases and improve health status. Same goes for the Brick field School and Safe Childhood Project, etc. All these projects provided a variety of work experience and learning opportunities.

Members of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre have never treated us like a volunteers but always treated us like family members. Here, I got the opportunity to learn in a nice way and all credit for that goes to Kolkata Mary ward Social Centre.

Nelupha



I am **Sr. Carmina Mascarenhas RNDM**. I was privileged when I got to give my time, energy and talents for the needy people through Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC). I began my voluntary service at KMWSC soon after I completed my masters in Social work (MSW) from St. Xavier's University on July 2022. I have been rendering my service here for the past 11 months. I have learnt a lot of things regarding the administration work of a NGO.

I visited most of the project location and was able get connected with the people of the place. The important learning that I received from these visits is childhood is a very important phase in any child's life and as adults it is our duty to protect them and create an environment where children are able to grow in freedom and love to their full potential especially those children who are deprived of their basic facility in life and neglected ones. The experience of being with KMWSC has enhanced my way of working and developed in me the energy to go beyond what I could do and surrender to God to carry out any task because it He who gives the strength to move ahead when I work for His people. I would like to thank Sr. Monica and all the staff at KMWSC for giving this opportunity to have a wholesome experience.

As we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and our own happiness. – Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Thank you again for allowing me to be inflamed with zeal to discover myself and God's will for me which in turn makes me happy within.

Sr. Carmina RDNM

Media Coverage

ईट भट्टों से लौटे 32 बच्चों का कराया दाखिला

नवादा, निज प्रतिनिधि। कोलकाता मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर व जिला शिक्षा विभाग की संयुक्त पहल पर ईट भट्टों से लौटे बच्चों को शिक्षा की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ने की पहल की जा रही है। पिछले कई सालों से सेंटर की ओर से विभिन्न प्रदेशों में ईट भट्टों पर काम करने वाले बच्चों को उनके उम्र सापेक्ष कक्षाओं में दाखिला दिलाकर बच्चों को शिक्षा की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने का काम किया जा रहा है।

फिलहाल कोलकाता मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर के तहत ब्रिक फील्ड स्कूल प्रोजेक्ट की तरफ से 21 व 22 सितम्बर को ईट भट्टे से वापस आये हुए एडोलेसेंट ग्रुप बच्चों को नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस छात्रावास कौआकोल और रजौली में दाखिला दिलाया गया। कोलकाता मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर की निदेशक



गुरुवार को बीआरसी नवादा में ईट भट्टों से लौटे बच्चों के बीच बांटी गई पोशाक। • हिन्दुस्तान

मोनिका सुचियांग, व्रीक फील्ड स्कूल प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर रीना सिंह, प्रोग्राम को-ऑर्डिनेटर अखिल राय और विधा भूषण सिंह ने ईट भट्टे से वापस आये बच्चों का दाखिला कराया। दाखिला लेने के बाद बच्चे काफी खुश दिखाई दे रहे थे। इन बच्चों को सेंटर की ओर से दो दिवसीय लीडरशिप प्रशिक्षण बीआरसी, नवादा में दिया जा रहा है। प्रशिक्षण शुरू होने के बाद कुल 32 बच्चों का दाखिला नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस छात्रावास कराया गया। सेंटर की ओर से इन बच्चों को पोशाक भी दिया गया। छात्रावास के वार्डन से मिलकर बच्चों के पढ़ाई की जानकारी ली गई।



3:05 PM

24 वर्षा

सांवादिबेर छेय जनयापेर राय

METROPOLIS
The Pathology Specialist

शिशु सुरक्षा सप्ताह: वसिरहाट

LIVE कम खरचे विज्ञापन दिते योगायोग करुन फोन : ९००१२९२०९२



3:05 PM

24 वर्षा

सांवादिबेर छेय जनयापेर राय

METROPOLIS
The Pathology Specialist

विशेष क्रमता सम्पन्न शिशुदेर निये शिशु दिवस

LIVE कम खरचे विज्ञा

08 | The Herald Perspective



My IVLP Journey in NGO Management in the US

By Monica Suchiang

For three enriching weeks in March 2024, I had the privilege of participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on NGO Management in the United States. I was invited as one of the participants due to my role as the Director of the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, a globally recognized and highly appreciated NGO since its establishment ten years ago by the Loreto sisters of the South Asia Province. A long side fellow participants from 23 different countries, I embarked on a collaborative journey that significantly broadened my professional horizon.

Participating in the IVLP, a prestigious U.S. government initiative, proved to be a humbling opportunity to learn from industry experts. Through workshops, meetings, and insightful discussions, I gained invaluable knowledge about effective NGO management practices. This program not only deepened my understanding of non-profit organizations but also equipped me with fresh perspectives that I can effectively implement in my own work.

The U.S. Department of State meticulously crafted a program with clearly defined objectives to bolster our comprehension of NGO management best practices. The program commenced with an exploration of innovation, where we delved into cutting-edge strategies employed by American non-profit organizations, public service entities, and advocacy groups. Subsequently, our focus shifted towards understanding the multifaceted dynamics within the U.S. non-profit landscape. This entailed examining the intricate relationships between businesses, government agencies, and NGOs. Finally, the program culminated in an examination of leadership and engagement. This segment assessed leadership development models, volunteer engagement strategies, technology utilization, social media implementation, fundraising techniques, and how NGOs effectively pursue their missions.

I remember the words of Ms. Sherry Mueller, who, drawing from the wisdom of John Quincy Adams, said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." During my time in the IVLP, I had the privilege of meeting individuals who embodied this sentiment, sparking inspiration in others to pursue excellence and foster positive change.

Our journey took us through diverse U.S. cities, each providing a unique perspective on NGO management. From the

corridors of power in Washington D.C. to the bustling non-profit scene of New York City, we interacted with government officials, academics, and practitioners, gaining firsthand insights into the dynamics of public-private partnerships. Charlottesville, Virginia, focused on honing our NGO management skills, while San Diego, California, illuminated the influence of NGOs on legislation and effective social media tactics. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, highlighted the importance of volunteer management and youth development. Finally, New York City deepened our understanding of human rights issues, particularly those faced by marginalized communities.

Participation in the IVLP program served as a catalyst for significant personal and professional development on various fronts. Firstly, I honed my skills in cross-cultural communication, refining my ability to effectively interact with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. This improvement has facilitated stronger collaboration with colleagues, fostering an environment of mutual understanding and respect. Secondly, exposure to global issues and diverse viewpoints broadened my worldview, enabling me to approach challenges with a more comprehensive perspective and make informed decisions. Armed with newfound knowledge and skills, I am committed to contributing more effectively to achieving my organization's objectives. Additionally, immersion in the rich tapestry of American society deepened my appreciation for diversity and inclusivity, emphasizing the importance of embracing individuals of all ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. Lastly, discussions surrounding healthcare, education, and social inequality in the U.S. heightened my social awareness, highlighting the complexity of these issues and underscoring the necessity for well-rounded solutions that address multifaceted challenges.

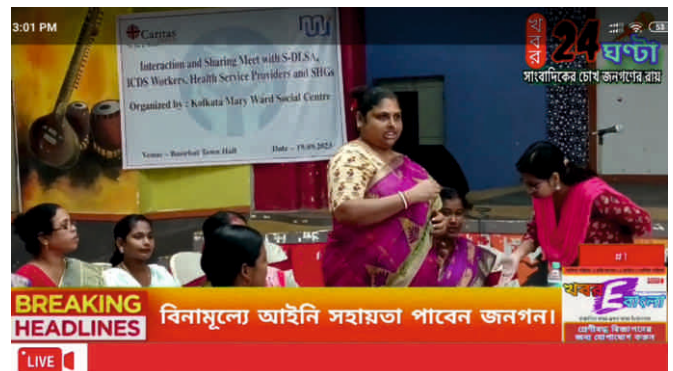
The IVLP program solidified my conviction that leadership is an ongoing learning process driven by the aspiration to create positive change. Motivated by the program and the remarkable individuals I encountered, I am dedicated to embodying the traits of a leader who motivates others to dream, learn, succeed, and grow. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our coordinators and fellow participants for their warmth and acceptance. Together, we embarked on a transformative journey that undoubtedly will shape our roles as NGO leaders in the future.

নাগরিক সেচ্ছাসেবক ওরিয়েন্টেশন :বসিরহাট



খবর 24 ঘণ্টা

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, বসিরহাট : কলকাতা মেরি ওয়ার্ড সোশ্যাল সেন্টার এর উদ্যোগে ও বসিরহাট পুলিশ জেলার সহযোগিতায় বসিরহাট টাউনহলে এ দিন জেলা স্তরের পরামর্শ সভা ও নাগরিক সেচ্ছাসেবকদের অরিয়েন্টেশন প্রশিক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। এদিন সভায় উপস্থিত ছিলেন বিডিও, সিডিপিও, বসিরহাট দক্ষিণ বিধানসভার বিধায়ক, পঞ্চায়েত প্রতিনিধি, বসিরহাট সাইবার পুলিশ সেল, এসডিও, সি সি সদস্য, এবং সিবিও এর মত একাধিক প্রশাসনিক কর্তারা। এদিন এই সভায় নাগরিক শিক্ষা সেচ্ছাসেবকদের অরিয়েন্টেশন প্রোগ্রামের পাশাপাশি কলকাতা মেরি ওয়ার্ড সোশ্যাল সেন্টারের শিশু সুরক্ষা দল এর উদ্যোগে শিশু সুরক্ষার বিভিন্ন দিক আলোচিত হয়। এছাড়াও শিশু অধিকার লঙ্ঘনের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ের কিছু কৌশল নিয়ে সভাটি সমাপ্ত হয়।



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Magic Studio

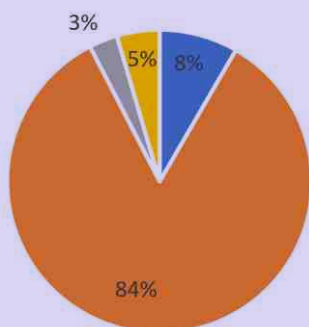
Joy Ghosh Academy

Kriss Beauty Parlour

Monica Chen Studio

Financials

SR.NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT A/C
1	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre AC No. 6012061329 IFSC : KKBK0006572 Address : 4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House Kolkata - 700071, West Bengal India	FCRA A/C Kotak Mahindra Bank
2	FCRA-Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre AC No. : 40070288087 IFSC : SBIN0000691 Address : N.D. Main Branch, Parliament Street New Delhi, NCT of Delhi - 110001	FCRA A/C SBI Delhi New Delhi Main Branch
3	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre AC No. : 6013453673 IFSC : KKBK0006572 Address : 4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House Kolkata - 700071, West Bengal India	KMWSC-Society Account Kotak Mahindra Bank
4	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre-Donation AC No. : 047163968 IFSC : KKBK0006572 Address : 4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House Kolkata - 700071, West Bengal India	KMWSC-Donation Kotak Mahindra Bank



KMWSC PROJECTS 2023-2024

- Anti Human Trafficking Projects
- Children and Woman Empowerment and Community Development
- Solar Project
- Vocational Training - for Employment



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