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Annual Report 2019-2020



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Walked past our 30th year – 2019-2020

It is my immense pleasure in presenting forth to you all the 30th Annual Report of Rural Aid for the year 2019-20. During the past 30 years, beginning with a small but firm step taken with belief and conviction, to traverse the Path of Development and to work in a focused manner with and for the socio-economically deprived and marginalized women and children for addressing their issues and needs, Rural Aid has come a long way. It has learnt a lot from its well-wishers, donors and the society with whom it has effectively engaged with while carrying out various welfare and Rights Based activities. We as an organization have gained learning experiences from many unforeseen and operational challenges – organizationally, financially and programmatically too, which have enabled us to gather our strengths and convictions with renewed energy each year to work more and more for the causes of Children and Women under deprived, marginalized and hard to reach situations. Due to these learning and practical experiences, we have been able to take up more and more pressing issues relevant to the context and each year dedicating ourselves to the development agenda of the relatively deprived and marginalized rural people of West Bengal.

The opportunities gained from different exposures and trainings over the years from different agencies and forums have helped in sharpening Rural Aid programmatically and organizationally over these 30 years of our existence. Resultantly, from time to time, we have adopted different approaches and strategies and evolved development interventions that aim at addressing multiple vulnerabilities and have multi-sectoral linkages. From an initial reactive and philanthropic service-delivery approach to coping with disasters in the Sagar Islands, we have gradually grown up to a greater understanding of developmental issues and taken up actions to address the issues affecting the lives of the marginalized specially the women and children in North Bengal. There is still a lot to learn, a lot many miles to go and many milestones to reach through our sectoral interventions in Child Rights, Children's Health, Education and Protection; overall Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Livelihood and Women's Empowerment.

We are grateful to and would like to humbly thank all our partners in change standing by us – our valued donors, local communities and local Self Government bodies, National and State Government and allied agencies, individuals and other civil society actors. With the belief put



upon us and the strengths gathered from our well-wishers and the financial as well as technical supports extended by our valued Donors, we are enabled to continue to work objectively for the positive changes and sustainable development together to make a Lasting Change for the benefit of our children in particular and the marginalized society at large!

We also take this opportunity to thank the Governing Body (Board) Members of Rural Aid for their regular support and guidance in organizational and programmatic matters. We are also grateful to our dedicated and untiring staff members for walking the mile to fulfill Rural Aid's Vision, Mission and Objectives. But without them it would have been not possible to meet the challenges, bring in the new learning and positive energies and taking up new avenues to ensure Rights and Access to Equal Opportunities for the people.

Sutapa Dutta (Chakraborty)

Secretary

Our Governing Body (Board) Members:

The Governing Body members of Rural Aid come from different arenas and background. Rural Aid's erstwhile President was a Headmaster of the school, from where the Founder Mr. Sovon Dutta had studied, was a big influencer on the group's functioning. Post his demise Dr. Sainen Halder, a medical practitioner is the current President. These members are from diverse professional background in the Board. There is a balanced and healthy composition of people from rural and urban background in the Governing Body which as per our Society's norms customarily meets on quarterly basis. Besides this, our Governing Body also meets periodically as and when issues concerning the organization (programmatic, financial or administrative) emerges. Before undertaking any programme the Board meeting is held whereby the entire project, the scope, goals and its programmes are discussed in detail along with the objectives of the respective funding agency.

The Members –



Dr. Sailen Halder	Medical Practitioner	President
Mr. Saroj Bandopadhyay	Retd. AGM, State Bank of India	Vice – President
Mrs. Sutapa Dutta Chakraborty	Social Work	Secretary
Mr. Tapan Kumar Dey	Retd. Bank Officer	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Kashinath Poddar	Chartered Accountant	Treasurer (Expired on October 2019)
Mrs. Basabi Rozario	Service Woman, working on Development Sectors	Treasurer (October 2019)
Mrs. Kshama Sen	Retd. Teacher	Member
Musharraf Hussain	Advocate, Kolkata High Court	Member

Our Auditor:

Partha Sen & Associates

214, Balia East, Garia, Kolkata - 700084.

Ph: 033 – 24 620964, 24144308

Our Bank Details:

	<u>Indian Funds</u>		<u>Foreign Funds</u>
Bank Name	State Bank Of India	Canara Bank	State Bank of India
Branch	Karanjali	Jadavpur	Karanjali
AC/No	11541969228	98010117892	11541967129
A/C Name	Rural Aid	Rural Aid	Rural Aid
Address	Vill- Karanjali, Dist South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743344	Jadavpur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Kolkata – 700 032	Vill- Karanjali, Dist South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743344



Branch Code	04701; IFSC: SBIN		04701
No	0004701		

Profile of the Founder of Rural Aid – Mr. Sovon Dutt

Mr. Sovon Dutt, Secretary of Rural Aid grew up in Belpukur village in Kulpi Block of south 24 Parganas district. From his childhood he had the influence of his maternal grandfather who being a doctor in the village had an altruistic way of helping people in the area. Another influence and in his life was the head master of his school who motivated him into social work. Mr. Dutt completed his B.Sc in Botany from Kolkata. Thereafter he returned to Belpukur and he along with seven like-minded youths of the village with inspiration from the local High School head teacher came forward to work on the deprivations of the locality. Belpukur by virtue of being remotely located lacked services and Government amenities pertaining to health, education and livelihood. The group came together to work on ways to uplift the conditions of the villagers especially in the field of sanitation, livelihood, community development and child care programmes. However, the work was done in an unstructured manner without any funding. They did not have any formal background of social work but had a high spirit to do something for the development of the area.

Mr. Dutt grew with the organization which started working informally from 1987. In due course of their work they undertook sanitation programmes in the area of South 24 Parganas with special emphasis to Kulpi and Sagar Island. He gained insight on installing tube wells for drinking, pond excavation and sanitation programmes for building toilets in the area. While undertaking the sanitation programmes he made an inroad in school sanitation and expanded the work from community at large to children with the help of crèche programmes. While working in South Bengal, he got the opportunity to see the situation of people in North Bengal's Dooars area. Mr. Dutta built an understanding on sustainable livelihood programmes by introducing mixed cropping, making vermicompost, medicinal plants and vocational trainings for women and developing Self Help Groups. It also paved the way to look at the issues of trafficking and unsafe migration which were offshoots of the larger underlying problems in the area. It resulted in a shift in looking at developmental issues from a service delivery mode to rights perspective.



Vision of Rural Aid:

Rural Aid aspires for a society where values like love, peace with justice, equality and equity will prevail. There will be equitable sharing of resources. People will live in keeping harmony with nature. Empowering the poor and marginalized for Improved Livelihood System and to ensure their equal right.

Mission of Rural Aid:

To promote self–reliance and sustainability among the reference community by strengthening their organization and promoting and supporting sustainable development initiatives which ensure their livelihood. The organization will work with special emphasis on tribal, women and children. The organization will keep faith on people’s knowledge, skill and experience.

Objectives of Rural Aid:

- To provide a platform to the community for leading an Equitable and Dignified Life
- To organize and strengthen vulnerable village groups, women, adolescent and children on their Rights and Entitlements through knowledge sharing and empowerment processes
- To sensitize, mobilize and build capacities of the community on Right to Food, Work & Livelihood and in increasing the skill, knowledge, experience, ability, of the common people, and liaison with the System upon the same
- To mobilize and strengthen small and marginal farmers on sustainable organic agricultural practices aiming at Sustainable and Healthy Environment while addressing issues of Climate Change, and Economic Growth and sustenance of these marginal farmers
- To ensure Right to Education with special emphasis on the Girl Child, School Dropouts and children from the Primitive Tribal Groups
- To develop community linkages with the Government for provision of services and entitlements
- To generate awareness and empower community upon personal health and hygiene through Behaviour Change and Communication



- To generate awareness and build capacity of the community, community-based Task Forces and related stakeholders with the Government System upon Climate Change, Sustainable Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- To generate awareness and capacity against exploitation, harassment, and Rights of the people and children among stakeholders within community and governance
- To create a conducive environment for women & Children for preventing abuse and trafficking/unsafe migration of children and addressing issues of Child Protection through formation and empowerment of responsive Community Based Groups

Operational area and coverage of Rural Aid under ongoing projects:

- Rural Aid is presently operational in an in-depth manner in the two districts of North Bengal – Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar
- The 3 Blocks being covered under operations – Kalchini Dhupguri
- The number of Gram Panchayets being covered - 11 in Kalchini, 4 in Dhupguri and 8 in Madarihat
- The number of villages reached - 36 in Kalchini, 40 in Madarihat and 8 in Dhupguri

The Target Groups being engaged with and reached - *Women, Children, Marginal & Small farmers, Forest Dwellers, Tea- Garden & landless laborers, Person with Disability, Victims of trafficking and disasters and so on belonging to SC/ST/OBC & BPL*

Background and History of the Organisation

Rural Aid is a registered voluntary organization involved in social action and economic development. It was formed in 1987 and later registered in 1989. It got registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 1995. The organization is also registered to be entitled to receive Tax Exemption for the donations received under section 12A and 80G of the I.T. Act, 1961. The work of Rural Aid focuses on ensuring the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society through sustainable development. The goal is to empower individuals and ensure they enjoy equal rights and have access to basic services. Issues related to rights of women and children, literacy, health, water and sanitation, food



Security, livelihood, Disaster management, environment, governance have been the focal points of interventions made by the organization. Rural Aid today has altogether 35 Full time staff having expertise in various sectors.

Rural Aid works for the poor, marginalized, vulnerable and deprived sections of society in tea gardens and forest areas in Jalpaiguri and in remote areas of Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas. Its target community includes poorest and most marginalized section of society with emphasis on women, children and people belonging to backward and minority communities. It has worked previously in Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas district and presently it is working in Satali and Mednabari Panchayat in Kalchini Block and Dhupguri block of Jalpaiguri district. They have initiated work on trafficking and Child Rights in 5 G.P's in Kumargram Block. R.A is working towards providing a platform to the community for leading a dignified life.

Rural Aid was formed in 1987 by a group of enthusiasts of Belpukur village in Kulpi Block of South Parganas. Sovon Dutt along with some likeminded youths of the village initiated the effort to work for the uplift of the area with inspiration from the local High School head teacher. By virtue of being remotely located Belpukur lacked services and Government amenities pertaining to health, education and livelihood. The area did not have the basic amenity of potable drinking water. The group came together to work on the development of the village. However, the work was initiated in an unstructured manner without a clear blueprint for development and how to go about it. The group had the passion to do something for the area and they began with water and sanitation programme.

The organisation was registered in 1989. The first funding with regards to development of the area was initiated through funding from CAPART for installing tube well in the area for safe drinking water. Subsequently in 2003 a programme for pond excavation was undertaken with aid from CAPART in Sagar Island. Sagar island was chosen as the members of Rural Aid knew the area very well and there were ponds in the area which would benefit from excavation. Water for People also started supporting R.A in the programmes. They gradually extended to sanitary toilet programmes under the ambit of sanitation and hygiene programme. Apart from community they worked in schools so that children could have access to toilets rather than having to use open spaces. In due course Rural Aid expanded its work with the help of Central Social Welfare Board's Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for 25 children in Kulpi Block of South 24 Parganas district. They subsequently received funding from West Bengal State



Welfare Advisory Board for another crèche programme. This programme was undertaken as the conditions of children were poor with regards to their health, education and development. This not only gives children a chance to get nutrition and avail pre-primary schooling but also helps mothers who are working to get a safe space for their children.

In due course of their work, Mr. Sovon Dutt (the then Secretary) came in contact with CASA. A visit was undertaken by the contact person from CASA and possibilities of funding were explored. During that period Mrs. Sutapa Dutta (Chakraborty), Programme Manager (now the Secretary of the Organisation) of Rural Aid was located in North Bengal because of her husband's posting. It was through CASA's encouragement they initiated a programme in North Bengal. Thus, while continuing the work in South 24 Parganas, the organisation with the initiative of Mrs. Dutta (Chakraborty) started assessing the situation of people in villages and tea estates in Dooars area of Jalpaiguri district. Rural Aid initiated an assessment of the situation in North Bengal. The plight of the tea gardens in North Bengal was grim. It was also found that the situation of the significant tribal population was also grave. They came in touch with Mr. Dilip Banerjee (ex-Officer on Special Duty, Public Health Cell, Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal) who not only acted as a resource person but also guided the group. In 2003 Rural Aid initiated work for the uplift of the tribal and marginalized through exploration of an agricultural Income Generation Programme. The organization started focusing on the development of the marginalized section with special emphasis on women and children.

With support from CASA and IGSS, Rural Aid focused on sustainable agriculture with emphasis on mixed cropping, bio intensive garden, vermicompost and growing medicinal plants. The other focus was on formation of SHG's where vocational skills were imparted and the groups took their products to various exhibitions and fairs. In addition, Capacity building of the groups, building linkage and strengthening people's participation with the PRI and working on disaster management were the areas Rural Aid started focusing upon. In North Bengal flash floods and inundation of the rivers are a perpetual phenomenon which cripples the functioning of life. They received grant from CAPART (Council for Advancement of People's Action & Rural Technology) for organizing vocational trainings with children and people with disability so that they could become self-reliant and less dependent on the family. In due course they started working on the aspect of vocational training for providing livelihood options to women in sick tea gardens and forest villages. A Balwadi programme with support



from W.B Welfare Advisory Board was initiated in Madhubagan Tea Estate to deal with the education of pre-primary children in the age of 4-6 years. It was through the assessment they came to know that trafficking and unsafe migration was rampant in the areas of North Bengal more so for the vulnerability of the sick tea gardens, remoteness of the places, ignorance and poor economic condition of the people.

The work on prevention of trafficking was initiated through Action Aid in 2006 whereby community awareness and formation of Reflect groups within the community has been developed to prepare a preventive and pressure building mechanism in the community while establishing linkages with the local self-governance, block, sub division and district level for seeking redress of the deprived community. They have been invited to be a part of the Anti-trafficking Committee both at the Block and District level. 3 staffs have been included in the R.P.F Mitra Yojana programme whereby cards have been issued to them for joint rescue of trafficked children. Rural Aid gradually expanded its scope of work from care and welfare to development and rights. Issues pertaining to women and children, literacy, health, food security, water and sanitation, livelihood, governance, disasters have been taken up by the organization. On the basis of the baseline findings work was initiated on the formation of Child Protection Committees. Children's groups (Star groups with adolescents) were formed subsequently to orient them and the community on Child protection issues. Rural Aid started working on Child Protection issues in Kumargram Block with emphasis on trafficking from 2009.

Identifying the root causes in these areas where unequal position of women, food insecurity, absence of livelihood opportunities led the organization to focus on these aspects. In the purview of their work they found that empowerment of children is essential for them to develop holistically and enjoy their rights. They realized work in the realm of trafficking can be addressed if other aspects of education, health and livelihood can be furthered with the help of Government services and entitlements. Rural Aid while empowering the community on their rights in one hand through sensitization and awareness programmes with the help of groups, on the other hand worked with the LSG and Government officials at the Block and District level to lessen the chasm that existed between the community and Government services. While initiating the rescue of children and women who were missing either as a result of unsafe migration or trafficking, they started delving on the deeper underlying causes. It has resulted in regularizing the anomalies in the payment of contractors for work being undertaken, stop



gambling in tea gardens with the help of Police and Panchayat (one major reason for workers losing their earnings), enabling women to voice their protest against alcoholism and domestic violence, seek information and put across their demands before the Local Self Governance for entitlements and schemes, initiate the habit of sending children to schools and understand the relevance of education.

In the long and short journey of 30 years, Rural Aid has come a long way, each year becoming more and more relevant to the context and each year dedicating itself to the development agenda of the poor and marginalized rural people of West Bengal with renewed vigor. Rural Aid has, over the years, evolved development interventions that aim at addressing multiple vulnerabilities and have multi-sectoral linkages. From an initial reactive approach to coping with disasters in the Sagar Islands, the organization has gradually grown to a greater understanding of developmental issues and taken up actions to address the issues affecting the lives of the marginalized specially the women and children in North Bengal. This understanding permeates Rural Aid's other sectoral interventions in Children's Education, Rights and Protection; Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Livelihood and Women's Empowerment.

PROJECT AND ITS ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY RURAL AID DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR OF 2019-2020

CHILDLINE India foundation is a non-government organization (NGO) in India that operates



a telephone [helpline](#) called Child line, for children in distress. It is India's first 24-hour; [toll free](#), phone outreach service for children.

CHILD LINE 1098 is National 24*7 emergency outreach service for children in need of care and protection linking them for services for their long-term care and rehabilitation of any child or concern adult on behalf of the child.

The CHILDLINE Collaborative Organization run by Rural Aid has been functioning since 4th October 2018 in Alipurduar Junction Railway station to provide 24*7 telephonic emergency services for children in need of care and protection.



We advocate for services that are inaccessible, nonexistent or inadequate and rescue children from difficult circumstances such as:

- *Street children and youth living alone on the streets.*
- *Child labourers working in the unorganized and organized sectors.*
- *Domestic help, especially girl domestic helpers.*
- *Children affected by physical / sexual / emotional abuse in family, schools or institutions.*
- *Children who need emotional support and guidance.*
- *Children of commercial sex workers.*
- *Child victims of the flesh trade*
- *Victims of child trafficking.*
- *Children abandoned by parents or guardians.*
- *Missing children.*
- *Run away children.*
- *Children who are victims of substance abuse.*
- *Differently-abled children.*
- *Children in conflict with the law.*
- *Children in institutions.*
- *Mentally challenged children.*
- *HIV/ AIDS infected children.*
- *Children affected by conflict and disaster.*
- *Child political refugees.*
- *Children whose families are in crisis.*

We provide children with services of medical treatment, repatriation to native places, counseling, referral to shelter homes, reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to emergencies on 1098, work together with the Allied Systems to create child friendly systems, referral to services, Information about CHILD LINE and volunteers. Programmes of outreach, awareness and open houses are conducted to create public awareness for Child Rights & Protection and CHILDLINE services.



The Railway CHILDLINE tackles issues related to trafficking, begging, child labor and child abuse, and more such issues related to runaway children. When a case of a child received from CHILDLINE call centers, immediate action need to be taken to rescue a child, take his/her details, medical checkup of the child and guide the child to concerned welfare centers on the



case by case basis at Alipurduar Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and Shelter Homes for shelter of children.

The twelve numbers of team members working in the Alipurduar Junction Railway station premises takes care of three Railway stations New Alipurduar Station, Court Station, Alipurduar station with support from 3 police stations to deal with Child in Need of Care and Protection cases in Alipurduar.

In this year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 total number of children rescued: - 212

Cases contacted / reported through	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
1098	1	3	2	8				1	1	12	1		29
CHILDLINE outreach	11	12	12		42	29	11	23	3		14	10	167
GRP				1			1			1			3
RPF		2		3	3			3	2				13
CWC production	12	17	14	12	45	29	12	27	6	13	15	10	212
Total	12	17	14	12	45	29	12	27	6	13	15	10	212

Awareness & Sensitization programmes

Our commitment and priority towards Child Protection is critical towards the creation of a protective environment for children. There is a dire need to ensure that Child Protection is understood and practiced by all stakeholders in ensuring the rights of a child. Catalyzing allied systems including the Police, Health Care Organizations, Education Institutions, Transport Undertakings, Telecom Media, NGOs who have a large stake in Child Protection is vital to create more sensitive and proactive society. The NICP (National Initiative for Child Protection) is one such need based initiative implemented at a country wide scale. These sensitization and



awareness workshops are carried out with Police, RPF, GRPs, Vendors, Parents, Teachers, Schools, Students and children. Awareness in CHILDLINE is part of our 'work'. CHILDLINE's success is measured not just by the number of calls in a city but also by the levels of awareness. CHILDLINE awareness strategies aim at empowering children to dial 1098 when in crisis, building partnerships across society where each one has a role to play in protecting children, and advocating for children. A summary The CHILDLINE awareness and brand strategy is uniform and solidly built on principles of social marketing. It reaches out to children, the Allied Systems, the corporate sector, concerned individuals and thereby the community at large. The aim of creating awareness about CHILDLINE is to ensure CHILDLINE 1098 is the service across the country associated with quality services for child protection through meetings, displays, sensitization, posters, stickers etc. Awareness on prevention of COVID-19 has been rigorously organizing since, February 2020, until the railways were functioning, we sensitized around 2000 numbers of train passengers, slums community has been provided with the awareness on importance of Hands washing during the pandemic, keeping safe distancing/social distancing and wearing masks.



Awareness & sensitization programs.



Outreach Programmes

CHILDLINE outreach for CHILDLINE is an everyday feature. Members of the CHILDLINE



team go out on the street, stations, bus stops, auto stands, slums and create awareness about CHILDLINE. This direct method of reaching out to children is the strongest method of getting the CHILDLINE message through, especially to children. Day out reach !

The team goes in to areas where they can find children and talks to them about CHILDLINE. Most children are not familiar with telephones. The team begins with taking groups of children to telephones, showing them how a phone works, teaches them to dial 1098, shows them where the digits 1098 are on the dial pads, makes them familiar with the dial tone, the engaged tone, the ring etc. Children make mock calls to experience and get familiar with communicating on the phone our team also helps children memorize the number with slogans & songs.



Celebrations

Celebrations strengthen the bond between children and CHILDLINE. These events also serve



as tools for awareness in CHILDLINE. CHILDLINE events like Birthdays, anniversaries, festivals, and national days. CHILDLINE's guest list includes DCPO, CWC, Railway Authorities, Police, RPF, GRPs, children associated with CHILDLINE, their peers .children associated with partner

NGOs volunteers, ex-CHILDLINE team members, the representatives from the Allied systems we celebrated CHILDLINE SE DOSTY WEEK, POSHAN MAAH etc.





Open House

Open House been held once a month, the venue could vary and in a large city there could be three or more meetings happening in different locations



at the same time. The venue needs to be accessible to children. It could be a playground, park, railway platform, a street corner, under a tree. Games and food can be part of Open house. It helps in breaking the



ice and makes the children more comfortable. The focus are given to the issues raised by children and it is CHILDLINE's responsibility to give children the space to raise voice regarding the problems they are facing. It allows space or platform for the CHILDLINE team along with the children to identify solutions to problems.

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY WIPRO

Develop a core education unit (of 5-6 people) within Rural Aid to work in a long term and sustained manner to help improve the quality of education in schools in Rural Aid's areas of operation.



We have six team members directly in education team. In two and half years we have got trainings, workshops and other capacity building measures with the support of resource organizations from Vikramshilla & Zodo Gyan

on Language & Maths to strengthen the team's conceptual and practical understanding of primary education focused on principles and approaches to primary school education, especially math's and language.



Sl. No.	Name of the course	Course conducted by	Duration	Course content/Area
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st phase Foundation training.• Pedagogical process.• 3rd phase training.• Exposure at Bigha School & Nabodisha Centre.• Mentoring support• Introductory course on primary mathematics	Vikramshilla Vikramshilla Vikramshilla Vikramshilla Vikramshilla Jodo Gyan	3days 3days 3 days 3days 3 days 3 times 6 days	History, Background and an understanding of Education. Language & Maths Language Language & Maths Language. Language & Maths. Maths

Rural Aid team members have gained basic knowledge and understanding on language & Maths like how children learn like

- Listening, observation, speaking & touching.
- Doing activity practically.

What should be the nature of teachers in class room like?

- Planning & methodology
- TLM Preparation
- Time Limits, Listening, speaking, reading & writing.
- Lesson Plan



We also understood associated vocabulary how to conduct in centers & class rooms. We have gained knowledge in Language Matrix like Receptive & expressive with thinking and also stages of reading & writing. In Mathematics we learnt introduction of numbers with children, counting, assumption & thinking.

Two team members from Rural Aid also participated in the workshop/training given by Jodogyan in three phases in Delhi. Workshop was fully conducted on Mathematic subjects & joyfully learning with Maths TLMs dated on 25th to 28th July, 24th to 27th September & 12th to 15th December 2018. Jodo gyan mathematics training was based on ganitmala counting addition, subtraction & multiplication. Rangomaty, word problems and fractions.



Two members from Rural Aid team participated in WIPRO Partners Meet where we also gained knowledge & had basic understanding on the Topics of curriculum & pedagogy in context engaging the community/parents on education, working with teachers to address the context, policy level issues around making teaching-learning contextual in subjects of Science Education, Social Science Education, Co-curricular and also areas of Multilingual Education.

3rd phase training was given by Vikramshila Resource organization on 15th to 17th January 2019: -

From Vikramshila. Riti Mukherjee & Abhijit Sinah have taken the three days training sessions where we learnt how to design and manage time on Oral work, Read aloud, Phonics & writing for stage I & II.

1. Oral Work (Listening & speaking skills)

- Open Conversation
- Guided Conversation
- Story Telling
- Rhymes/Action Songs



2. Read Aloud/Reading Activity

- Picture Reading
- Pre- reading & Post- reading of story by, reading with face expression, with voice modulation and also asking what will happen.
- Rhymes
- Pretend reading

2. Phonics

- Letter recognition
- Sound awareness
- Decoding

3. Writing activity

- Drawing picture
- Pretend writing
- Copy writing
- Shared writing
- Dictation writing
- Independent writing

All these we planned and designed the activities in the workshop for centre and now we are practicing in our centre.

Direct and sustained engagement with children's learning through before/after school classes for children.

We have six Children's activity centre in the six teagardens of Kalchini Block (Mechpara TG, Satali o/d, Malangi, kalchini Kamhar line, Rabinder Nagar & Toorsha TG). In three teagardens we run centers regularly before or after school in (Mechpara, Satali O/D, & Kalchini Kamhar line) accompanied by two members from Rural Aid Team. **Two centres we run at weekends.** In each activity centre we have 25 to 30 children from the age group of 6 to



14 years. We engage with the children with primary school children before/after school for two hours as instructed and guided by Vikramshila.

In centres we teach children Language & Mathematics especially for classes I & Iv.

A. Centre related information

Sl . No.	Name of the activity centre	Name of the village/Tea garden	Number of total children enrolled	Boys	Girls	Centre timing	Centre location	Medium of instruction	Remarks
1	MECHPARA ACTIVITY CENTER	MECHPARA TG	30	12	18	9:00 am to 11:00 am	MECHPARA FACTORY LINE	HINDI	
2	UJJALA CHILDREN ACTIVITY CENTER	SUBHASHPAL LY (HAMILTONG ANJ)	27	10	17	3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM	SUBHASH PALLY (HAMILT ONGANJ)	BENGALI	
3	HASIMARA No.1 MALANGI ACTIVITY CENTRE	MALANGI TG	25	11	14	3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM	MALANGI TG	BENGALI	
4	SATALI 8 NO ACTIVITY CENTRE	SATALI TG	25	8	17	9:00 am to 11:00 am	SATALI OUT DIVISION	HINDI	

We run the centers from Monday to Friday and also discussion, review and activity planning lesson planning and developing of TLMs.



Activities engaged with children

Conversation- Listening and speaking practice.

- We engage with the children open conversation, Guided Conversation, Story Telling, Rhymes/Action Songs. The objective is to help children express their thoughts, and how they feel.
- During story time, children can get opportunity to talk about what they know from their own lives to make connections between their own experiences and the books they hear read aloud.
- Using open-ended discussion to challenge children to “go deeper” as they express their ideas. Children can express feelings, tell what they are thinking, share a new idea
- Through conversation children learn share ideas, solve problems and learn new things. As children’s abilities grow, they express themselves in more complex language constructions. This growth is essential for children with deep and broad vocabulary become better readers, writers.

Read Aloud/Reading Activity

We engage with the children Picture Reading, Pre- reading & Post- reading of story by, reading with face expression, with voice modulation and also asking what will happen. Rhymes pretend reading.

- Reading aloud helps children acquire early language skills. Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to encourage language and cognitive skills, vocabulary it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory.
- Reading aloud gives children the opportunity to practice listening and essential skills.

Phonics

We engage with the children in Letter recognition, Sound awareness and Decoding.

- Phonics reading is very important in helping children to learn how to spell words and also to spell any word correctly if the child is not able to recognize the sounds of the letters used in forming the words. When a child is taught phonics, the child will be able to recognize sounds in words and will be able to spell them correctly.



- Children have problem in reading because they are not able to recognize the sounds of the letters of the alphabet in the words they read.
- Phonics reading will help children to recognize and associate sounds of the letters of the alphabet in the word they read. This will help them to improve in their reading skills and efficiency. In other words.
- Phonics reading helps also to increase a child's fluency in reading, reading text accurately. When a child is taught phonics properly, the child will find reading easy.

Writing activity

We engage with the children Drawing picture, Pretend writing, Copy writing, Shared writing, Dictation writing, Independent writing.



- Writing helps communicate thoughts, It is a basic part of every elementary school student's education.
- Writing helps children to develop cognitive growth, abilities, and the power to influence.
- Creative writing encourages children to exercise their creative minds and practice using their imaginations. It improves their ability, increases their thought processes, which can lead to success in many areas.
- Children often have difficulty understanding and expressing how they feel. Through writing, children have a safe place to explore, which can be a highly beneficial for expressing their feelings.
- Writing gives children more opportunity to assert themselves and their opinions and develop their “voice.” These developments can really strengthen their self-confidence.

We can say that interest of the children on education have increased they actively participate in the activities they learn and enjoy the games. In last year children have done very improving



result parents are also happy and tell us that for our learning centers children have done their better result. Children used to face reading and writing issues but through our activities they are progressing.

In the upcoming year as per guided by Vikramshila during last visit in the month of Feb'2020 we will be focusing the level of children Level-1, Level -2 and Level-3 on language by dividing the children in three groups as per their learning levels for independent Reader and writer. and Maths by dividing the children in three learning level groups for basic numeracy.

Interactions with Teachers & Headmasters in schools & advocacy

Rural Aid team is in close interaction with schools' teachers we have shown few TLM to school teachers and they have also appreciate our learning centers. Meetings and discussion on children performance, sharing our activity work, knowing the children's attendance. Re-enrolling the dropout children to schools and following the retention rate. In meetings at block level teachers of indirect school also invite Rural Aid team to run centers in their school also.

Recently we have started development of TLMs with teachers at schools interested teachers actively participate in developing of TLMs but more emphasis are needed to engage them properly in the coming year.

Parent's teachers meetings are held every month slowly parents participation are increasing they are also asking the teachers about the performance of children.

Engagement with Community & Parents

We are creating awareness on the importance of education of children. Strengthening of the village level groups which include parents, SHG members, community members, local panchayats on the importance of education and building a sense of ownership towards the school through parent's teachers' meetings.

Awareness and capacity building process are going on in the issues of Importance of education, Free and compulsory education, issues of Child protection, Importance of VLCPC how they will work in the village creating a safety net for all children including all the departments.



Children's Day Celebration

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY CASA

The project is being implemented with 480 households of 6 Tea Estates under 4 Gram Panchayets in Kalchini Block in Alipurduar District. The goal of the project is to provide resilient livelihoods and sustainable food security to the excluded and socio-economically marginalized women and men in disaster prone and food insecure Tea Garden areas of Dooars Region through Capacity Enhancement of the targeted communities towards sustainable livelihood and promoting smooth access to the available rights & entitlements in the tea garden areas; and working towards building a strong Network amongst the CSOs and community representatives to advocate on the issues identified through the district and state level platforms (Alliances) with the Governance.

The project aims at building and developing Community Based Organisations through capacity building sessions, mentoring, and advocacy meetings, and to develop Leaderships within the community, upon the issues pertaining to Livelihood, Good Governance, Rights and Entitlements, Gender, Justice, accessing Social Securities, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in 5 villages which are under the operational coverage.

So far 6 numbers DMTF, 6 numbers of WP group, 6 numbers of Adolescent Groups have been formed and nurtured comprising of 435 membes. 75 percent of the members are women and belong to schedule tribe community



Awareness programmes have been conducted for these groups upon understanding different social security and livelihood schemes. Special Training programme have been conducted for the Disaster Management Groups on **First Aid team, Rescue and Relief distribution.**

Outcome of the Awareness Programmes.

71 numbers of item listed for village development plan and they also share the mapping in front of PRI members in five villages. Among these 71 numbers of development plan had been initiated. Following are the development plans that has been carried out by the government so far.

- 23 numbers of CC Roads (Line).
- 5 numbers of Culvert to connect with villages.
- 11 numbers of drain for irrigation.
- 5 numbers of ICDS centres repairing.
- 6 numbers of safe Drinking water supplies.
- 21 numbers of Sanitation.

Presently 130 numbers of women are practicing Kitchen garden from the community in five villages. Their major cultivating products are green leaf, Brinjal, pumpkin, Papaya, lemon, onion, garlic, beans, carrot etc.

23 numbers of leader have been made familiar on the process and functioning of the particular department to get the Govt. scheme benefit. 5 numbers of leader have been elected and they have been trained to share the process of Widow pension, Old age pension, ration card apply, Manobik, Rupashree, disable pension, PMAY, Sanitation etc. among the visitors through chart papers. 36 numbers of beneficiaries have applied for digital ration card and 11 numbers of families have receive the ration card and also started to avail the benefits provided by the government.



Interventions toward food security

In order to meet the nutritional requirements, food security and livelihood, 50 families have



been provided with trainings in Mushroom Cultivation and developing Kitchen Gardens. These families have already developed their Kitchen Gardens and Mushroom farming within their respective homesteads which has helped them to meet

their food and nutritional

requirements as well as sell their vegetables for ensuring their livelihoods. 5 village level Micro Planning meetings have been carried out with 170 villagers in 5 villages for drawing up plans and budgets for village development and



addressing the infrastructural needs (drains, roads, culverts and school kitchen gardens) and issues pertaining to social securities

Women presser group

Total 5 Numbers of Women Pressure Groups (W.P. G's) have been formed (one in each targeted tea gardens) by the women, to work jointly to improve their status in the society. At present total 220 young and energetic women & Girls joined the groups. Total 20 Numbers of active members of W.P.G's (5 Nos. from each groups) has been selected and provided special trainings on Rights, Entitlements, Legal issue so that they can make aware and lead their group. The leaders are also playing a vital role by spreading awareness and guiding the target community peoples in placing their demands to the appropriate authority.

Under the banner of W.P.G's the women and girls of the project area breaking their silence and placing the demands for development of infrastructure in their area as well as to enlistment of names in various government beneficial schemes such as Pension schemes, PMAY, Old age pension, Widow Pension, etc.

Women are responding to their issues by putting forward their demands to local authority with positive attitude and actively participating in every meeting in the villages to raise their voice on the issues they are encountering as well as actively mobilizing the community to share their issues with the concern government officials.



Disaster Management Group

5 numbers of Disaster Management Task Force (DMTF) have been formed. All the 5 numbers



of DMTF Groups were linked with the Block Disaster Management Department and actively doing the Rescue and Relief works in collaboration with the Block Disaster Management team. The members of the DMTF groups are also working actively working for the development of their village by preparing and submitting developmental proposals in the Gram

Sansad meeting for construction of Dam, Culvert, River Bank and Roads reduce the risk of the Disaster in the tea gardens ..

Economical changes:

Due to application of kitchen garden, women as well as men are capacitated to increase their



livelihood by contributing in reducing their expenses on food. In some cases, women are contributing in her family financial growth as well. In Jattuline a SHG was formed and they have received loan from the government to practice sustainable livelihood through Kitchen Garden.

Around 7000 Migrant labour lost their jobs and have returned to their home at kalchini Block during the lockdown. Among them 369 numbers of labours were from the project locations. Besides, 600 numbers of daily wage labours who had been working at local areas for instance, Bhutan border have lost their livelihood as well. The whole locality was in crises and there was a dearth of earning sources. Above all, people of the area had been falling onto the trap of addicted, alcoholism, gambling and there was an acute raise in the numbers of domestic violence. However, from the organizational level, we indivisibly handled the cases and attempt to mitigate with the help of community groups and



PRI members through the village level meeting. Community group leaders have played an active role and kept record of the villages and families who were encountering scarcity and continued follow up the cases with villages in difficult situation. The knowledge and skills imparted by the CASA supported project has motivated the community towards adopting the sustainable form of agriculture and promotion of kitchen garden at large as well as access to different Govt. schemes for the project village

It has been a real challenge for the daily wage earners during the lockdown or post lockdown. Tea garden laborers were at stake, they had no option to livelihood apart from the garden earning. Those belonging from closed garden are at a situation where they can neither go out for work nor have any opportunity and benefits related to the garden.

Social changes:

The targeted community groups are now much more capable and aware about the Government facilities, entitlements and benefits which they can access. After several conducted awareness programmes on different Government schemes like MGNREGA, WPP, PDS, etc. Community people are oriented about the functions of Gram Panchayat, Block Office. Community people were trained on women rights and gender equity & equality.

Ecological changes:

With the help of different IEC materials, it has been possible to aware the community people about ecological changes. Ecological succession begins with a pioneer community therefore the mindset of the community is changing day by day about the nature. Through the alternative farming trainings the community people are getting knowledge about the ecological adaptation.

In this situation, due to the lack of awareness people are throwing used mask, gloves etc. which may be contaminated and it can cause the spread of the Covid-19 disease. Organization felt an urgent need to address the matter and organized an orientation programme with the CBOs under Project village on Safe Disposal of Garbage to community practice.

After the orientation the members of the CBOs realized the need of awareness in the community and they proposed to the organization that they are willing to create awareness in the community and inform the people about the measures that can be taken up to manage the domestic waste in a systematic manner through miking. The people of Gangutia T.G. and Subhasini T.G. took the initiative to conduct the miking in their own community. The members of CBOs of



Dalshingpara T.G, Madhu T.G, Atiabari T.G and Bharnobari T.G also decided to conduct the awareness program in the same way.



Field visit Rural Aid from CASA and BROT headquarters, Germany

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY FADV

“Enhancing Children’s Well-being and Resilience in the Community of Dhupguri and Madarihat blocks, West Bengal”

The project intervenes in the 6 tea gardens and focuses on two thematic areas, Education and Health. The children covered under this project belong to the families whose daily income is less than Rs.200 a day. The parents belong to the unorganized sector labor, who works as-tea garden labors, daily laborers, rickshaw pullers and construction workers. The families reside in one room shelters made of mud and bamboo, which has neither electricity nor running water, the shelters are exposed to humidity and hard rains in the monsoon season. These environmental conditions lead to infectious diseases due to the consumption of unsafe drinking water, lack of toilets, health and hygiene services, and to malnutrition. Children are the ones who suffer the most. Yet, most



of these families are not covered under the BPL list (Below Poverty Line), and hence, cannot access most of the government schemes and facilities meant to secure livelihood and housing. Hence, it is very difficult to convince the families to send their children to school, instead of sending them to work. Even after enrolment of the children in school, it is difficult to retain them.

The beneficiary children study in class 6 to class 12. These children have to travel 2 to 5 km to reach their schools. The infrastructure provided by the school is poor, which includes lack of drinking water facility, lack of separate clean toilets for girls and boys and poor teacher-student ratio. Although according to the Right to Education Act the children belonging to the age-group of 6 to 14 years of age will be provided free education along with free education materials. However, this is yet to be realized. The parents find it difficult to bear the hidden cost of education, which includes education materials, school fee, books and uniform kit.

At the beginning of the year 2019 the project supported 248 numbers of children from 14 Tea Gardens under the blocks of Dhupguri, Chalsa from Jalpaiguri district and Madarihat and Nagarkata blocks from Alipurduar. The project supported 229 numbers of children from the month march as 27 numbers of completed their higher secondary education.

CORE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT:

Free Remedial Tuition Classes:



Due to lack of quality education in and around the government schools of tea garden, it is realized the children have been encountering many challenges regarding to their school subjects matter especially in Mathematics and English. Hence, Rural Aid with the support of FADV started 4 remedial tuition

classes for the children with special emphasis on Mathematics and English at Lakhikanto Tea Garden, Huldibari Tea Garden and Gairkata Tea Garden. There are 3 specialized Mathematics teacher and 2 English teachers to guide the children in these remedial tuition classes. Presently, there are 167 numbers of children who are availing these remedial tuitions.



Providing supplementary education materials, Nutrition packs and Hygiene kits on a Quarterly basis:

Every year the children supported by the project would be provided with the supplementary education materials to cover the burden of hidden cost of education from their parents, supplementary nutritional packets to prevent malnourishment and other health hazards and toiletries kits to promote hygienic life style to prevent communicable diseases. This year we distribution the following items listed below.



Nutrition packages	Toiletries kits	Education materials
Sattu	Toothbrush	Copy
Dalia	Toothpaste	Pen
Masur dal	Hair Oil	Pencil
Chana	Powder	Eraser
Matar	Washing Soap	Sharpner
Soyebean	Bathing Soap	Correction pen
Peanuts	Handwash	Dictionary
Mix dal	Detergent Powder	Colours
Kaju	Shampoo	Book covers
Dates	Sanitary Napkins	Stick files
Almonds	Savlon	Tape
Ghee	Facewash	
Chawanpras	Body Oil	
Honey	Earbuds	
	Winter Cream	

Reimbursement on the bills of Uniform kits, Books and School fees:

Apart from providing the beneficiaries with the supplementary educational materials, the project also provides them with reimbursement of the cost of uniforms, books, annual school fees and monthly school fees. It is an effort to reduce the burden of educational cost from the parents and to retain children in the school and to reduce the drop-out rate. This year 229 numbers of children were benefitted with the said reimbursements.



Health camps:

As the tea gardens are over populated and with the existence poor hygiene practices, lack of safe drinking water, toilets and existing



malnourished children, the tea garden community are vulnerable to infectious diseases. To counter these problems, the project would conduct community health camps with the help of professional medical practitioners and the health camps particularly for the children on a quarterly

basis. This year we have organized 3 community health camps and 3 children health camps at Lakhikanto Tea Garden, Huldibari Tea Garden and Gairkata Tea Garden respectively. More than 800 numbers of beneficiaries were benefitted from these Health camps. There were one referral case as well and we took her Kalimpong District Hospital for treatment.

Awareness on Climate Change:

Awareness on climate change is one of the crucial parts of the project. During this year we had



organized 8 awareness campaigns on various burning issues related to climate change such as Save Electricity, Save Natural Resources, Reduce Plastic Use, Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy, Solid Waste Management, Stop Water and Air Pollution etc through street play, art exhibition, rally, bicycle rally, flash mob etc. We also observed International Day for Disaster Reduction and Environment Month from 19th Nov-18th Dec, 2018, where we organized several rallies and took the active part in cleansing the

surrounding.

Annual Sports: We are not only concerned about the academic performance of the children



but we do encourage children to take part in the extra-curriculum activities as well. In our endeavor, we organize annual sports every year and this year we organized annual sports on 18th Dec, 2018. There were events such as 50mts, 100mt race, inter-activities centre Football, Cricket,



Badminton for both boys and girls separately. Around 150 numbers of children were participated in the sports this year.

Mindfulness practice through Meditation and other extra-curriculum activities:

Mindfulness has become a critical part of the child development. Hence, to encourage mindfulness and critical thinking among children, every week we practice the meditation and debates with the children in all our activity centres which are located in Lakhikanto Tea Garden, Huldibari Tea Garden and Gairkata Tea Garden. Counselling is another essential part of the project. We provide counselling to parents and children who are in need of counselling.



Adolescent Peers Group:

It is a vital part of the project through which we carried out all the above-mentioned activities.



There are 4 numbers of adolescent peers' group in our project and they have strong cabinet which they elect democratically in every 6months. They take active part in the activities of the projects. They have an important role to play during the events that we organize and they take active participation in the decision-making process as well. Apart from that, they are actively spreading awareness on Child Marriage, Child Labour, Climate Change in their community at Lakhikanto Tea Garden, Huldibari Tea Garden and Gairkata Tea Garden.

Pre-Christmas Celebration and Distribution of Christmas Gifts to the Children: Every year we



provide Christmas gift to the children through the support FADV and this year we were able to organize

Pre-Christmas celebration as well.

During this

financial year we provided solar lamp to the children as





Christmas gift to encourage them and their parents to use renewable energy. Another rational behind giving solar lamp is that, many of our children does not have access to electricity hence, this lamp would be very beneficial for them to use while doing household work and studies.



Training on Climate Change to peers group leaders



Organization of awareness campaign on Climate Change by peers' group

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY BEGAP

Bright Eyes Global Action Project (BEGAP), UK with Rural Aid as its partnering organization is supporting and promoting a school in Totopara in Alipurduar



District, West Bengal State. This is a small Education Project aiming at addressing the educational needs of the Toto – a Primitive Tribal Group. The Project aims at providing Pre and Primary School Education to children covering school dropouts and out of school children besides the regular ones. The Project also aims at preserving the Toto Language and Culture which is almost on the verge of extinction. BEGAP works mainly towards capacity building amongst the children

by attracting them to the school namely Chittranjan Toto Memorial Education Centre which is sponsored and supported by BEGAP. This is a small education project which has 71 Children and 5 Teachers, all from the village. The project is running for 5 years now on. All the teachers speak in the children's own native language, which



means the lessons are being taught in the children's mother tongue. This is something many communities and ethnic minorities in India are fighting for under the implementation of pre-primary education in Anganwadi centres under ICDS and Primary as well as Upper Primary education in schools under the Right to Education for All Children.

Our school Chittaranjan Toto Memorial Education Centre is meant for the children belonging to the marginalized section of the society and coming from different ethnic groups having different mother tongues. This school is meant to impart education to children from their Pre-primary (Nursery, Lower KG, Upper KG) to Primary (Grades 1 to 4). With the beginning of our new educational session, we have been able to enroll and retain 71 children (43 boys and 28 girls) who learn their lessons, play, paint, sing and dance – basically enjoy being together in this school of their own. ***The children are being taught in their mother tongues – Toto, Nepali and Bengali, keeping the spirit of Right to Education for all Children.*** Besides, they also learn English and Hindi. Parents say that they are happy with the progress of their children and the education they are getting.



Children are learning Computer Classes.



Children are playing in their free time at School.



Socio-Legal Aid Research & Training Centre & Rural Aid: *Concept of children on move campaign*

Millions of children around the world and especially in India are on the move every day. These



children are on the move for a host of reasons. The ones moving in distress are because they have either lost their homes; escaping poverty; victims of violence or disaster, political unrest etc... Of these, large numbers of children may be found on streets; road side dhabas; market places; underground dens and similar such places. The children from

neighboring countries are mostly political refugees, trafficked victims, labourers, victims of natural calamities, as legal / illegal migrants, travelers and so on. Most of these children are clue less as to where they are moving and why they are moving. Unfortunately, it is seen that while they are on the move they are faced with hazardous conditions and are most often victims of exploitation or abuse. It is therefore foremost to recognize and realize that these children are on the move in unprotected circumstances....and their destination is unknown, lives unprotected and future insecure.



So Socio-Legal Aid Research & Training Centre (SLARTC) campaigns in 20 Districts of West Bengal. SLARTC sponsored Rural Aid for few activities like awareness campaign on Child Rights & Child Protection issues with PRI Members, Children of Alipurduar & Jalpaiguri District specially in the Tea gardens of Kalchini Block

Activities of Rural Aid with SLARTC- Awareness programme with Children's Groups in the



villages on issues of Trafficking, Child marriage, ICPS scheme, Role of CWC & JJB. Wall Writing on the issues of child protection, Signature Campaign with Children, GP level programme, performing drama by Children & Adolescent group on the issues of trafficking in Streets & Railway stations.



- Children gained more knowledge about child protection & CWC, Child line number, JJB structure RTE Act & also Govt. schemes.
- Children's groups have been tagged in various govt. schemes like ICPS.
- Linkages with RTE Act- Children on the move must be provided access to their right to education under the 'Children's Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.



Sensitization Meeting with Major Actors.



School Awareness on Trafficking and Child Marriage.

AWARENESS ON COVID-19

Awareness on prevention of COVID-19 has been rigorously organizing since, February and March, 2020 at the interior part of teagardens, Indo Bhutan Gate (International Boarder), Railway Stations.

- Hands wash regularly
- Elbow cough in to it
- Face don't touch it
- Space Keep safe distance.
- To wear mask
- Not to spit anywhere
- If feel sick? Contact to Health staff ASA, ANM etc.



