



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Rural Aid

YEARLY ACTIVITY REPORT

This report is prepared for the purpose of sharing our information about our activities to the larger audience. For detail project specific information, you all are invited to visit our working areas in the State of West Bengal

***Rural Aid
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Jalpaiguri,735212***



From the Desk of Secretary

The 35th Annual Report of Rural Aid is published for the community. A major area of intervention for improving social development was the empowerment of women and livelihoods.

To keep Rural Aid relevant and responsive to the development needs of communities across West Bengal, I appeal to our long-term supporters to further strengthen Rural Aid. The innovative work done by Rural Aid on aiming to break vicious circle of poverty with an approach of sustainable development along with building capacities of functionaries to actually make an impact on quality of life of the deprived, needs to be supported further so that it reaches a height where it can influence the stakeholders to focus on the needy segments. Institutional reforms have given a strong impetus to economic growth but it has also led to new challenges of inclusion and leaving behind the service dependent communities; the challenge of inclusive development requires a convergence of efforts. In this context, Rural Aid's work around Tea Garden Areas, on the issues like ensuring Child Protection, Quality Education of Children, Sustainable Development and enhancing livelihood options to the most vulnerable sections provides the nucleus around which we build up more effective and well-organized interventions for the empowerment of our referral communities.

I yield this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to all our donors who stood on our side in all our activities and service mission. Last but not least, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rural Aid's office bearers and committed staff for their co-operation and dedication to achieve our objectives during this reporting year. While thanking all of you, I sincerely seek your support and cooperation also in the coming year to successfully continue our service and to undertake more and more issue based programmes. I invite suggestions and critique for our work so as to further strengthen our organization.

Sutapa Dutta

Secretary



Our Governing Body

Dr. Sailen Halder, a Medical Practitioner, President

Mr. Saroj Bandopadhyay, Retd. AGM, State Bank of India, Vice President

Mrs. Sutapa Dutta, Social Work by profession, Secretary

Mr. Tapan Kumar Dey, Retired Bank Officer, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Basabi Rozario, Development Worker, Treasurer

Mrs. Kshama Sen, Retd. Teacher, Member

Mr. Alope Kumar Maji, Self Employed, Member

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About Rural Aid

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 that they will 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 staffs having expertise in various sectors.

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Vision

Children and youth realize their full potential and has the right to survival, education, protection, development and participation through community led mechanisms.



Mission

To prepare and empower children and youth of through holistic support like Quality Education, Training, Dissemination of knowledge and Information, Health etc so that they can become peer educators and ultimately leaders to bring social justice and sustainable changes in their lives.

To Over the past thirty-five years Rural Aid is addressing the issues related with Human life and dignity.



Our working areas are under Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri Districts of West Bengal. Presently we are working among the villages of Dooars region. Following issues are addressed through our various project interventions

**Of our referral
Community are
Children**

- Child Education
- Child Protection
- Environment protection & Climate Change
- Health
- Women Empowerment
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Livelihood

Fact Sheet of 2023-24: Rural Aid directly served 10,038 population, among those 6347 are children, 1224 Female and 1001 Male.

Working Areas of Rural Aid

DISTRICT	BLOCK	PANCHAYAT	VILLAGE/ TEA GARDEN
Alipurduar	Kalchini	Jaigaon GP 1, Dalsingpara GP, Satali GP, Malangi GP, Kalchini GP and Garopara GP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Toorsa TG 2. Dalsingpara 3. Bharnobari 4. Malangi TG, 5. Madhu TG, 6. Kalchini , 7. Raimatang 8. chinchula, 9. Bhatapara A 10.Bhatapara B 11. Gangutia, 12.Dima TG, 13.Rajabhat TG, 14.Athiabari TG 15.Bhatkawa TG
Jalpaiguri	Dhupguri	Sakuajhora No-1 Binnaguri Moraghat Salbari-2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gairkata Tea Estate- 2. Huldibari Tea Estate 3. Laxmikanta Tea Estate 4. Moraghat Tea Estate



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Strengthening Education, Enhancing children's wellbeing and Resilience in the communities of Dhupguri and Madarihat Block, Jalpaiguri District. Supported by Fondazione L'Albero della Vita (FADV)

With the objective to contribute achieving **Sustainable Development Goal 4**, Rural Aid in collaboration with FADV working in North Bengal to *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

Karate class started in the month of January 2023 in all three centres. One sponsored child named Bikash Xalxo participated in International Karate Championship held in Kolkata under the supervision of the Karate Master Udhav Roy.

The project, indeed, aims at enhancing children's well-being and resilience in the disaster and child abuse prone areas, the major scope of the entire program is to contribute to the improvement of children's life and development to have future adults aware and proactive.

In the year 2023 Rural Aid had a vibrant experience with the SAD project. Rural Aid continued the ***Sostengo a distanza*** (SAD) project with 200 children and incorporated 50 new children in the month of June. This project focused on self-protection and self-confidence building initiative through Karate training Programme. As a source of alternative energy use, Rural Aid installed three solar plants in three public schools. This project supports Children to become a resourceful citizen in future. With project supportive interventions children got free coaching, educational materials, health and nutritional supports. All learning centers were provided with the game items .



In the closed or semi closed Tea Garden areas there is a need of financial support to the marginal families to

continue education of School going children. Rural Aid along with FADV addressed the issue of Child Protection, safe guarding children from trafficking and enabling them to continue school education. Our intervention through sponsored child presently bringing hope to the economically marginal families to strive towards success and continuation with School Education. Sponsorship along with enabling infrastructural facilities like installation of solar lights, soft skill

development of children and regular interaction with primary care givers makes our project a successful one. As a part of regular monitoring and strategy formulation Rural Aid and FADV jointly review the activities and develop next courses of action. In the year 2023, seven free of cost health camps (including doctor consultation and medicine) were conducted for the children in the learning centres along with three community health camps where after the health check up needy person (patient) received prescribed medicines. During the month of June, August, October and December all children received nutrition pack. Toiletries and items to maintain their personal hygiene and cleanliness were also received by the sponsored children.

There were two cases of “Emergency support” extended to our sponsored children.

Ashish Minj who met with an accident and were seriously injured. His family was provided with 8000 INR as emergency support along with some local contribution collected by the workers of SAD project. Anupriya Munda who had a surgery of heart. Her family was provided with the 2000 INR along with the local contribution collected by the workers of the SAD project.



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Ensure child protection through access to education with participatory approach of children and youth of 05 tea gardens of Alipurduar District , Supported by Terres des Hommes (TdH) Suisse



vulnerable children, youth and families to develop coping mechanisms during post covid and increasing children's access to existing child protection mechanisms.

As you are already aware that since the year 2000, Rural Aid is working in Tea Garden areas to ensure child protection through access to education at five tea gardens of Alipurduar District, West Bengal. In this journey, project got a partnership with TdH Suisse. During 2021, the project is designed for the promotion of Child Rights and environment protection, ensuring access to quality education for children, enabling



Identified vulnerable children were organized in Child Clubs and youth were organized as collectives. Project team has taken initiative for the development of creative skills among children and youth. In this project period, children have identified local issues and submitted demands/appeals before the local authorities for the resolution of identified problems.

To protect children from dropping out of school, community-based Support Education Centres (SEC) have started functioning with a total of 633 children. Digital classrooms adopted in the 5 SEC and 5 public schools and Byju's app also installed in 5 public schools and 5 SEC children are learning via digital learning. Teachers have provided psychosocial support to the children post covid situation as children are stressed. Youth representatives have taken the responsibility of monitoring child protection issues. They have provided counseling support for the improvement of mental health of children during their confinement at home.

Rural Aid has helped local governments in activating Village Level Child Protection Committees by organizing regular meetings and training on child protection issues, School and Tea Garden area level awareness campaigns on elopement (early marriage) and other Child Protection related issues. Last year 60% of 633 children (60% girls) and 175 youth (60% Girls) are aware of Child Rights and environment protection. 80% of 1360 beneficiaries (633 children, 175 youth and 550 adults) have increased knowledge on Child Rights and Environment Protection through participatory community-based initiatives. 80% (70% were



female) of community, children, youth and stakeholders were sensitized on objective addressing ESD (Educational Sustainable Development) campaign based on theme **"Save My Planet, Save My Rights"** on Climate change issue through tree/sapling plantation, Door to doors campaigns, community cleanliness campaign, street theaters, organic Nutrition Garden and say no to plastic campaign. 80% (70% were female) of the community, children, youth and stakeholders were sensitized on objective addressing

Global Action Month campaign on environment protection and protection issue through rallies, awareness on green crackers, auto campaigning for environment and safe migration and children day based on importance of education for protection issue. Child Labour Day for the community in tea gardens. Through Street theaters we reached to the community on social issues and Child Rights. The children and youth have trained to identified the issues related with child trafficking, child labour and non-functional Village Level Child Protection Committees and to resolve of these issues, they have submitted demands to local authorities



In post covid situation Rural Aid **Ensure Access to and continuation of essential quality education for children** which **resulted into** 80% of 633 children (60% girls) are benefiting from support education to continue their education. To reduce the drop out cases in post covid period our Project team runs five support education centers at identified five tea gardens of Kalchini block. To mitigate

the drop out of children, the teachers and Rural aid team led the aware and sensitized the parents/community on **right to education** and functional role of education in our life specially for the in tea garden dwellers. Digital Class rooms with Byju's App along with Psychological support played positive role to retain students in our Schools.

Last year 633 children have been directly received education support from education centers. For effective result our Teachers of Support Education Centres were capacitated on innovative teaching methodologies, using TLMs and participatory method and activity-based classrooms to enable them to facilitate interactive subject wise session. Periodical Assessment helped us to micro level support to students for continuation of study and improves their performance in the long run. Subject specific Exhibition helped students to grow their interest of learning by doing. Rural Aid also thoughtful about **vulnerable and at-risk children, youth and their families who have limited access to COVID coping measures especially on livelihood and access to child protection mechanisms.** We could reach among 633 children (60% of them are girls) and 175 youth (50% of young women)by ensuring their active participation in Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms. Our regular VLCPC meetings sensitized to the newly elected Gram Panchayat members and other stakeholderson issues related to child protection. Our Training on “Keeping Children Safe”oriented all our staff, organization associates and service providers on principles of “Child Protection” and “**No Harm**” to the children.



It is the story of 14 years old girl child, belongs to a poor family of tea worker. She was working as a *bigha* (seasonal) worker to support her family with an hope to increase their monthly income more than that time monthly income i.e. Rs. 4800, at the tea garden of Madhu T.E. After joining Madhu Child Club in 2023, she realized the importance of education as a strong weapon to establish her in the society and to do something better for her community as a doctor. Not only

that but also child club activity developed her knowledge regarding child rights and she learned to share her personal liking-disliking, emotion, mourning, anxiety, personal point of view etc. In this way she is able to set herself as an example to stride ahead among fellow peer groups, even to the families with low income with firm determination of self-realization.



TEAch Me digital learning program across 5 tea gardens of Alipurduar District. Supported by :VAHDAM INDIA

During the year 2022, Rural Aid is implementing a CSR project focused on Child Education. Our project aims to ensure quality education support through a “Phydigital” (Physical+Digital) delivery medium with Byju's application for the better learning opportunities to vulnerable children. The project with support of VAHDAM India initiated **TEAch Me program** across five tea gardens of Alipurduar district (namely Bharnobari T.G., Dalsingpara T.G., Madhu T.G., Malangi T.G., and Toorsha T.G.) to cater 5000+ vulnerable children across 5 public schools and 5 support education centers. In the 2023, VAHDAM India program aimed and impact at reaching out to 633 children across 5 Support Education Centers (from Class IV to Class X Standard). Refer the table below:

Support Education Centers									
Sl. No.	Name of centre	Total Children	Class wise break - up						
			CL-IV	CL-V	CL-VI	CL-VII	CL-VIII	CL-IX	CL-X
1	Toorsa TG Center	116	19	14	20	19	21	11	12
2	Dalsingpara TG Center	152	30	21	20	22	28	20	11
3	Bharnobari TG Center	139	19	20	20	18	23	30	9

4	Malangi TG Center	110	12	12	20	20	26	14	6
5	Madhu TG Center	116	17	15	18	25	21	12	8
	Total	633	97	82	98	104	119	87	46

Rural Aid with support from VAHDAM India abled to reach out among the 4560 students covering five public schools.

Sl.No.	Name of Government School	Total Student	Government Schools											
			Class wise beak - up											
			CL-V		CL-VI		CL-VII		CL-VIII		CL-IX		CL-X	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	Toorsa Jr. School (Middle school - upto STD VIII)	218	Nil	Nil	33	29	29	43	38	46				
2	Dalsingpara Sri Ganesh High School	1506	15	26	54	60	68	76	71	69	248	236	285	298
3	Malangi Hindi High School	1689	54	62	120	120	125	114	126	123	195	227	182	241
4	Malangi Bangla High School	804	37	51	41	59	48	71	56	78	104	79	123	57
5	Madhu High School	343	25	21	20	22	30	27	29	20	40	41	35	33
	Total	4560												



Physical classes have been conducted in batches across all 5 Support Centers, as per weekly rosters. Children were taught on subjects as per their academic syllabus by our 9 educators. Physical classes are needed as most of the children need a human touch and empathy while learning. Individual attention helps the children to perform well and retain the knowledge. It improves participation, involvement and concentration of children and

reinforces better learning outcomes. Digital class was a new inclusion for Rural Aid-TdH partnership in August 2022, when VAHDAM's TEAchMe Initiative joined the partnership and offered the digital education delivery through SMART TV and BYJUS online application across the 5 Support Education Support and 5 public schools. All these services were

provided free of cost to the end users of tea garden communities. This unique approach got attention of many children and their parents. Most of the locals were surprised to know that this sort of an education could possible in such remote places they reside. Children are aware of digital smart classes and Byju's application- a new aspect for them in T.G. areas. It is a better learning experience



through audio-visual mediums and children can easily correlate and retain the knowledge. Observation of

different Special Day was one of the nonstructural ways of learning for the Children and locals. Our successful intervention created a scope of inclusion of a greater number of public schools and offer digital education. Presently (2024) VAHDAM has added two more public schools i.e Toorsa Primary Hindi School and Union Academy Kalchini High School for the digital learning centers.

A 13 years old girl lives in Malangi tea garden. Her father is seasonal worker and mother is involved in tea leaf plucking activity. The family faced problem to feed six members of their household because of their poor economic situation. Besides, the girl was facing hurdles to complete her study smoothly without proper personal guidance, as she was too weak in study. In this situation the role of SEC center stretched out its hand to facilitate these types of students to solve their study related matter. Even to improve their study, center took initiative and arranged smart digital classes too. This visual learning process helped them a lot to clarify their doubts. They are grateful to VAHDAM and TEACH ME programme for giving them a smart TV in SEC.

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Ensuring child protection and the prevention of trafficking. Supported by Global Fund for Children



Since the year 2020, Rural Aid partnered with GFC (Global Fund for Children) for implementing a project named “ensuring child protection and the prevention of trafficking” at tea gardens of Kalchini block, Alipurduar district. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, Tea Garden areas noticed a surge of early marriage and trafficking, in the wake of this critical context, RuralAid has therefore decided to implement a project in Alipurduar District and Kalchini Block in particular. This Project, presently covering 10 tea gardens, roughly 5000 population. Strengthening the capacity of Adolescent Children’s group at Community level.

The main primary objective to strengthen the capacity of adolescent children's group is to generate the



awareness of child protection such as child trafficking, child labour and child marriage and also the elope marriage which emerge hugely after post covid; While the groups were also strengthen and empowerment with nurturing them on child rights, gender issue and build the capacity of peer leadership and advocacy among themselves in their own community and village. The adolescent children group also facilitated the

session of Child Protection (CP) Module and its various activities to support facilitators and adolescent children groups to empower their capacity building and be aware of the issue of child protection. In every month total 20 numbers of strengthening of children (adolescent) group meetings are organized in 10 tea gardens of Kalchini block.

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Parents Meeting



Rural Aid with support of GFC organize the quarterly Parents meeting in 10 villages/teagarden of implement project areas on the issue of child trafficking issues with special focus on gender and human rights perspective and also awareness and sensitization of the vulnerable communities and families to have an improved and identify the knowledge on risk, consequences and

protective mechanism against trafficking. In every community level meeting the participants of Asha workers, ANM workers, ICDS workers, Panchayat members, teachers and the parents of children participated in the meeting. Total 40 nos. of parents' meetings were organized in 10 tea gardens of Kalchini block. Hence apart from the above sensitization to the community and families on protection mechanisms for the child, the project has also introduced and started working on the community sustainability and ownership especially on three (3) tea gardens such 1. Dima tea garden; 2. Gangutia tea garden and 3. Raimatang tea garden through SALT and CLCP (Community Life Competence Process) approach to the communities.

Training on Reproductive Health and Hygiene for the children of tea gardens:

Rural Aid organization has organized 10 numbers of *Training on Reproductive health and hygiene for the children at 10 tea gardens* of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district. During these training, Mrs. Chanda Chakraborty, FPI (Family Planning of India) was a resource person for the initial two (2) days to facilitate the training for the children and Rural Aid staff members.



The main objective to organize the training of reproductive health and hygiene is that to aware and sensitize the adolescent children especially for the indigenous tribal and others communities' children for the conscious of their reproductive health and hygiene because the most the children who are belong to tribal tea gardens did not share their issue/problem openly to the parents on reproductive (menstrual) issue due to unfamiliar/ashamed in which results it cause cancer.

Additionally, the training increases awareness for reproductive health such as; It helps in educating every youth about sexual and reproductive health. It creates awareness among adolescents about safe sexual practices. It helps in preventing sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. A reproductive tract infection, which has become a silent epidemic that devastates women's life, is closely interrelated with poor menstrual hygiene. Therefore, good menstrual health and hygiene practices can prevent infections, reduce odors, and help you stay comfortable during your period. Hence, the participant adolescent children have learnt and built the capacity of the important reproductive health through the maintaining hygiene of their body. During the initial sessions of training, the children were not able to ventilate their problem especially on menstruations but the facilitation of resource persons and Rural Aid staff has encouraged them to share the common problem on menstruations. Even the children actively come forward and jot down the problem based on their understanding. Through the training of reproductive health and hygiene, the children have learnt and sensitized how they can take preventive measures of their reproductive organs and also aware their family members, peer groups and women groups in the community.

Career Guidance Session for the Adolescent Children



On 10th & 11th December 2023, Rural Aid organization organized the two days ***“Career Guidance Session for the Adolescent Children”*** among the 10 tea gardens of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district. The adolescent children who participated were at the standard 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and College level. In this two days Career Guidance session, the session was facilitated by Mr. Ashis Kumar Roy and Mr. Pallab Battacharya as resource persons for the career guidance for the adolescent children of Rural Aid. The main objective to organize the Career Guidance sessions for the adolescent children of tea gardens is to enhance the support to build their dream and ambitions in career because mostly in the tea gardens the adolescent children, those who are in standard 10th, 12th and Undergraduate students are not having proper knowledge and guidance for their ambition to achieve their goals. In this career session; the participant adolescent children have learnt and built the capacity of career guidance where to reach their dream or goals they have to focus on education as important tools in their life. The facilitators also shared and assured to support the children for different government linkages schemes details and also to support how to prepare for the public civil servant examination through notes or coaching centres. And while the facilitators have been informed to follow up and support, especially those children who are 10th and 12th standard for the results and ambitions of their future.

Special Day Observation

Rural Aid organized Khelar Adhikar Divas **“Right to Play”** on 16/08/2023 at Gairkata, Block Dhupguri Dist. Jalpaiguri in collaboration with WBCPCR (West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights) with District Administration, Jalpaiguri and Rural Aid, to motivate and increase self-esteem and provide opportunities to break down barrier of gender- based in community through involvement girls in sports, identify their skills and also build to benefits the mental health of girls at tea gardens of both Alipuduar district and Jalpaiguri district.

On this occasion a friendly football match of girl children, the guests who present were; Smt. Yashabanti Sreemany, WBCPCR, Kolkata; Sri Aranya Sen, WBCPCR Kolkata; Sudhakar Chakraborty, District Child Protection Unit; Kaveri Guwa, District Child

Protection Unit and Biswajeet Sarkar, District Child Protection Unit. In this friendly football match, Rural Aid won the match by 5-0. An exhibition set up and cultural dances were performed from the children of Rural Aid.

On dated **20th November 2023**, Rural Aid organization has organized the **“World Children Day Program”** on the occasion of **Child Rights Week with the theme based on “Embedding the children on Sports”** at *22Dhura Football Ground, Raimatang T.E* Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district in the presents of adolescent children of respective tea gardens, local stakeholder Panchayat member, local teachers, ICDS worker, local youth and the staff members of Rural Aid organization.

Sensitization Awareness Meeting with PRI members

On dated 13th December 2023, Rural Aid organization has organized the **“Sensitization Awareness Meeting with PRI members of Kalchini Gram Panchayat”** at Kachini Gram Panchayat Office, Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district in the presence of Pradhan of Kalchini G.P, PRI (Panchayati Raj Institution) members of different tea gardens, staff of Kalchini G.P and staffs of Rural Aid. The reason behind to organised the **“Sensitization Awareness Meeting with PRI members of Kalchini Gram Panchayat”** to sensitize and aware the newly elected PRI members on Safe migration Child Protection issue such as (Early child marriage/Elope marriage) and strengthening and important of VLCPC (Village Level Child Protection Committee) for child at every sansad of tea and use of funds allocated in the VLCPC for the vulnerable children.



On 19th, 20th and 21st January 2024, Rural Aid organized the "Community Knowledge Fair ", on Embedding towards Sustainability in the presence of GFC partners organization Avani Sanstha of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Purnata Organization; three tea gardens communities of Rural Aid and Rural Aid team members. The main objective is to organize the Community Knowledge that; initially during the last 1-year Rural Aid has worked for the sustainability of community in three tea gardens i.e Dima Tea Garden, Raimatang Teagarden & Gangutia tea garden as to build the tea gardens community as sustainable model in future. As working with these three tea gardens of communities, the community has built their dreams of community and starts taking community led initiative action from their dream through the approach of SALT and CLCP (Community Life Competence Process) from each three tea gardens.

To disseminate the community works for sustainability, the Community Knowledge Fair has been organized with the motive that through KF (Knowledge Fair) it helps to learn from each other, it is fair of knowledge sharing from the communities and the partners' organization on their challenges, success and way forward. It also enlightens the encouragement and motivates to work along with the community for sustainability as well as organization partners. During the KF, the communities of three tea gardens along with partner organizations have shared their dreams, community led actions from their dream and challenges and learning outcome from their work in the respective communities. Through this community Knowledge Fair, we have learned the different strengths and power of communities, able to know and learn good examples, experience and challenges to work further with the community and also learned from the Avani Sanstha (Smile team), Purnata and also with the community of three tea gardens.

School Sensitization Program

Rural Aid organization has organized the “**School Sensitization program**” focusing on the issue of **child trafficking** at 10 Schools of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district. The participants of this school sensitization program were students, teachers, Head master and the facilitators of Rural Aid. The motive behind organizing the “School Sensitization program” is to generate awareness and to mitigate by focusing on the issue of child trafficking in the tea garden through the sensitization of school students directly. The reason to select the school for the sensitization on child trafficking is where we can connect and prevent the issue of child trafficking and be aware of the mechanism of child protection with many students who come from different teagarden of Kalchini Block which are a part from the Rural Aid project tea garden. Through School Level sensitization it will create the effective way to combat not only child trafficking but also in child sexual abuses, earlier marriage/ elopement, social media harassment and child labour along with how to report the issue with different child protection referral services.

Organization Development Program

On dated **17th February 2024**, Rural Aid organization has organized the “*Organization Development Program session for the Rural Aid Staff,*” at Rural Aid office premises of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district with resource person Mrs. Basabi Rozario, Kolkata who has conducted and facilitated the OD (Organizational Development) to the staff of Rural Aid. The main objective to organize the OD sessions for the staff of Rural Aid is to enhance the capacity building on **a. Leadership and Communication skills at organizational level; b. Ownership development of staff on job roles and c. Documentation skills (reporting and analyzing or evaluation of outcome etc).** Perhaps, it is important to highlight the need of capacity

building on such a topic for the individual person as well as organizational level to grow smoothly.

During the session, the resource person has facilitated the participation of Rural Aid staff members on the ownership which is the foremost necessary for each individual staff to build capacity on it before growing the organization at its high level. Unless one individual cannot gain the knowledge of ownership either in personal life or professional life, he/she cannot learn and grow himself/herself from both perspectives of life. That’s why in every organizational level ownership is important and it is an umbrella for any organization. The resource person also facilitated and trained reflected on the different topics such as i. Effective Communication in leadership: - importance of leadership, communication tips for leadership, Exercise on Quick Self - Assessment to Evaluate your communication and personal value - which is more important than organization value; ii. The facilitator has also trained the participant for the documentation skills on data based (reporting formats, Office directory, Monthly Tentative work plan, requisition form of RA etc).

Do you Know?

- Our 90% Programme areas falls under Dooars Region
- We are working among the Tea Garden Workers, Management and Forest areas under Buxa Tiger Reserve

Exhibition of Creative Skills Programme



On 16th February 2024, Rural Aid organization organized the “**Exhibition of Creative skills programme**” with adolescent children of Kalchini tea gardens at *Birsa Munda Ground, Satali, Hasimara*, Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district on theme based on environment protection which was exhibited at 14 stalls by the children. In this program Alipurduar Zilla Parishad Sabhadhipati Smt. Snighda Saibo; Satali Tea garden Manager; Satali Tea garden Welfare Officer, ASI Kesab Chandra Roy, Hasimara OutPost; Rural Aid Secretary Sutapa Dutta and Rural Aid

Treasurer / Board member Mrs. Basabi Rozario have inaugurated the exhibition creative skills program.

The main objective to organize the exhibition program is to nurture creative skills of adolescent children of tea gardens through exhibitions on handicrafts, clothes stitching items, science creative experiments, arts & drawings, demonstration of cultural traditional attire & food items. While two competitions such as drawing competition on theme-based Environment Protection and Go as you like act by children.



Ensuring Child protection through capacity building of children

Supported by : Azim Premji Foundation

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI) project has started from the month of September 2023 with the objectives **towards Protection of most vulnerable children and families residing at tea gardens and build and strengthen community safety net for protection of children** in the four tea gardens of Kalchini Block of Alipurduar District covering 250 families. Most of the families are living in closed / semi-closed tea gardens, children could not access basic education and forced to discontinue from their school and forced to work as a daily wage labour to support families.

With active involvement of local youths and children within a short span of period Rural Aid facilitated to form fifteen Children groups. These groups will act as local Child Champions towards strengthening the child protection mechanism in the tea gardens. A child protection (CP) curriculum module has helped facilitators and child groups for their guidance and reference on child protection. Till date our intervention could able to regularize Children Group Meetings and Parent Group Meetings. Our continuous

involvement with grass root level workers and Government mechanisms like Village Level Child Protection Committees enabling reduction of Child Abuse and cases of Child Trafficking in Tea Garden areas.

Under the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) project, every quarter the vulnerable children of 4 tea gardens were provided support of Nutrition Food and Sanitary napkins. The objectives of distribution nutrition food and sanitary napkins is to extends support to the vulnerable children who were single parents, temporary tea garden workers, differently able children and orphan children in sick and closed tea gardens. Based on quarterly distribution, both nutrition food support and sanitary napkins support was distributed in 1st & 2nd quarter during the tenure of project. Total 900 beneficiaries were received the support of nutrition food and sanitary napkins in the presence of local panchayat members, SHGs, Asha workers.

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Celebration of National Girl Child Day

On 24th January 2024, Rural Aid observed and organized the “**National Girl Child Day**” at lower line of Rajabhat Tea Garden, Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District in the presence of children of the tea garden and the staff members of the Rural Aid organization. The children take initiative to observe the National Girl Child Day on the theme of Right to Education especially for the girl child and sensitization on the importance of education. On this eve of National Girl Child Day celebration, the participant children have actively participated for sensitization on the right

to education focusing on the importance of education particularly for the girl child through organizing a rally reflecting the slogan prepared on education by children. The rally has started across the lower line of the respected tea garden. Apart from the rally, the children have also conducted door to doors visits of communities to sensitize the fact of the importance of education particular for the girl child with examples of famous female leaders’ personalities around locally and globally worldwide to encourage the communities as based on theme of the programme.

Total 56 numbers of children actively participated and sensitized the theme, based on Right to Education especially for the girl child through organizing the rally with preparing slogan to sensitize the community of particular tea garden.

Health Camp

Under the project APPI; The Rural Aid organized the “Health Camp”, based on the half yearly term for the vulnerable children of Rajabhat tea garden on 21st March 2024.

The main objective was to organize the Health Camp at the respective tea garden to mitigate the viral fever, cold and cough diseases,

headaches and body weakness which affected to the maximum numbers of children resident in this tea garden.

Rural Aid has generated the linkage to the doctors Uttar Latabari Rural Hospital of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar district where total 86 numbers of beneficiaries' children were benefited the service of free health camp and 24 numbers of beneficiaries received free medical facilitations such as vitamins, iron tablets from the government respective hospital.

तूष्णी तीजी प्राइमरी स्कूल में डिजिटल लर्निंग सेन्टर का उद्घाटन



जयगांव (नि.सं)। जयगांव
थाना अंतर्गत तूरसा चाय बगान में
स्थित तूरसा तीजी प्राइमरी स्कूल
आज के डिजिटल युग में कदम
से कदम मिलाकर चलने को तैयार
है। देश आजादी से पहले बने इस
सरकारी स्कूल में बच्चे की हर
सुविधा को ध्यान में रख कर यह
सुविधा दिए जाने का प्रयास किया
जा रहा है जो एक प्राइवेट स्कूल के
बच्चों को मिलता है।

आज इस स्कूल में रूरल ऐंड संस्था की ओर से डिजिटल लर्निंग सेन्टर का शुभारंभ किया गया है। स्कूल के प्रधान अध्यापक लव कुमार भुजेल ने कहा कि आज से इस स्कूल के बच्चे के लिए डिजिटल लर्निंग का लाभ ले सकेंगे। इस अवसर पर आज स्कूल के चेयरमैन सुजीत महाली, समाजसेवी ललित कोइराला, सुशीला राई ने रिबन काट कर इस डिजिटल लर्निंग क्लास का उद्घाटन किया गया। उन्होंने कहा कि इस अवसर में रूरल ऐंड संस्था के मोमिना खातून, धीरज लेप्चा, रति लामा, अनुपमा तिकी, राणा भगत, शिक्षक रोशनी खातून, ईश्वरीय लामा

के साथ ही अभिनव मजूमदार आदि उपस्थित थे।

मां सरस्वती

सर्द की ठंडी हवाओं से, कुमलाह ग
खो गई थी तपन सूर्य की, धुंधला ग
हुई वीणा की तार झंकृत
नभ में शिशु सा उदित हु
तरु पल्लव भी देखो मंजरिया ले सुशो
लो आ गया है वसंत हर्ष हर्ष कहने त
मां वीणापानी अवतरित हु
पुष्पों से सुशोभित बन उ
लो आ गया है वसंत शब्द फिर सुशो
उमंग और उल्लास लिए धरा पर प्रस्फु
भंवरे तितलियां भी झूम उ
बाल्यावस्था से जैसे स्वर
वसंत की बहार में गीत फिर मधुर हु
मां शारदे के चरणों में पीत पुष्प अपि
वाणी, वीणा, कलम पर
मां शारदे के आगमन पर
मन की वीणा के फिर से तार झंकृत
वसंत के आगमन पर नित नवगीत अ

ब्रह्म
सिलीगुडी, प

CHILDLINE

Child trafficking is a sensitive issue of this area. Rural Aid had taken crucial role for children in need of care and protection by tracking them and felicitate to share the same information that operates a telephone helpline called Child line. Rural Aid has been functioning for this work from 4th October 2018 in Alipurduar Junction Railway station in collaboration with Railway, CHILDLINE project of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

CHILD LINE 1098 (India's first 24-hour; toll free, phone outreach service for children) is National 24X7 emergency number 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. A twelve-member team of Rural Aid is working in the Alipurduar Junction Railway station premises takes care of three Railway stations New Alipurduar Station, Court Station, Alipur station with support from 3 police stations to deal with Child in Need of Care and Protection cases in Alipurduar.

We advocate for services that are inaccessible, nonexistent or in adequate and rescue children from difficult circumstances like; -

- Street children and youth living alone on the streets.
- Child labourers working in the unorganized and organized sectors.
- Domestic help, especially girl domestics.
- 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-able 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.

**During 2023-24,
Rural Aid rescued
12 children,
among them 7
boys and 5 girls**

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. 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 labour and child abuse, and more such issues related to runaway children. When a case of a child received from CHILDLINE call centers immediate action is taken to rescue the missing child with his/her details, medical checkup of the child and guide the child to appropriate welfare center on the case-by-case basis Alipurduar Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and Shelter Homes at for shelter of children.

Alipurduar District Police

Azim Premji Foundation

CHILDLINE India Foundation

District Health and Family Welfare Department

District Magistrate, Alipurduar District

District Social Welfare Officer, Alipurduar District

Fondazione L'Alberodella Vita (FADV)

Global Fund for Children (GFC)

Panchayats of All Intervention Locations

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Alipurduar District

Tea Garden Management

Terre des Hommes Suisse (TdH)

VAHDAM India

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)

West Bengal Right To Education Forum