

PROJECT NAME: **JAGARAN**

Rights, Opportunities, Knowledge & Education for Youth & Adolescent (Girls)

Proposed By: **Nishtha**

Subuddhipur, De para, Baruipur,

South 24 Parganas District,

West Bengal, India, 700144,

Phone: 91- 33- 24331925/24339865

Contact person: **Mina Das**

Email: nishtha.wb@gmail.com

PROPOSAL

(April 2023 – March
2024)

BACKGROUND

It is indeed a proud feeling to have a project like Jagaran. Today this flagship project is decade old; however it still remains to us as important as it was at the day of inception. The true accomplishment of this flagship project is the immense hard work and discipline, as well as the ability to bring in a cultural change in the community. A huge gender gap which prevailed for ages, was declining; undoubtedly what the leaders, the collectives and the Alumni of Jagaran have done in this regard is incredible.

Another moment of triumph is of the children who were reared through this flagship project from their early academic age i.e. class V. These children at first successfully completed their Secondary education, then Higher Secondary education, then their Degree Course which finally paved their way towards prominent jobs or businesses. Never did the girls have this mentality of working after completion of their studies. The normal perception that even if the girls have completed their higher education, they have to get married; now was changing. Everything was going orderly and a lot of things could be changed than before; however whatever little could have been done to change the community's perception, all of a sudden change in saw a big blow.

The last couple of years were extremely tough and we hardly could remotely think about any achievement. The situation was extremely dreadful for the children; especially for the girls since the schools remained closed for nearly two years. Which directly affected their academics. Parents hardly wanted their daughters to go to schools; rather they considered it to be better to get them married to any person, considering them as a liability for the family.

As per the reports and statistics of the National Family Health Survey – 5 (NFHS-5) released by the Government of India, the rate of Child Marriage in West Bengal is highest i.e. 41.6 percent in comparison to the National percentage of 26.2. The situation in Rural Bengal is more dreadful since the rate surges to 48.1 percent which means every second a girl was forcefully married before the legal marriage age of 18.

The situation was no different in the percentage of School Dropouts. Though as per the statistics in recent years, the State has done better in this regard; but the ground level reality will curl one's lip. The report published by Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) states the Net enrolment of girls to school was only 32.72 percent post pandemic. Whereas in South 24 Parganas District almost 21.38 percent of girls dropped out at class VIII –IX. As per the survey conducted by the 'Project Approval Board' (PAB), the dropout rate of the girls studying in higher secondary in West Bengal is over 15 percent, with South 24 Parganas topping the list. This tells us how the present situation is.

As per the bulletin released by the Department of Education of West Bengal, in 2023, almost 40% more registered students dropped out than the previous year. Covid lockdown forced the girls to spend their time at home shouldering more household labour and earning activities.

When the girls are in school, it becomes easy to know their whereabouts effectively but now the entire system got disrupted; however we did not want this generation of girls to destroy their lives. Time now demands to work more intensively and also go beyond our existing known Geography since the condition of our neighboring villages too is more pathetic than that of our project supported villages.

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

Despite adversities, the leaders and the collectives under this project have been rendering commendable service for their community people during this most difficult circumstances; even their leadership has been proved to be extremely praiseworthy.

We are extremely grateful to the entire skilful crew of Asha for Education for keeping immense faith in Nishtha and giving us this opportunity to improve the status of women, children and Socio-economic conditions of the most backward, oppressed and drowned in the Inferiority through this flagship Jagaran project. Till now it was a roller-coaster ride which was full of adversities and hardships. But despite today we have some remarkable achievements which has made us more confident and stronger to carry on our task more vigorously.

Impact so far:

Despite two years of dreadful situation; the graph of the Jagaran girls did not go down; rather, when all of a sudden half of our country's working population lost their jobs, some of our Jagaran candidates secured good jobs or started their own businesses. Getting a job or starting a new business in such circumstances was extremely difficult but what these girls have secured, must be considered splendid.

Moreover, even when the children of the neighboring villages were either struggling to get back to school or got dropped out forcibly, the Jagaran girls, under the incredible leadership of their group leaders, did not give up their studies. The immense dedication and hardship of the collectives, worked wonders even at the time of crisis. The dropouts, child marriage too was declining drastically because of the innovative measures taken by the leaders and alumni of this flagship project. Amazingly 100% of the project supported eligible Secondary, Higher Secondary and Final Year College Students, appearing in their respective examinations. Indeed it is a miracle, considering the ongoing circumstances.

The leaders and the collectives of the Jagaran Project were not only concerned about their own villages and its beneficiaries; rather they went beyond their Geography and tried to motivate the people of those villages too. Even the community was left in awe, at their splendid and innovative initiative. The fearless attitude that they showed during this tough situation always needs a special mention.

By this it can be understood, even the girls belonging to the most backward section of the society can be transformed and prove their ability if they are equipped with proper and genuine support. And how can we hesitate to say, it was you who made this impossible, possible. Surely you have been the powerhouse of strength which encouraged us to face any grim situation without any fear of failure. Truly your unlimited love and unconditional support, faith and trust has enabled Nishtha to succeed from nowhere. We wholeheartedly agree that without the liberty that was given to Nishtha by you, we hardly could have such a strong Force which proved their worth at the most disastrous situation. It was only because of their immense hardship, the community that dwells in more than 300 villages that we support, could be saved. It is only because of their honest endeavor, they could attain this below mentioned milestone.

Achievements:

Despite adversities we have achieved a lot more than it was expected. Though our main emphasis always remained to retain all the girls to formal education, these children did seem to be contended; rather they wrote their own destiny. Here most of our children did not only complete their formal schools but they had successfully enrolled themselves to the colleges and later completed their degree courses with flying colours.

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

Some students have even reached a step ahead of all, by becoming an engineer, bank employee, teachers, etc. This is indeed an outstanding achievement; rather it can also be considered as a silent revolution and this is the project which has brought in this magnificent revolution.

- We only had dropouts of 2 college going girls in this reporting period as they have migrated to Kolkata. Thus when it comes to percentage, we had **98.65 percent retention rate of children**. And this is a remarkable achievement under such a threatening and dreadful situation.
- When it comes to rate of child marriage; in this entire reporting period there was no single child marriage. Thus **100% of our targeted girls were prevented from Juvenile Marriage**. This must be treated as the most significant achievement of this project; especially since the situation was immensely grim and girls of other neighboring villages in comparison to our targeted villages, were being forced to get married. Seven neighboring
- All the girls associated with this flagship project have been retained to their respective classes. It is a big achievement under such circumstances.
- All the 09 Eligible children appeared for their Madhyamik (Secondary Board Examination, 2022-2023) under this project and their results are awaited. It is a big achievement as there were no dropouts (Which means 100% eligible students were retained back in their Secondary Board Examination).
- All the 15 Eligible children appeared for their Uchha Madhyamik (Higher Secondary Examination, 2022-2023) under this project and their results are awaited. It is a big achievement as there were no dropouts (Which means 100% eligible children were retained back in their Higher Secondary Board Examination).
- 15 girls are going to appear for their Final Year Degree Course that has been scheduled in August.
- All the 10 group collectives have become immensely strong enough to carry out their work and actions efficiently and boldly.
- 10 leaders have emerged as very strong and dynamic leaders' and are able to run their groups very efficiently. They are bold enough to carry various actions. In this reporting period they stopped 11 child marriages, readmitted 53 girls back to their formal schools, and stopped 5 forced marriages.

Below is the list of successful candidates who secured jobs or have started their own businesses, in this reporting period, 2022-23.

This has to be considered as remarkable since they have secured a job or income generating option when all of a sudden the whole world saw a massive decline in the job market after the pandemic.

- Sneha Hazra – Undergoing Nursing Training from Oxford University College
- Mandira Mondal – Works as a sales representative in Grasim.
- Poulami Mondal – Undergoing D. El. Ed. Course
- Rama Mondal – Nurse in Institute of Child Health after undergoing Nursing training in Kolkata
- Pampa Mondal – Nurse in Institute of Child Health after undergoing Nursing training in Kolkata
- Bishakha Naskar – Nurse in Institute of Child Health after undergoing Nursing training in Kolkata
- Lipika Hazra – Owner of Jewellery Shop
- Nabanita Mondal – Undergoing B.Sc. in Nursing from Matru College of Nursing, Bengaluru
- Bidisha Pailan – Data Analyst in Genpact
- Rupa Chakraborty – Montessori teacher in Kids Haven.
- Archana Mondal – Cashier in Acropolis Mall
- Sonali Mondal – School Teacher in Loreto Montessori School
- Antara Naskar – Works in an Industry after completing Engineering Degree

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

- Susmita Sepai – Owner of a Coaching Institute
- Sobha Bar – Accountant in Surovi Mansion, a famous Jewellery Showroom
- Chandrabali Sanfui – Owner of a Joy Tara Hotel
- Tulika Naiya – Owner of a Tailor shop
- Tiyasha Naskar – Works in Customer Care Office of WBSEDCL
- Ganga Naskar – Undergoing Nursing Training from HPR Institute of Nursing, Bengaluru
- Pranati Adhikari – Special Educator in Voice of World after completion of B. Ed.
- Joyeeta Naskar – Owner of a drawing Institute
- Rajasree Naskar – Montessori teacher in Children Paradise School

This would have never been possible without the massive support of the Asha for Education. Our three Beloved Brothers, Padmanava, Agniva and Abhyuday were our brawns who ceaselessly encouraged us in very grim situation. Their unconditional love and unlimited support, faith and trust enabled Nishtha to bring this silent revolution. It is indeed the charisma of this bellwether Jagaran Project that today we have come from nowhere to an awe-inspiring situation.

Why we still need this flagship project:

All the people dwelling in the Jagaran Supported area now are very busy in damage control and compensate for their incurred loss. Parents now are not at all concerned about the protection and education of their children; rather they are busy in reviving their ruined livelihood options. The attitude too has changed a lot and they now seem to have become very self-centered. The traffickers or the cheap labour suppliers in disguise have taken this as an opportunity and are luring innocent girls of our targeted villages, in the name of fake jobs and marriages.

The pandemic surely has taught us many lessons in these last two years. The struggle which the leaders of the Jagaran project had been doing for the protection of Girls and Women has faced a massive blow. They were heading towards their objectives steadily and their achievements were also worth praising; however, the leaders and collectives haven't given up, they have taken an oath that they won't leave a single stone unturned until they bounce back to normalcy.

Our working experience says if they get the opportunity for a few more years, they can surely bring a revolution and hence they must be given the chance to do so. They have all the potential to bring a sustainable impact in the community and through this, once again the villages and the people living in it will turnaround. Whatever they have been doing so far, now has to be done more vigorously.

The time demands fortifying to reach the goal of social and economic prosperity and prove, adversity was nothing but an opportunity to introspect!

THE PROJECT

PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of the project is to ensure mainstream education to **148 girls** vulnerable of dropping out of school in three blocks (Baruipur, Bishnupur – I & Magrahat - II Block) of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal and empower them with formal education and adequate knowledge, information and training.

STRATEGIES

Key strategic interventions and delivery model can summarily be mentioned herein thus;

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

1. Ensuring girls retention in mainstream school through reducing child marriage, school dropouts.
2. Collectivization, leadership building and capacity building of girls and women.
3. Sensitizing the Government duty bearers / front line service providers.
4. Building a strong public opinion in favor of girls and women.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES TO ATTAIN IT

- I. **153 (70 secondary, 26 higher secondary and 57 college) most vulnerable girl children from poorest families are admitted in formal schools with retention of at least 80 % of the targeted girls in formal school.**

Activity Packages to attain the above Objective

- a) 4 Fathers' meeting during this project period to make them supportive towards Girls' education.
- b) Collection of data and preservation on school dropouts, child marriage, trafficking, etc. by the selective leaders from the groups.
- c) Four Community sensitization meetings by the collectives.
- d) Conducting more than 1500 home visits and one on one sessions in the project supported families during this project period. This needs to be done to create a conducive and congenial environment for the children in the family.
- e) 6 BCC Activities like rallies, poster, wall writing, street theatre, etc.
- f) 4 Campaigns on importance of regular attendance in schools and tuition class.
- g) Ensuring distribution of educational materials once a year for the 70 Secondary Girls
- h) Submission of tuition fees;
 - 100 Rupees for 70 Secondary Girls for 11 months
 - 300 Rupees for the 26 Higher Secondary Girls (14 Class XI Girls for 8 Months & 12 Class XII Girls for 11 Months)
 - 400 Rupees for the 57 College Girls (12 Girls of 1st Year for 8 Months, 45 Girls 2nd Year and 3rd Year Girls for 11 Months)
- i) 2 Interface meetings with the community adult males to ensure 100% retention of girls to schools.
- j) Minimum 9 school and tuition class visits to collect information on their performance and attendance for sensitizing the teachers so that they keep a vigil on the performance and attendance of our targeted Girls' and accordingly take action whenever required.
- k) Conducting 2 education interface meetings in a year with parents, teachers, Panchayat and local administration. The parents should be sensitized about their wards' performance and problems.
- l) Ensuring special home visits during harvesting seasons so that girls are not left toiling in the fields but attend school after work and go to their tuition in the evenings.
- m) Conducting at least 4 special meetings with the leaders who would talk to the stakeholders and parents so that girls do not miss any class.
- n) Conducting 72 sessions of Spoken English for 25 students.

- II. **80 % of the supported girls are protected from being married before the legal age of marriage (i.e. 18 years).**

Activity Packages to attain the above Objective

- a) Ensuring 4 trainings per year with the existing 11 group members for capacity building
- b) Ensuring that the groups meet once a month, if need be, then twice.

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

- c) Mobilizing the communities, youth and adolescents on a regular basis for which at least 5 actions need to be organized per year by the collectives.
- d) The girls not under this project should be oriented well for strengthening the support through BCC activities.
- e) A minimum of 1 rally, 2000 postering, 5 wall writings, etc. would be conducted per year to increase the visibility for the groups in the communities. The plans adopted and actions taken by the groups would be documented to showcase in front of the community elders.
- f) Ensuring 4 campaigns against child marriage, violence and trafficking per year. Cases must be referred to Nishtha for taking legal action (if required).

III. To create an environment more conducive for the education of girls in the project area.

Activity Packages to attain the above Objective

- a) Conducting 11 meetings with the girls' and women's collectives on a monthly basis.
- b) At least 6 meetings in a year will be conducted by the social workers, group leaders and the alumni to revive and strengthen the already formed groups.
- c) At least 2 village level meetings will be organized to orient on the objective and importance of the Girls' Education so that 30% members of the Community Adults participate in the campaigns conducted by the Girls' groups.
- d) At least 04 special meetings will be conducted in a year for leaders and co-leaders of the groups to ensure there's no child marriage, forced labour and school dropouts in their family.
- e) At least 1 interface meeting will be held with the special stakeholders so that the Community Women can avail the benefits of various Government Sponsored Schemes.
- f) Minimum 4 actions would be taken on atrocities and violence against women and children.
- g) Conduct at least 24 small sessions with the adult males and females who are not attached with the project in order to increase the retention rate of other community girls in the school.

IV. Strengthening the already formed collectives and capacity building.

Activity Packages to attain the above Objective

- a) Conducting 6 leadership building training courses per year for efficiently running the Girls' & Women's groups.
- a) Conduct 1 get together with girls and women collectives respectively so that they can realize their own strength and share their views, opinion and experience.
- b) 5 One on one sessions between the stakeholders and collectives in order to make them more responsive.
- c) **Conduct excel grade capacity building training under Jagaran Project for the project supported Girls and the Adult males of the community.** Conducting Capacity Building in such circumstances is extremely essential; moreover we hardly work directly with the male members of the community but our work experience says at this point of juncture it is more important to sensitize them as we expect after this we shall surely get their cooperation to great extent.

Project period: (April 2023 – March 2024)

Budget: (INR 1053100.00)

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

S.L	Line Item	Amount
A	Personnel Cost	
A.1	Honorarium of Accountant	
	Rs.7500 X 12 Months	90000.00
	Sub Total:	90000.00
B	Programme Cost	
B.1	Education Support to 70 Students upto Secondary	
B.1.1	Education Materials (Khata, Pen, Pencil, bags, books etc.)	
	Rs 500 X 70 students	35000.00
B.1.2	Tuition fees for 70 Students	
	Rs100 X 70 students X 11 months	77000.00
	Sub Total:	112000.00
B.2	Education Support to 26 H.S Students	
B.2.1	Tuition Fees	
B.2.1.a	Rs.300 per month X 11 Months X 12 Girls	39600.00
B.2.1.b	Rs.300 per month X 8 Months X 14 Girls	33600.00
	Sub Total:	73200.00
B.3	Education Support for 57 college Students	
1	Stipend for 57 College girls	
a	Rs.400 per month X 11 Months X 45 Girls	198000.00
b	Rs.400 per month X 8 Months X 12 Girls	38400.00
	Sub Total:	236400.00
B.4	Honorarium for English Teacher	
	Rs.400 Per Day X 8 days in a month X 9 Months	28800.00
	Sub Total:	28800.00
B.5	Travel Cost for 25 Students	
	Rs.30 X 20 students (average attendance) X 8 days in a month X 9 months	43200.00
	Sub Total:	43200.00
B.6	Capacity Building	
	Kishori Vahini Training	
B.6.1	TA Rs.60 X 30 heads X 6 Days	10800.00
B.6.2	Food Rs.60 X 30 Heads X 6 Days	10800.00
B.6.3	Fees for Resource Person (@ Rs.3000/ per day x 06 days)	18000.00
B.6.4	Travel cost for Resource (@ Rs.1800/ per day x 06 days)	10800.00
B.6.5	Get together of 800 members of Mohila Mondal	24000.00
B.6.6	Get together of Girls	20000.00

JAGARAN PROPOSAL

	Womens Group Training	
B.6.8	TA Rs.60 X 30 heads X 6 Days	10800.00
B.6.9	Food Rs.60 X 30 Heads X 6 Days	10800.00
B.6.10	Training and awareness building with adult males of the community	141000.00
	Sub Total:	257000.00
B.7	Awareness Building	
B.7.1	Stakeholder meeting	5000.00
	Sub Total:	5000.00
B.8	Honorarium of Social Worker	
	Rs 7500 X 12 Months	90000.00
B.10	Collection & Uses of testaments for the betterment of Field work	
	Rs.7000X 12 Months	84000.00
	Sub Total:	174000.00
C	Administration	
C.1	Audit & legal charges incl. service	5000.00
C.2	Printing, Postage, Stationery, Electricity, Telephone etc	5000.00
C.3	Travel cost for staff, volenters etc. (Rs.1500 X 12 months)	18000.00
C.4	Miscellaneous and maintenance	4000.00
C.5	Annual maintenance for computer	1500.00
	Sub Total:	33500.00
	GRAND TOTAL	1053100.00

SISTERHOOD

NISHTHA