

A  
REPORT  
OF  
JAGARAN

AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION

Bishnupur – I, Magrahat - II & Baruipur Block,  
South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal, India

REPORTING PERIOD

April 2014 – March 2015

IMPLEMENTED BY:

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## **ABOUT ORGANIZATION**

'NISHTHA', a community based organization was born in the mid-seventies. From the very inception, its aim was to empower the women/children through awareness building on their rights and demand such rights on necessity. Nishtha presently works in more than 300 villages in five blocks in the South 24 Parganas district. Its campaigns against child marriage, trafficking, domestic violence and gender discrimination has endeared the organization in government and non-government circles by its inherent qualities. To address these issues several women's community groups has been formed by Nishtha which create influential new social networks in the rural areas, have empowered women to mobilize their communities to take action to improve their environment, speak up against violence, and advocate for their rights.

## **AIM**

Provide formal education, knowledge and training to 271 girls so that they complete their college education and become empowered to lead a dignified life.

## **PRESENT TARGET GROUP**

- 141 girls from Class V to X.
- 114 girls of higher secondary level.
- 16 college going girls

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Ensure education to the vulnerable girls till they complete college education.
- Reduction of Drop out level to 20% of the admitted children.
- Build a positive consensus among the parents, stakeholder and community as a whole regarding the education of the child and ensuring education friendly environment in family and community.
- To provide vocational and other trainings to those girls who would discontinue studies after Madhyamik.

## **ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN**

- In order to ensure that the girls continue their education the tuition fees has been provided to all 271 girls benefitted through Jagaran Project.
  - a. 141 girls upto Class X were provided with tuition fees worth Rs. 100 per month for eleven months.
  - b. 114 girls of Higher Secondary level were provided with tuition fees worth Rs. 400 per month. Out of which 43 girls received this support for eleven months while the newly added 71 girls were provided the support from 8 months during the reporting period.
  - c. 16 girls of College were provided with tuition fees worth Rs. 600 per month for eleven months.
- Education materials were provided for the supported girls upto higher secondary level.

- a. 141 girls upto Class X were provided with 10 small exercise book, 1 set uniform, book grant worth Rs. 140 and 2 rims of distha khata (unstitched paper).
- b. 43 girls of Higher Secondary level were provided with school bag, 1 rims of distha khata (unstitched paper), 10 long exercise book, sanitary napkin, book grant worth Rs. 500 and 2 pens, 2 sets of clothes, shoes, umbrella and floor mat to study. While we were unable to provided any support to the newly added 71 girls. They were only provided with tuition fees.

- The class wise distribution of girls is below mentioned

Class	No. of Girls
5.	9
6.	15
7.	34
8.	25
9.	30
10.	28
11.	68
12.	46
<b>College First Year</b>	12
<b>College Second Year</b>	04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271</b>

- The Result of the children are below mentioned

Percentage / Class	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine
Above 70%	0	3	3	1	2
61 - 70 %	6	5	12	5	5
51 - 60%	2	4	8	8	9
36 - 50 %	1	3	6	4	12
26 - 35%	0	0	5	5	2
Upto 25 %	0	0	0	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>

- The result of Seondary (Madhyamik) & Higher Secondary (Uccha Madhyamik) which are conducted by the West Bengal Education board is mentioned below. Please note that the result of Class XI is yet to be published.

Grade	Marks Range	Class X	Class XII
AA	90-100	0	0
A+	80-89	0	0
A	60-79	0	11
B+	45-59	5	10
B	35-44	9	16
C	25-34	6	9
D	Below 25	8 (not allowed to sit in examination)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>

- Regular home visits were conducted at the house of the girls supported to see whether the girls are attending school and tuition regularly. Also, this was used as an opportunity to check the practice of hygiene maintenance, use of sanitary napkins. Apart from that the home visit serves as a major tool to connect with the girl and her family member, understand household dynamics and make them aware on various issues including project objectives and activities. During the reporting period total of 9,765 home visits have been conducted by the Nishtha team.
- Adolescent Girls Group:
  - a. Meeting: The adolescent girls were organised in 18 groups. These groups normally conduct meeting of the group once a week to discuss about ill-effects of early marriage, build understanding about gender based discrimination, right to education and reproductive health issues. The social workers of Nishtha often attend these meeting to oversee its functioning. The social workers have conducted 109 group meetings where 91.67% of attendance was recorded.
  - b. Training: From each group, a leader and an assistant leader are identified from the group based on her acceptance in the group, and patience. The leaders and assistant leaders are provided 10 days of training to build understanding about gender based discrimination, rights and reproductive health issues. Normally, the group leaders and assistant leaders then share the information learnt during training, with their respective groups.

S. NO.	Date	No. of Participants	Topic
1	30-Apr	23	Reproductive Health
2	18-May	23	Gender
3	25-May	23	Reproductive Health
4	08-Jun	24	Reproductive Health
5	22-Jun	23	Reproductive Health
6	04-Aug	23	Gender
7	10-Dec	26	Gender
8	16-Dec	26	Gender
9	18-Dec	23	Gender
10	22-Dec	36	Rights

- Mothers Group Meeting.
  - a. Meeting: The mothers like the adolescent girls were organised in 18 groups. They also normally conduct meeting of the group once a week to discuss about ill-effects of early marriage, build understanding about gender based discrimination, right to education and reproductive health issues. The social workers of Nishtha often attend these meeting to oversee its functioning. The social workers have conducted 144 group meetings where 93.08% of attendance was recorded.
  - b. Training: Like adolescent group, from each mothers group, a leader and an assistant leader are identified from the group based on her acceptance in the group, and patience. During the project period 7 trainings have been conducted with them. These trainings were conducted in the community itself so it didn't have any budgetary implications as such.

- c. **Get Together:** On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014, a get together was organised where more than 500 women from the three blocks (Bishnupur – I, Magrahat – II & Baruipur Block) came to our Tongtala infrastructure. This get together was used as an opportunity to discuss about ill-effects of early marriage and importance of education with such a huge mass of women.
- **Awareness Generation:** In order to make the community aware, we focussed on two key issues which are ill –effects of early marriage and importance of girl child education. Series of activities were conducted which includes 28 wall writing, 4 poster sessions were approximately 1000 posters has been displayed, 2 rallies, 4 street theatre, 11 small group session and 6 campaign on wheels where conducted.
  - **Stakeholder meeting:** A stakeholder meeting was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Rashkhali Panchayat Building where 43 stakeholders were present. The stakeholders include panchayat pradhan & members, school teachers, ICDS worker, Health worker, few of the group leaders of Mahila Mandal (women’s group) and othe key influential people of the area were present. During this meeting we discussed about issues affecting school dropout and the age and class where it mostly seen, early marriage and counter mechanism etc.
  - **Vocational Training:** In total 40 adolescent girls were provided vocational training. The training were provided in two groups where both the groups were provided training on Spoken English and Computer which are key skills to any respected work these days. The trainings were given six days a month on Sunday and Saturday for six months at Don Bosco Tech Kolkata Facility which is adjoining to our project area.

## IMPACT

- 98.52 % of girls have been protected from early marriage. We are unable to protect 4 girls from early marriage, however out of which 2 girls are continuing their education (even beyond the project support).
- 97.79 % of girls are continuing education without dropping out of school i.e. 265 girls has dropped out of school out of 271 supported girls. Two girls have moved out of project area after getting married but is continuing their education.
- 11 girls of higher secondary have scored “A” grade.

## CASE STUDY

There was a local illegal liquor shop in Dumdum village. This liquor shop used to sell country liquor. After drinking and wasting money in the shop, the male counterpart often come home and used to create nuisance, used abusive language and end up beating their wives or children. This was becoming a serious matter. The area itself is quite poor where managing two squares meals is difficult for a considerable section of family. In that area, the male members were wasting money in drinking and also domestic violence was growing day by day. Few of the women raised their voices against this shop, but they were suppressed with the abusive behaviour of shop owners and their supporters.

The issue was discussed in Mahila Mandal. It was decided that all the Mahila Mandal members of adjoining area affected by this will join hands. Also, local panchayat member's support was mobilised and took permission from them.

Over 500 Mahila Mandal members went to the local liquor shop along with other members of the community who were affected by this shop. A huge resistance was shown by local shop. The fight was growing. With support from panchayat, police was called and the shop was demolished.

For many days, the area was quite tensed. The power behind the shop was goons and could attack any time but the enthusiasm of women were not low. Also, with support from panchayat, the police used to depute personals to ensure peace in the area. Gradually it got calm down.

The drinking of liquor has reduced considerably in the area and has a great impact on family. The men are now concentrating on work while the women and children are leading a peaceful life.