The socially apt group

REPORT
On the
SATHI for Education Support

Institute for Planning, Innovative Research, Appropriate Training and Extension
[Registered Name: Hijli INSPIRATION]
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Fax: (033)-23349945
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Web Site: www.inspiration-india.org
1. About INSPIRATION

1.1 The genesis and the course

INSPIRATION was formed by a group of alumni from IIT Kharagpur to provide a strategic support and integrated treatment for effective and appropriate solutions to a spectrum of national socioeconomic problems. The group comprising researchers, young and senior teachers set off - off their labs and classrooms - with a passion for egalitarianism - basically what is referred to as inclusion. A legitimized entity INSPIRATION evolved, which is basically an acronym of what the group wanted to do - Planning, Innovative Research Appropriate Training and Extension (INStitute for Planning Innovative Research Appropriate Training and Extension).

However the sequence of activities as it came in the name did not follow the same pattern in reality. The team nurtured the mantra of “Release and not Relief” – which specifically meant capacity strengthening and not only charity. In the initial years several training programmes were organised spanning a total cross section like Training on Agroclimatic Regional Planning for Farmers on one hand to Training on Participatory Community Engagement for the Indian Forest Service Officers on the other. The group realized the role of Information as a key to capacity strengthening as well as rational existence and worked on Information Education communication, IEC, strategy design and its implementation on field. In course of time the focus moved on from IEC to BCC – Behavior Change Communication.

In the process of information generation and sharing, INSPIRATION matured as a credible organization and subsequently was vested with the task of undertaking evaluation exercises by the Government and Non Government Organisations in and outside the state as well as the country. The organization has had the experience of handling several evaluation, review, appraisal assignments over all these years.

Research had been a parallel activity throughout. The team comprised researchers and hence obsession for “KHONJ” remained. Independent research assignments on issues like Gender Violence, Legal dimensions of Child Labour, Design of GIS based Health Referral System etc were taken up on one hand, while on the other project linked research through an depth analysis of quantitative and qualitative information, guided project outcomes towards greater efficiency.

Gradually the sphere of work moved from the sectoral frame to the holistic development frame and the team got involved in the Preparation of Perspective Plans for NABARD, Urban Local Bodies, and District Administrations along with contributing to District Human Development Reports.

In the course of the traversal, INSPIRATION shifted from Kharagpur to Kolkata and were rejoined by professionals from varied disciplines like medicine, media, literature, law, sociology which provided INSPIRATION with a multidisciplinary character – appropriate and ideal for an integrated treatment of socio-economic issues. With this set the organization could delve into sectors like health, education, livelihood promotion, natural resource management, environment and gender and had had the opportunity of undertaking projects under several flagship programmes like NRHM, NREGA, PMEGP, SSA, SGSY, JNNURM, etc.

All the years, the team has experimented, delivered and have touched thousands and thousands of lives. Some sustainable changes have happened – some are still struggling for sustained outcomes. The experience of all the years has been that of conscious reasoning and social erudition which has finally led INSPIRATION to become a SOCIALLY APT GROUP.
1.2 Status of the Organisation


The organisation is also registered under the following:

- Section 80G(5)(vi) of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961; vide order No. DIT(E)/174 8E/211/01 – 02 dated 15.06.2009 valid for A. Years 2009-10 to 2011-12 under which donations are exempted from Income Tax.

1.3 Governing Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Office held in the association, if any</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lt. Col. Dr. J. Chowdhuri [Retd.]</td>
<td>FE-187 Salt LAKE SECTOR – III, CAL-91 Ph. No.(033)-23375872</td>
<td>Medical Professional</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr Dipankar Ghosh</td>
<td>Ballygunj Place Kolkata 700019</td>
<td>Communication Specialist</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dr. Chandreyee Das</td>
<td>GC-1, 1st Floor Salt Lake Sector-III, Cal-91 Ph- (033)-23587241/23592969</td>
<td>Planner and Economic Consultant</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prof. T.K. Basu</td>
<td>B1/2, Iswarchandra Niwas, 68/1 Bagmari Road Cal-54 Ph- (033)-2337-7331</td>
<td>Consulting Sociologist</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dr Rupali Dey</td>
<td>1-D, Mandeville Gardens, Flat – 7A, Kolkata-700-019 Ph- (033)-2337-7331</td>
<td>Medical Professional</td>
<td>Asst. Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Mandira Sen</td>
<td>73 Jessore Road Behari Dutta Bagan Cal-28 Ph-(033)-25592918</td>
<td>Consulting Psychologist</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dr. Damayanti Mukhopadhyay</td>
<td>2 BR, F-2, ITT Campus, Kharagpur-721302 Ph-(03222)-2777466</td>
<td>Sociologist</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dr. Partho Bose</td>
<td>AE-478 Salt Lake Sector-I Cal-64 Ph- (033)-23373398</td>
<td>Medical Professional</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mr. Debangshu Bhattacharya</td>
<td>95/2, Swiss Park Tollygunge, Cal-33 Ph- (033)- 2424-0682 2424-6562</td>
<td>Tourism Designer &amp; Human Rights Activist</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1.4 Vision - Mission - Objectives

**Vision** – Egalitarianism and Equity

**Mission** – Sustainable inclusion of the socially and economically excluded sections through people appropriate solutions

**Objectives** The main objective of the organisation is to carry out research / study / action oriented projects on socio-cultural, economic and environmental issues aimed at improving quality of life of the excluded weaker sections of the society and promoting conservation of natural resources.

1.5 Scope of Work

INSPIRATION specializes in the following domains:

- Strategic planning and implementation of programmes in the social sectors like Health and Family Welfare, Education, Livelihood, Environment aimed at inclusion.
- Design of impact assessment methodologies and evaluation of developmental programmes.
- Community institutionalization programmes for self-help approaches in planning, management, development & maintenance of facilities.
- Decentralized resource planning and management like forest management, watershed management, rural energy planning, conservation and preservation of vegetative resources particularly medicinal plants.
- Research studies and methodology, model or software development
- Capacity building through training and other programmatic approaches
1.6 Major Clients
1.7 Work Experience

INSPIRATION provides a unique combination of technical expertise and on-field experience, which necessarily guides the appropriateness of any action-oriented programme. The work traverses the path from research, design to implementation. Over the fifteen years of its existence it has undertaken major consultancy projects as well as minor grassroots implementation programmes with National and International Sponsors as well as the National and State Government.

INSPIRATION operates through two distinct wings of activity:
- Planning, Evaluation and Research
- Action Research and Implementation in sectors like Livelihood Promotion, Education and Health, Natural Resource management and Gender studies.

Domain specific representative projects and assignments have been as follows:

Monitoring and Evaluation

INSPIRATION has extensive experience of handling review, assessments and evaluation in varied sector sphere. Some representative evaluation assignments include Development of a suitable research methodology for monitoring and evaluation in six up-land districts of North east for NEC-IFAD project for Tata Consultancy Services Evaluation of Mobile Health Care Service in Sundarbans, undertaken by three NGO-s in the context of the World Bank aided State Health Systems Development Project II, under the Health and Family Welfare Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal, Review of Three Year Strategy Plan 2003-2006 for Asia and Middle East for Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, USA, Review of the Innovative Challenge Fund funded Livelihood and Non Livelihood projects under KUSP Programme, Evaluation of CIDA/CLWR funded Rural Development Project in 92 communities under Mathurapur I and II Block of South 24 Parganas implemented by Lutheran World Service.

Planning

INSPIRATION being formed by a group of Planners from IIT Kharagpur has the experience of handling programmes and assignments in the domain of rural and urban planning which include Conduct of Detailed Potential Survey of Rural Non-Farm Sector in Hooghly District for NABARD, Preparation of the Multisectoral District Development Plan for Minorities of South 24 Parganas for the District Administration, Draft Development Plan Preparation in 20 Municipalities of KMA and Non KMA area under the Kolkata Urban Services Programme, Environmental Management Plan for Digha Coastal Area for MOEF, GOI.

Livelihood and Empowerment

The Organisation has undertaken projects related to, Implementation of Rural Industrialisation Programme for SIDBI Operating the Research and Analysis Wing for NREGS and Documentation and Facilitation of the process of social audit, Formation of Self Help Group and supporting towards economic empowerment, Developing the e catalogue for SHGs under SGSY for strengthening the marketing system. Evaluation programmes in the livelihood sector includes Evaluation of the DWCRA programme for the State government Evaluation of the SGSY Programme in 4 Districts of West Bengal and the Evaluation of the National ST Financial Development Corporation in West Bengal for NABCONS, Kolkata. Relevant trainings in this domain include Entrepreneurship Development Programmes with SIDBI, IPSO, Rotary Club of Kolkata and conduct of Vocational Training for Municipal CDS.
Education

INSPIRATION has undertaken several projects in the domain of education support with major clients like the UNICEF, Save the Children, Tata Trust, KUSP, Axis Bank Foundation like Education Rehabilitation after AILA in Sunderbans, Preparation of Life skill Module Development and its Implementation, Education and backup Support Programme for mainstreaming dropouts, Reading Centre for Accelerated Learning, Health and Hygiene Education in the Primary Schools, Environmental Education in Schools - A key to healthy existence, Included the Excluded through a community based approach in Sunderbans. INSPIRATION also has the experience of undertaking evaluation of education projects funded under Innovative Challenge Fund of KUSP.

Health

The team of doctors and sociologists in INSPIRATION have designed and implemented technical research projects as well as grassroots implementation programmes like Design and Implementation of Information Education Communication Strategy with special emphasis on women, disadvantaged and Tribal communities, Rapid Assessment of Health Seeking Behaviour of the villagers in Cooch Behar District - Baseline Study in the context of the Indo-German Basic Health Project West Bengal. An important assignment is on Health Analysis and Recommendations in Sunderbans in the context of Non ending Technical Assistance study of the World Bank.

Mass Communication and IEC Material Development

The assignments includes, Campaign Implementation Plan Development and Implementation for Road Safety Awareness for NHAI through SMEC, To design and develop effective education-communication material for strengthening the process of Consumer Awareness, Development of cartoon based IEC and Poster Design for the Consumer Affairs Department, Development of thematic posters on MDG for UNDP, Department of Development and Planning, GOWB.

Training

INSPIRATION has the experience of training bureaucrats and grassroots operatives in rural and urban areas on themes like Decentralised Planning, Participatory Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Behaviour Change Communication, Change Management for ULB-s, Motivational EDP as well as Detailed EDP-s.

Research and Studies

1.8 Locational spread

INSPIRATION has undertaken projects in all districts of West Bengal and has conducted training programmes and evaluation exercises in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Tripura. INSPIRATION as a consortium partner of KDS – INSPIRATION Consortium has been selected as the Technical Support Institute for BRGF Planning in Patna, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur (Bhabua), Nalanda, Rohtas districts of Bihar. However, the team members, through their past experience and affiliation, have operated in different states of the country as well as abroad.

1.9 Manpower

INSPIRATION offers a multidisciplinary team of expert professionals having past and present affiliation with leading Academic and R & D Institutions. A team of young, energetic field staff (Male & Female) who have been trained in field level operations like Survey, Perception Study, Conflict Resolution, Transaction and Communication provide the outreach support. The specialized and coordinated effort leads to an effective outcome.

The manpower structure is as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core Team</th>
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<table>
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<td></td>
<td>Asst. Accountant: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office Attendant: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Research       | Research Associate: 1 |

**INSPIRATION works in partnership with local NGO-s in implementation and delivery.**
The key member profiles who have the experience of handling varied projects

**Chandreyee Das** is a Ph.D in Planning from IIT Kharagpur with a basic background in Economics. She was associated as a Post Doctoral Fellow in IIT Kharagpur till 1992 working on System Modeling and Information System Design for Decentralised Planning. Her specialization is in Participatory Planning Implementation and Evaluation, Socio-economic system studies and modeling. She has functioned as Team Leader / Principal Investigator/ Principal Researcher/ Consultant in several studies and action research projects for national and International sponsors including Dept of Urban Affairs, Department of Science and Technology of the Govt. of India, Urban Development Department of Govt. of Tripura, Zilla Parishads, the World Bank, the UNICEF, the GTZ, South Asian Institute for Economic Research Institutes. She is engaged as consultant to the Urban Development Department of Tripura in the ADB supported Institutional Development Consultancy as well as to the World Bank on NLT A on Climate Change for Sunderbans. She has several publications in National and International Journals and has edited a book “Eye on Development”, (Jointly with Mr. Dipankar Ghose), A SAMPARK PUBLICATION, January 2006. She was involved in several International Assignments in USA, UK, Italy, Thailand, Philippines, France, and Bangladesh.

**Debashis Bhattacharyya** is a Ph.D from Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and a Masters in Regional Planning from IIT Kharagpur. His specialization is in Social Analysis and R & R. As a Social Specialist, he has led a team of field engineers to conduct various social surveys including baseline surveys, stakeholder consultation; assisted a team of social experts to prepare LAP, R&R and Social Management Implementation. As Resettlement Specialist, he was responsible for carrying out community consultation, social impact assessment, preparation of resettlement framework. He has worked with major international clients like the ADB and World Bank. He was involved in the North-Eastern Region Urban Development Project (ADB TA 4344- IND) (Hilly Terrain) and was responsible for social impact assessment for the projects to be taken up for provision, up-gradation and modernization of urban infrastructure covering the sectors such as roads, water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage, street lighting, etc. in North East cities.

**Dipankar Ghosh** is a Sociologist with a Post Graduation in Personnel Management and Labour Economics from London School of Economics and Political Science, London University. He was employed with BBC World Services for more than twenty-three years as a senior journalist and commentator and broadcaster. He is OD and Communication Specialist. He has prepared several Organisational Development Plans for Municipalities. He has handled assignments for the UNICEF and the Government of West Bengal on Information Education Communication and Community Mobilisation.

**Damayanti Mukhopadhyay** is a Ph.D from Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur and a Masters in Sociology from Calcutta University. Her research topic was the Institutional Aspect of JFM. Her specialization is in Social Group Functioning, Participatory Development primarily in the Natural Resource Management. She has served as a Research Officer, Consultant, Trainer in several National and International assignments supported by the Govt. of India, Govt. of West Bengal and international donors like the Ford Foundation, DFID etc. She works as a Consulting Sociologist & Founder Member, INSPIRATION

**Pradip Deb** is a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati (USA), M.S. (Environmental Engineering), University of Cincinnati (USA) and BE (Civil Engineering) from BE College University of Calcutta. He has over 25 years of experience in the USA handling projects in various aspects of pollution control engineering for municipal, industrial, and institutional projects. In West Bengal he was associated with Asian Development Bank funded Kolkata Environment Improvement Project, and Water Supply plan for Guptoo district for APUSP-DFID. He has also handled several programs with World Bank, ADB, GKW etc. He was recently involved in compilation of 1st component at Hooghly Chinsurah Municipality and Bhatreswar Municipality as 5 years perspective Draft Development Plan preparation process.
Jibanananda Roy is a Ph.D from IIT Kharagpur. He is a GIS Specialist and Member INSPIRATION. He served 13 years in Regional Remote sensing Centres, ISRO as scientist, GIS and Remote Sensing area. He handled several projects involving GIS like GIS support for Disaster Management System, sponsored by ISRO, GIS support, Integrated Management for Sustainable Development, GIS support for Forest Management Project sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forest. He guided Ph.D., M.Tech students on GIS and Remote Sensing, and published papers in National and International Journals. He has also served as a visiting lecturer.

Dr. Mandira Sen is Ph.D. in Occupational Stress, IIT, Kharagpur and member INSPIRATION. Her specialization is in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Psychotherapy, Behaviour Therapy, Group Therapy, Psychological Testing and Counseling, Women’s studies. She was associated with sponsored research projects of DST, CSSR. She worked as a team member handling behavioural issues in several projects of INSPIRATION particularly in the Health sector.

Prof Tapas K Basu is an MA (Pol. Sc with specialisation in Sociology), Calcutta University and an LLB, Calcutta University. He taught Pol. Sc. and Sociology at the Calcutta University for more than three decades. He was involved in the research programme on the sociology of Birhor Tribe of Midnapore District of WB under the famous Socio-Anthropologist Late Nirmal K Bose. His specialization is Sociology of the marginalised, community mobilisation and transaction analysis. He is engaged as consulting sociologist and Member INSPIRATION. He has functioned as lead sociologist in several research and action projects for National and International donors. He has several research publications to his credit.

Kanika Banerjee is an MA in Political Science and B. Ed. She has 30 years of teaching experience in Primary and Secondary Schools. She is team member in all projects of the organisation dealing with Education. She has expertise in developing accelerated reading strategies with Pratham, translated several age and level specific story books from English to vernacular, acted as Resource Person in Programmes for CINI ASHA, PRATHAM, SAVE THE CHILDREN etc. She developed the Primary Education Improvement Plans for over ten Municipalities of West Bengal

Other members are from different disciplines like Anthropology, Physiology, Literature, Climatology etc. INSPIRATION also has a team of six young energetic staff with experience in Field and office operations.
SATHI FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT

Implemented by
Hijli INSPIRATION

Supported by
Asha for Education, Georgia
Fact Sheet

Name of our Programme : SATHI for Education Support

A joint programme of : Hijli INSPIRATION & Asha for Education

Project Area : Kamrhati Municipality, Barrackpore Sub-division, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

No. of Children : 100 (hundred)

No. of Centre : 4 (four)

Medium of instruction : Hindi (2) & Urdu (2)

Period : June – 2010 to May 2011
Background

The municipal area of Kamarhati, a township within greater Kolkata, is densely populated where the habitations are mainly slums and squatter colonies. The civic amenities for the people of this area are largely missing. Most of the families live in small dingy, poorly ventilated and rented houses. The two Jute Mills of Kamarhati and Agarpara, that provide the economic lifeline of the area, have been downsized significantly over the past few years. No further creation of employment opportunity in this sector has forced the population to opt for other occupations, mostly in the unorganized sector. Children have joined hands in supporting the family and are also engaged in the unorganized sector [blade making, pen refilling, garage works, zari works, jute and plastic bags making] as well.

The status of child rights in general and educational right in particular is dismal. The rate of drop out from the school is as high as 50% at the secondary level and 15% at the primary level. Over the last few years, however, the Urban Local Body as well as NGOs have taken initiatives to address the adverse educational issues in Kamarhati.

INSPIRATION, in association with Axis Bank foundation had been implementing a project on mainstreaming drop out children in the slums of Kamarhati and providing them back up support for one year. The reality suggested that unless such children, who are usually first generation learners, are supported for a longer time, preferably for five to seven years, they do not become curricular adaptive and hence chances of further dropping out is high.

The present project aimed at a longer support to ensure retention and make certain their educational attainments.

Objective of the Programme

Keeping this issue in mind the present programme was designed with the following objectives:

- To provide back up support to a section of the children mainstreamed under the HARMONY Project for helping them cope with the school curriculum in the longer run
- To develop their basic skill of reading, writing and computation
- To look into the overall well being of the children particularly health
- To mobilize the Community particularly mothers for an enabling environment and sustainability
- To develop linkages with other stakeholders particularly the government in working out convergence.

Strategies in line with the objectives

- Back up support include helping children do their homework and help them brush up their lessons through design of work sheets and use of Teaching Learning Material.
- Developing basic skill of children through a corner library approach and regularizing the practice of teaching. A primary assessment has been done for gauging their basic skill levels.
- Monitoring the health and hygiene status of the children through awareness and health check up by doctors
- Developing the cultural attributes of children
- Community mobilization through regular meetings and awareness programmes. Involving the community from the planning phase to implementation and assessment has been an important strategy of the programme. This is expected to instate a sense of ownership and accountability for assured sustenance.
- Establishing linkages with Government, Municipality, Formal Schools, Residential Schools, to work out resource sharing options for sustained operations is another important strategy.
Activities and Achievements

Back up support

Initiation of the programme

The programme started with the inauguration of SATHI for Education Support programme. All centers were opened on 1st July 2010 at ward no. 3 of Kamarhati municipality. The President of the organization, ward councilor and other stakeholders like club members, local responsible persons etc, were present in the opening ceremony.

Few words for children on Inauguration programme by President of INSPIRATION

Few words for children on Inauguration programme by Ex. Councilor Ward no.–3, Kamarhati Municipality

The preliminary works for opening the centers like volunteer selection, enrolment of children etc. started from June 2010 so that the organisation could start the centers from the very beginning of the next month.

Volunteer selection

Each centre was to be handled by a volunteer. Volunteer selection was based on a written test as well as an interview. Out of ten interviewees four have been selected on the basis of overall performances. Child friendly attitude was an important criteria for the purpose. The President, Secretary and resource person of INSPIRATION jointly conducted the selection process and took the decision.
Training

Capacity building of the volunteers was one of the prime responsibilities of the organisation. INSPIRATION organised a series of trainings on:

i) Back up support
ii) Right to Education
iii) Basic Learning Skill Development

Backup support

- Deprived Urban Children: Identification, Characteristics and Interaction with them.
- Coaching Programme: Objective and Strategy.
- Classroom management
- Community Mobilization and Participation: Analysis, Definition and Process.
- Stakeholder: Conception and analysis.

Right to Education

- Child Rights.
- Right to Education
- The provisions under “The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009”

Basic learning skill development

- Accelerated reading in vernacular – assessment and strategies for accelerated skills.
- English – Knowledge of alphabets, words, action words, basic grammar and spoken skills.
- Computation – basic concepts.

Centre running

4 centres are operational catering to around 100 children. The centre specific number of children has been provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre no</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Children</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name of the volunteer</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N.R. Adhikari Road</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>I to IV</td>
<td>Sarika Devi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>N.R. Adhikari Road</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>I to IV</td>
<td>Seema Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cryag Row Youth Club</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>I to V</td>
<td>Aasia Khatoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yusuf Market, New Line</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>I to IV</td>
<td>Sima Ali</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From July 100 children from among the set of children mainstreamed in 2010 under the Harmony project were brought within the folds of ASHA programme for providing them back up support and ensuring retention.

This continued for three months. In September 2010 Axis Foundation got back granted a year’s extension from September 2010 to August 2011. Naturally they wanted the children mainstreamed under their programme to be supported in the extended term. Hence a new set of deserving children from the community was selected for support under the ASHA programme based on discussion with the Padmanava Sen.
All centers have been running for two hours in a coaching mode. Volunteers provide guidance on the school curriculum. The volunteers were strictly instructed to focus on basic learning skill development along with helping them in their daily lessons. Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) were used in the centers for learning in a joyful way and in a joyful environment.

The details of the children enrolled and sustaining in the centers are given in the table below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<th>2nd year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class - II</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class - IV</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class - V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

This is to be noted that at the initial phase 49 children were enrolled in class I. However, 23 of them dropped out after a few months. Thus in the I	extsuperscript{st} year, children covered under the programme is 77. After the school examination, 23 children were enrolled in class I who are continuing in the said class. All other 77 children promoted to the next class.

**Monitoring**

An indicator based monitoring is done to assess centre performance and suggest regular improvements. Centre status is being assessed in terms of

- Overall environment – cleanliness and class discipline
- Class management – Regularity, timeliness, multigrade teaching techniques
- Teaching standard – overall and subject specific, use of learning aides, basic skill development
- Teachers attitude – child friendliness, community engagement, mothers interaction
- Child performance – overall and subject specific, adaptability, attentiveness
- Child attitude – peer engagement, teacher interaction, parents interaction

**Home Visit**

Repeated home visit by volunteers with our representatives, have deemed to be very effective in running the centers. Volunteers are continuously visiting children’s residences and interacting with their parents. This has led to improved parental interaction and ensured attendance.

**Achievement**

An assessment of learning status of the children after one year revealed that all the children were promoted to the next class. Achievement in school performance, reflected in the progress report of annual examination, revealed their improved performance.
Field visit by Asha representative – Mr. Padmanava Sen

Developing basic skill of children through a corner library approach

Regarding basic skill development special emphasis has been given in Urdu/ Hindi (mother tongue). Reading with comprehension and basic computation is very important for each and everybody to cope up with formal class curriculum. For the said purpose storybook reading along with other book related activities was emphasized as centre activity. Every day one hour has been allotted for the same. INSPIRATION has donated many colourful story books of different levels for the children to expose them to varied books and to create interest towards education among them.

Interns of Masters of Social Work provided special academic support with a focus on English Teaching and vernacular Reading

Every centre has been provided with a set of books donated by INSPIRATION, and volunteers as mentioned, have been trained in accelerated reading strategies. This is helping in developing a connect of the children with books and also accelerating their reading capabilities.

Books include story books, cartoon based value education related books in the medium of Urdu & Hindi version. A sample set is provided below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billo Aur Sidhi</td>
<td>Bir Balika</td>
<td>Nirmala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chacha Chowdhury</td>
<td>Champak</td>
<td>Birbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahek (Aap Achhe hai Sir)</td>
<td>Kahani Gayan</td>
<td>Jyoti punj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinky or Kurkure Chips</td>
<td>Panchatantra</td>
<td>Kastury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health and Hygiene Monitoring of children and Health Awareness of Mothers

Health Check up Camp

“We were ably supported by members of INSPIRATION. A very welcome observation was the low incidence of caries during dental checkup. This probably reflects a lesser consumption of junk food including sweets and cola drinks, as compared to children from more affluent background.

Another interesting feature, noted during earlier eye checkups too was their relative ease in identifying letters of the English alphabet. As learning new languages is easiest during the early childhood years, fresh avenues may be explored as regards English language teaching to these disadvantaged children with the help of institutions like the British Council”

…………… reports Dr. Joytirmoy Chaudhuri and Dr. Mou Chaudhuri after attending to the children in the Health Check up initiative taken up by Hijji INSPIRATION in Kamarhati on 22nd March 2011.

All children attended the health check up camp.
For hygiene awareness several posters have been developed and put up in the centres. Although the posters are in Bengali, the pictures convey the messages to the children.
Awareness Camp on RCH for mothers of our target children

Parivar Seva Sangha is working with women Health over the three decades. INSPIRATION together with PSS conducted an awareness program in their field in Kamarhati (Israel Colony, Mill line, N.R. Adhikari Road, New Line) on 19th April & 12th May’ 2011. The theme of the programme was awareness generation on basic nutrition, family planning and reproductive health care.

Developing the cultural attributes of children

Several cultural programmes have been organized throughout the programme tenure as presented below:

Independence Day Celebration

The purpose of celebrating the Independence Day is to instill the importance of the day among the children. Prior to this no one had explained to them the significance of the day. Participating in such programmes aroused a sense of patriotism as well as self-respect among the children. All students, volunteers and some local people were present in the programme. From the organization, representatives also joined the celebration and hoisted the National Flag with the applause of children. The children sang our National Anthem with fervor and enthusiasm. Volunteers delivered short speeches on the significance of the day. Then chocolates were distributed among the students. All the children enjoyed the day.

Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan – the day for brotherhood and integration. All students and volunteers were present at their respective centres to celebrate the day. Project representatives also joined the programme. Everyone Tied Rakhi in each other hand. Volunteers delivered short speeches on the significance of the day. Sweets were distributed among the students. Children more enjoyed the day. These children coming from poor families and underprivileged society have never been engaged in such celebrations before. It was thus a day for happiness and love for the children to cherish for the rest of their life.
Children’s Day Celebration

Children’s day was celebrated with great fervor by all students, and volunteers in the centres. Project representatives also joined the programme. The volunteers tried to convey the message of the day to the children by telling them the life of Jawaharlal Nehru, whom children love to call Chacha Nehru. Toffy & Biscuits were distributed among the students. Children enjoyed the day.

Republic Day Celebration

INSPIRATION celebrated a special day on the 31st of January this year to pay homage to our great leaders who fought for India’s independence.

The programme was organized at Samaj Sadan (Najrul Mancha) in Kamarhati Municipality Auditorium. Children of Kamarhati under the Asha Project, being deprived of all social occasions like Celebration of Independence Day, Republic Day etc. have a little knowledge about the significance of Independence as well as Republic Day. As an awareness exposition, an attractive power point presentation on the journey of India’s Independence was shown to these children. The presentation had pictures and child-friendly narrations. Children were also given posters of the leaders so that they could recognize them and relate them to the history of India’s Independence. About 300 children participated in the programme.

Apart from the educative programme on Independence, children were taken through a session of pure recreation and entertainment. A children’s film, “Makdi” was shown which the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was a day of fun, frolic and educative entertainment for the children.
Community mobilization through regular meetings and awareness programmes

Stakeholders’ meeting

Several formal and informal meetings were held during last one year with stakeholders at all levels for making the programme more successful. Proper motivation and awareness among the community can bring about a sea change in the mindset of the people and take forward the project initiative. Stakeholders’ meeting included:

- Parents meeting for motivating them towards education of their children.
- School Teachers Meeting for monitoring the progress of mainstreamed children as well as community children under the programme.
- Meeting with other stakeholders at the community level (club members, local influential persons etc.), local govt. etc. for community awareness and sustainability.

List of such meetings is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Meeting</th>
<th>Issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents Meeting</td>
<td>Right to Education Act (RTE), Child performances, Volunteers performances, Retention in school and others developmental issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers Meeting</td>
<td>Child performances, Volunteers performances, Retention in school and others development, Group formation, ownership of the centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with community, local clubs, local influential persons</td>
<td>Development of the local children, sustainability of the centre / programme, RTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Teachers Meeting</td>
<td>Students performances, retention in school, over all development , RTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Chairman, Local Councilors</td>
<td>Orientation of our programme, linkage any Govt. schemes etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Volunteers</td>
<td>RTE, Child performances, over all development of the children, interaction with parents, stakeholders, school teachers etc. regularwise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Establishing linkages with Government, Municipality, Formal Schools,

INSPIRATION representatives keep regular contact with Local school teachers to understand the performance of children in school as well to orient volunteer on formal learning.

The representatives also met the Chairman of Kamarhati Municipality for linkage with programmes like “Every Child in School” etc.

Planning for the next year (June 2011 to May 2012):

The challenges and achievements in the programme year provided pointers for the planning of the subsequent year. The biggest challenge during this period has been in monitoring Urdu centres. Hence in the forthcoming year focus would be on running Bengali Centres.

A set of 100 children will be drawn from the set of children mainstreamed under the Axis bank supported programme and are versed in Bengali medium. This set would be available from September 2011. The existing set of children (in hindi and urdu medium) would be provided support for one year till August 2011.
Already two locations have been identified and in each location 2 centres would run. The point which is noteworthy for both the locations is that community is eager to house the centres in the community premise or club and have made necessary repair work. The locations are Israel Colony and Cryag Row. Cryag row already has two centres running which are in Urdu medium. These centres would be closed and new Bengali Centres would be opened. The transition will not be difficult since the Urdu Volunteer is finding it difficult to run the centres in the Cryag row club for some personal reason and wants to run the centres from home. However books will be provided to these children from INSPIRATION.

**Israel Colony**, a slum situated in Ward no. 7 of Kamarhati Municipality has two of our centres catering to 50 children. Initially the centres used to run in an extremely dilapidated premise (without a proper roof) making it difficult to carry out activities effectively. However through repeated community meetings involving the mothers INSPIRATION could generate enthusiasm among the community and the community came forward with contributions and has repaired the structure to some extent – built up a brick wall with a semi pucca roof which has a plastic sheet covering.

**Cryag Row** is a slum situated in ward no 3 and Friends Club is a club situated in the slum. The club initially had a very scanty infrastructure and thus could not make use of the premise for development activities. Very recently the club has been refurbished through community support. The community members including club members had observed the activities of these back up learning centres operational in their vicinity and have requested INSPIRATION to have two centres in their club. INSPIRATION is considering shifting two Bengali centres which were under the HARMONY project and were running in dilapidated places to this club. This will ensure sustainability and community ownership.