

Concept Note & Funding Request for Educational Program



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Kankura Masat Social Welfare Society
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Kankura Masat Social Welfare Society (KMSWS)

KMSWS is located in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named South 24 Parganas one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). In South 24 Parganas, 37.2% of the population lives below poverty line, while 84.2% are based in rural areas. Literacy rate, male 58.9% and female: 41.1%, are lower than the Indian average.

Basic Demographic Indicators – South 24 Parganas

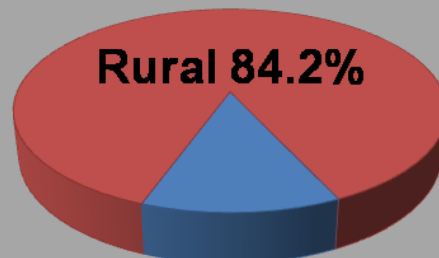
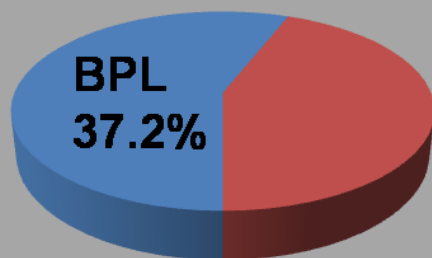
Total Population 6,909,015 (Census, 2001)

Below Poverty Line (BPL) 7.2%

Rural Population 84.2%

Male Literacy Rate 58.9%

Female Literacy Rate 41.1%



Source:

Minority Concentration District Project, South 24 Parganas, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, 2005.

KMSWS was established in 1999. It is working to improve the poor conditions of education, environment, and health in the Masat region located in South 24 Parganas district. Since 2001, we are engaged in running pre-primary and primary schools for local children. At KMSWS, we regularly organize health check up clinics for mothers and their children. As part of our livelihood improvement program, we have taken initiatives to organize vocational training for local unemployed youth. In the environment and sustainable agricultural front, our activities include raising awareness about the usefulness of organic farming among local farmers. As far as the senior citizens are concerned, we regularly arrange medical camps, cultural programs to take care of their needs.

Project Details

Child Education – Since, 2001 we have been running a pre-primary/primary school for the under-privileged children of our community. Almost 242 students come here from 11 surrounding villages attend this school. Of the 242 students, 162 are boys.

We have 12 teachers in our school.

Several of our past students have excelled academically in their higher studies. For instance, one girl from a poor family, Arjuman Khatun, 19, passed HS examination with 81% marks and is currently studying B.Sc. (Maths Honors) course at Fakirchand College. She dreams of completing a PhD degree from IIT. Another, Rahul Koyal, 19, passed HS examination with 69.5% marks and is currently a 3rd years B.Sc. (Chemistry Honors) student of Fakirchand College. In the future, he wishes to pursue a B.Tech. (Research) course from a reputed institute. Rakesh Sardar, 14, passed Madhyamik examination with 90.1% marks. He is currently studying HS in the science stream, from Fatehpur Sinha Institution and would like to pursue a research course in organic chemistry in the future. His father works as a farmer in a nearby village. We have been able to offer scholarships to some of our meritorious students from funds donated by a generous donor. This school is run from funds donated by the local community members and some funds donated by a group of doctors in UK. However, even with this support, we have severe funds shortage, and the amount of money

raised from donations is not enough to run this school. Due to lack of financial support, we are unable to pay teachers more than Rs. 1,000 per month.

Tiyas School, Masat



Teachers and Students



Accomplished Students of Tiyas



Health – The KMSWS health program was inceptioned in 2001. Initially, we organized awareness camps, rallies etc. to make local community members aware about our program. Subsequently, immunization camp on hepatitis-B, mega health check up camp for mother/child and elderly people were routinely organized every year. Eye testing camps and IOL operation facilities were provided free of cost. Each year, approximately 89 people came to get their eyes tested by doctors, and among them about 10 -12 people had to go for IOL operation. During the last 5 years, a total of 400 people availed our free eye check up facilities, while 59 aged among them accessed the free IOL eye-operation facilities. Apart from the eye check-up and operation facilities, we have been able to provide financial support for the heart surgery of 2 children from BM Birla Heart Research Institute, Kolkata and RN Tagore Hospital, Kolkata. Baby Pritha Mondal (6 months old) of Falta and baby Dip Mondal (2 and half yrs old) from Diamond Harbor, both came from underprivileged families, who were unable to bear the high operation costs of more than one lakh rupees.

When they came to know about the high expenses of operation, they were frustrated, and approached up for support. Our organization forwarded their case to Rotary Club of Kolkata. Rotary Club arranged for the free operation of the child patients. Now baby Pritha Mondal is cured and can be found smiling on her parent's lap.

Mr. Shyam Sundar Mondal, 59, of Diamond Harbor, a factory worker and the only bread earner of his family, had eye problems. His vision was not good and doctors prescribed IOL operation as treatment. KMSWS arranged a free of cost operation through Rotary club. Now, after the operation, both his eyes are fine. This enabled him to continue with his job. His eye was operated by doctors from Shankar Netralaya, Kolkata. Last year 25 poor patients got spectacles at very low cost. The glasses were provided at a subsidized rate by Rotary Club.

Cultural Programs - KMSWS from the very beginning celebrated the nation's cultural and heritage by organizing annual cultural programs. KMSWS organizes different festivals and Mela on culture usually during the winter months, every year. But some programs are also organized during other times of the year. In the year of 2011 KMSWS organized Block Level cultural utsav by the help of Nehru Yuva Kendra, an autonomous body of Ministry of Youth and sports. 3 blocks of Diamond Harbor sub-division participated. This event consisted of songs, dramas, recitations, drawing and dance competitions. Almost 300

Health Program



Cultural Program



participants performed their activities here. Every year, about 100 participants from different fields perform at our festival. Jhuma Gayen, 21, a young budding singer, performed at our organization during the cultural festival of 2011.

Last year she was selected to participate in a singing competition organized by a reputed Bengali T.V. channel.

Program for Senior Citizens - KMSWS initiated this program in 2006. We celebrate festivals of 'Rakhi Bandhan' and 'Dol Utsav', with our senior citizens through this program. Every year we invite 80 individuals (belonging to the BPL category), aged above 60 years from the neighboring 9 villages. They come here and enjoy the moment along with us. During 'Rakhi' and 'Holi', our members seek the blessings of the elder citizens through 'PRANAM' and The senior citizens also receive health cards from another NGO, Help-Age India, using which they can purchase medicines at a discounted price. and blankets to them after the celebration. They get free health check-up, 2 times in a year from KMSWS. The senior citizens also receive health cards from another NGO, Help-Age India, using which they can purchase medicines at a discounted price

Sustainable Agriculture - Since 2008, we have been working with another Kolkata based organization DRCSC, on sustainable agriculture, environment, and livelihood. A farmer's club was started within our organization, and we have taken several steps to raise awareness among local farmers on the usefulness of organic farming. The club has taken initiatives to produce bio-fertilizer and is trying to

Program for Senior Citizens, Masat



Organic Farming



motivate local farmers to cultivate their lands, using the home-produced fertilizer replacing chemical fertilizer. We have also been successful in establishing 4 vermi-compost pits. We are organizing the awareness camps, every year, on organic farming with help from Rotary Club. During the last 5 years almost 390 farmers attended our program on sustainable agri-culture. KMSWS is also involved in providing hands-on training to local farmers on regular maintenance of vermicompost pits. KMSWS has a kitchen garden at the roof of our organization, where we use 100% bio-fertilizer to cultivate vegetables. We grow vegetables twice a year in our garden. Mr. Kartick Mondal, 46, a farmer of Kankura Masat has 3 bigha agricultural lands. He raises crops 3 times in a year. He is the first farmer in our village to cultivate agricultural land using bio-fertilizer. During the winter season, he uses 80% bio-fertilizer in his lands.

Accolades – The work done by KMSWS, over the years has been

Prizes and Accolades



2009-2013

2013-2016

S. No.	Award giving Agency	Purpose
1.	Rotary club, district 3291 award.	2 nd prize for child heart surgery initiative (2009).
2.	Govt. of India, LIC.	For covering huge under-privileged people under micro-insurance (2009).
3.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	2 nd prize for agri-horticulture. (organic farming) (2011).
4.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	Outstanding project activities on youth development (vocational training) (2011).
5.	Nehru yuva kendra (Ministry of Sports & Youth, Govt. of India.)	Best youth organization of Diamond Harbour block (2012).
6.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	3 rd prize for Family-Welfare Program (2013).

S. No.	Awarding Agency	Purpose
7.	Rotary club, district 3291 award.	1 st prize for health & hygiene program (2013).
8.	Rotary club, district 3291 award.	3 rd prize for best youth development organization (2014).
9.	Rotary International.	SWKRITI prize for work on rural development (2014).
10.	Rotary club district president special award for over all social development activities.	For over all social development activities (2015).
11.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	2nd prize for girl child education (2016).
12.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	1 st prize for mother and child health care (2016).
13.	Rotary club district 3291 award.	1 st prize for income generation activities (2016).

acknowledged and appreciated by our partner organizations like Rotary Club and also by Government of India. The various prizes that our organization has received over the last few years are listed in the tables on the previous page.

Livelihood Program – Unemployment among local youth is high in the Masat region, giving rise to a frustrated and disturbed generation. Local youth, unable to bear the frustration of being jobless, are turning to drugs and alcohol. As discussed earlier, the unemployment scenario is grim in the whole of South 24 Parganas district, with ~37% of the population living under poverty. According to a recent report (*International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, Volume 4, Issue 11, November-2013 64, ISSN 2229-5518), South 24 Parganas has a high crime rate, especially against can be attributed to the existence of high rate of unemployment and illiteracy among its population. There is an urgent need to address this grim situation, and uplift the sagging morale of local youth. Jobs need to be created and unskilled youth need to be trained in technical trades. KMSWS wants to tackle this problem by providing computer training and spoken English course to youth. Beautician, tailoring, 'Jori' work and soft toy production training will be provided to females. This training will enable them and their family to run businesses

or in getting jobs. Our organization, with limited resources organizes training program for local unskilled youth, every year. Two batches, each consisting of 15 youth completed computer courses from our organization in the previous year. Tailoring and garment making, especially for females, were also held. Last year soft skill training on spoken English and career counseling were also held here. This soft skill training was sponsored by Indo Global Social-Service Society (IGSSS) - Kolkata, another youth development organization.

KMSWS would like to expand this program, so that a larger number of unskilled, unemployed youth can avail the benefits of this program. However, our resources are limited, and we appeal to organizations like yours for financial support. With your support, we are confident that we can do much more in this sector.

Vocational Training



Funds – We have received funds from several organization in the past. Some of the organizations that have supported us financially were Rotary club, Department of Sports & Youth services, Government of West Bengal; Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark – Kolkata; Ramkrishna Mission - Sarisha; Development Research Communication and Services Center (DRCSC), Kolkata; Round Table India; Indo Global Social-Service Society (IGSSS), Kolkata; WBSW - Social Welfare Board of Govt. of West Bengal; Library, Govt. of West Bengal; Mamta Sahajog.

As evident from the above list, although a number of different organizations have come forward in the past to financially support our events, the amount that we have received in most cases was inadequate to cover the full program. So, we had to constantly seek for more support from other organizations. We are unable to organize the support programs in the scale that is required by the community. We are approaching you with the request to support us financially or otherwise, so that our requirements can be met.

We actively raise funds from our own community, and through these contributions we try to minimize the financial deficit. Funds that we have obtained as donations from agencies and the community, for the last 5 years, are shown in the figure below.

