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PROGRESS REPORT

Empowering Youth for
Sustainable Livelihood



SUBMITTED TO:

ASHA FOR EDUCATION
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Antyodoy Anath Ashram

Paunsi, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India

Progress Report – 2024 “ASHA For Education”

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1

About Us

“A Journey Toward a Brighter Future for Children: Bringing a Ray of Hope”

Antyodoy Anath Ashram, established 28 years ago in 1995, began with a heartfelt act of kindness by Sri Balaram Karan, a local resident. His selfless act of providing shelter to a helpless child ignited the evolution of Antyodoy Anath Ashram into a distinguished orphanage. Today, it stands as a beacon of hope, nurturing a significant number of destitute children under the vigilant care of Ashram's management.

Initiated by Sri Balaram Karan, the story unfolds as a captivating tale of unwavering dedication. On a chilly evening, he brought home an unfortunate orphan he found scavenging for food. Despite numerous obstacles, Sri Karan embraced the challenge with indomitable spirit, courage, and unwavering commitment, even resorting to begging to provide sustenance. He distributed pots to every household, urging residents to contribute rice to alleviate hunger among destitute children.

In 2004, news of Sri Karan's determination and tireless efforts reached the esteemed pages of a pioneering newspaper, prompting numerous individuals to offer unwavering support. Officially registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act of 1961, Antyodoy Anath Ashram solidified its existence and established a firm foundation for future endeavours.

FOUNDER's JOURNEY

A Compassionate Beginning:

The remarkable journey of Antyodoy Anath Ashram commences with the compassionate Mr. Balaram Karan, extending shelter to one orphaned child, igniting a spark of hope.

1985

B. Unyielding Dedication:

1992

With unwavering courage and determination, Mr. Karan's indomitable spirit leads him to beg for food to ensure sustenance for 12 children under his care.

C. Recognition and Progress:

A significant milestone is achieved as a leading newspaper recognizes Mr. Karan's noble crusade, garnering support and resulting in society registration to lay a strong foundation.

2004

D. Nurturing a Bright Future:

2010

The ashram proudly ensures a safe and secure shelter, along with a caring environment, for 90 children, providing them with daily meals and nurturing their dreams.

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E. Expanding Compassion:

A new unit is established in Birbhum, offering support to 80 children, mostly from marginalized communities, and extending care to 86 elderly destitute women.

2016

F. Gratitude and Growth:

2023

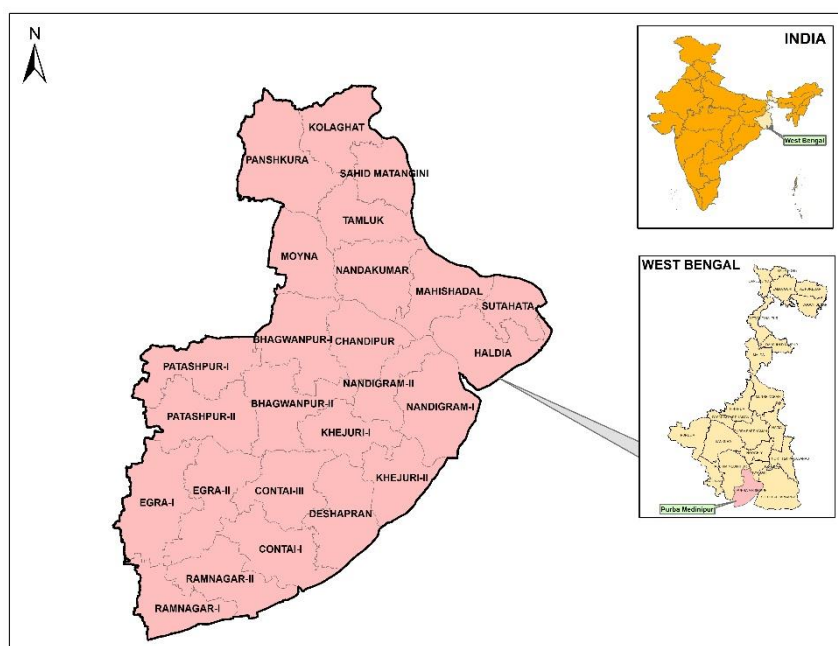
With heartfelt gratitude to donors for their unwavering support, Antyodoy Anath Ashram now provides diverse facilities, paving the way for a promising future for these deserving children.



Today, Antyodoy Anath Ashram is a safe haven for approximately 250 hapless children. Sri Karan's unwavering dedication over the past two decades has provided them with a shelter they can genuinely call their own. The Ashram's mission is to protect and nurture orphans, abandoned children, and individuals with physical challenges, offering a safe and supportive environment where they can thrive. Here, they receive shelter, care, education, and guidance, fostering competence, confidence, independence, and leadership, all while actively engaging in a variety of sports activities that contribute to their physical well-being and teamwork skills.

Antyodoy Anath Ashram offers a diverse range of facilities to cater to the specific needs of its inhabitants. These include a dedicated Children's Home, cottages for destitute children, a creche, a charitable dispensary, a free primary school, financial assistance for impoverished students, and vocational training programs for sustainable livelihoods.

Antyodoy Anath Ashram strives unwaveringly to cultivate a nurturing environment reminiscent of an ashram, offering solace and tenderness to orphaned and destitute children. This cherished haven embraces love, care, and compassion as cornerstone values, empowering children to flourish through essential skills and qualities, fostering competence, confidence, and self-reliance.



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2 Overview

Antyodoy Anath Ashram (AAA) has received vital financial support from Asha for Education, Austin Chapter, since 2020, specifically for their primary school Khagendra Shishu Shiksha Kendra (KSSK). Beyond traditional educational endeavours, AAA stands as a source of hope, offering destitute women and orphaned children a diverse array of livelihood opportunities. From skillful tailoring of eco-friendly jute items to fostering mushroom culture, fishery, and organic agriculture, AAA promotes self-sufficiency while instilling environmental consciousness. Moreover, the ashram provides crucial computer training programs, equipping beneficiaries with digital skills for future employability. This multifaceted approach not only uplifts lives but also instills a sense of purpose, enabling individuals to thrive and embrace a brighter future. Emphasizing the importance of education, AAA goes beyond providing a secure home for destitute children by prioritizing their access to quality education. Through collaboration with government schools, Shishu Shiksha Kendra, and non-residential schools, AAA supports children of diverse backgrounds, tracking their progress through regular assessments and providing remedial support. The organization's commitment extends to higher education, with mentoring programs and financial aid for underprivileged students, reflecting AAA's dedication to holistic development and empowerment.



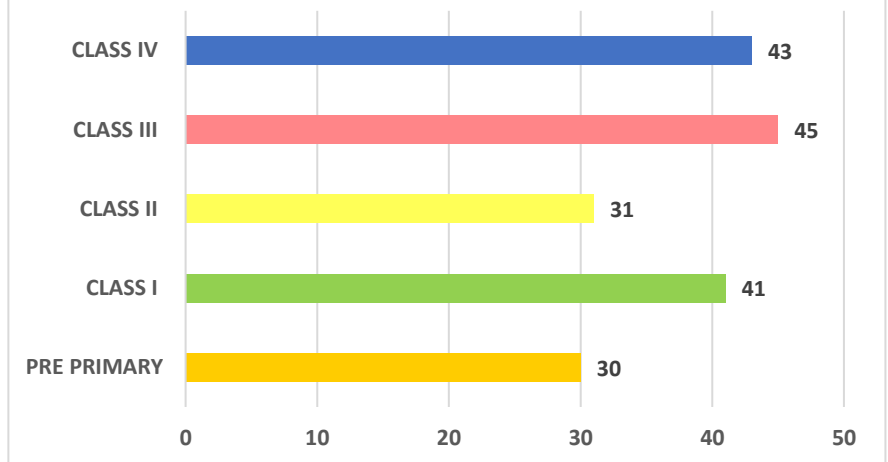
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3

Education Support

Antyodoy Anath Ashram is deeply impacting the lives of 190 underprivileged children at the Khagendra Shishu Shiksha Kendra (KSSK), and this transformative change is made possible through the invaluable support extended by Asha for Education. Going beyond the provision of a secure home, the ashram places paramount importance on providing these children in need with access to high-quality education, recognizing its pivotal role in character formation, intellectual growth, and individual empowerment. As a responsible NGO, Antyodoy Anath Ashram actively welcomes children of diverse ages and learning levels, diligently preparing them for formal schooling while fostering an atmosphere conducive to joyful learning. The organization employs rigorous and regular assessments to track each child's progress, ensuring a comprehensive and holistic approach to their development. Acknowledging the complexity of the children's varied backgrounds, the ashram collaborates closely with the Government of West Bengal for the Shishu Shiksha Kendra, benefiting the entire cohort of 190 children. In addition to this collaborative effort, the organization goes above and beyond by providing targeted remedial support and engaging local youth to offer personalized attention, addressing specific educational gaps, and showcasing the impactful support received from Asha for Education.

Class-wise Distribution of 190 Students



পাঁউলী খগেন্দ্র শিশু শিক্ষা কেন্দ্র

বাস্তবিক পরীক্ষার সনাক্তকরণ-২০২৩

ছাত্র মেয়ে পঞ্চম শ্রেণীতে উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্রছাত্রীদের

-: নামের তালিকা :- টোল নম্বর- ৩৫০

| ক্রমিক নং | ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর নাম | প্রাপ্ত নম্বর | ক্রমিক নং | ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর নাম | প্রাপ্ত নম্বর |
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পাঁউলী খগেন্দ্র শিশু শিক্ষা কেন্দ্র

বাস্তবিক পরীক্ষার সনাক্তকরণ-২০২৩

২০২৩ শিক্ষাবর্ষে উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র মেয়ে পঞ্চম শ্রেণীতে উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্রছাত্রীদের

নামের তালিকা :- টোল নম্বর- ৩৫০

| ক্রমিক নং | ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর নাম | প্রাপ্ত নম্বর | ক্রমিক নং | ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর নাম | প্রাপ্ত নম্বর |
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4

Computer Training

The transformative impact of the funding from Asha for Education to Antyodoy Anath Ashram is evident in the computer training programs implemented for deprived students. This support has played a crucial role in equipping beneficiaries with essential digital skills, marking a significant stride towards their holistic



development. Beyond the immediate acquisition of technical knowledge, these programs are instrumental in expanding the horizons of the beneficiaries, providing them with a pathway to future employability.

The emphasis on digital literacy not only aligns with the contemporary demands of the job market but also fosters a sense of empowerment among the students, enabling them to navigate an increasingly digital

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world with confidence. Computer training programs expand horizons, enhancing future employability. The funding from Asha for Education has, therefore, not only facilitated computer training but has also opened doors for these students, empowering them to embrace opportunities and contribute meaningfully to society.

5

Vocational Training

The support provided by Asha for Education at Antyodoy Anath Ashram has been pivotal in creating diverse livelihood opportunities for destitute women, orphaned youth, and underprivileged community members. This financial backing has empowered the ashram to implement comprehensive vocational training programs, imparting essential skills and knowledge to uplift individuals. The beneficiaries showcase their creativity through tailoring initiatives, and crafting eco-friendly jute items, while training in mushroom culture, fishery, and organic agriculture promotes self-sufficiency and environmental consciousness. These initiatives not only uplift lives but also instill a profound sense of purpose, enabling individuals to thrive and embrace a brighter future. The vocational training courses, supported by Asha for Education, address the challenge of limited employment opportunities, catering to the specific needs of ashram students and the broader community. With an annual goal of training 180 underprivileged individuals in trades such as tailoring, mushroom cultivation, and computer operations, the ashram provides a lifeline amidst economic challenges. The transformative impact is not limited to skills development; it also extends to physical infrastructure,



Vocational Training

with Asha for Education generously donating a dedicated building for vocational training. This facility plays a pivotal role in organizing and conducting programs efficiently, with active support and guidance ensuring effective utilization. Tailoring initiatives, eco-friendly crafting, mushroom cultivation, fishery, organic agriculture, and computer training programs find a conducive home within this donated facility. The ashram expresses gratitude for Asha for Education's crucial role in providing both financial support and actively participating in the planning and execution of vocational training initiatives. This collaborative effort not only uplifts lives but also underscores the commitment of both organizations to the holistic development and empowerment of the underprivileged community. In the pursuit of sustainability, AAA aims to generate revenue by selling products developed by the youth and women under the vocational wing supported by Asha For Education. Please refer to **Annexure 1** for a detailed revenue sheet.

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6

Participated in Fair

In the year 2023-24, the Social Welfare Department of the Government of West Bengal took a significant initiative by organizing the 15th "Sabola Mala" event and the 3rd District Level Shrishtishree Fair. Antyodoy Anath Ashram was honored with an invitation to participate in these events, providing a platform to showcase and sell handicraft products crafted by underprivileged youth and women under the ashram's Vocational Training wing. This recognition not only underscores the ashram's commitment to empowering marginalized communities but also highlights the government's acknowledgment of the impactful work being done. Participation in such fairs not only allows these individuals to exhibit their skills and creativity but also promotes economic empowerment, emphasizing the role of vocational training in fostering self-sufficiency and dignity among the underprivileged.



NABANITA JANA arrived at the ashram approximately 12 years ago from a financially disadvantaged family. Her mother left when she was very young, leaving her father as the sole breadwinner. However, due to the demands of his work, her father was unable to provide proper care. As a result, she found refuge and support within the ashram.

Nabanita possessed a natural talent for dancing from an early age, which was nurtured during her time at the ashram. Under the guidance of renowned dance teacher Dona Ganguly, she honed her skills for two years, demonstrating a remarkable dedication to her passion. As she approached her H.S. examination, Nabanita aspired to pursue a career in nursing.

Antyodoy Anath Ashram played a pivotal role in shaping Nabanita's future by providing her with an opportunity to join the Government GNM Nursing course at Howrah District Hospital. With her determination and the support she received, Nabanita successfully completed her third year of nursing education.

Currently, Nabanita eagerly awaits an employment opportunity, ready to embark on her professional journey as a nurse. Her resilience, talent, and the foundation laid by Antyodoy Anath Ashram have empowered her to pursue her dreams and contribute to society through her chosen field.

Nabanita's story is a testament to the transformative impact of the ashram, which goes beyond providing shelter. It fosters growth, nurtures talents, and empowers individuals like Nabanita to overcome adversity and achieve their aspirations. Through its unwavering support, Antyodoy Anath Ashram continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of underprivileged individuals, enabling them to carve their path to success and make a positive impact in their chosen professions.



HIRALAL GIRI'S remarkable journey, a specially-abled child at Antyodoy Anath Ashram Paunsi, exemplifies the transformative impact of the organization. Hiralal found not only mobility but also a path forward in life through his exceptional talent for painting. Antyodoy's mission is to empower these children intellectually, physically, and socially, recognizing and nurturing their abilities within their limitations.

Diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder, Hiralal received a specialized curriculum tailored to his needs. From the ages of 2 to 8, he received intensive intervention, followed by more generalized intervention as he grew older. Unfortunately, Hiralal faced additional challenges as he lost his father at an early age, leaving his mother struggling to care for him and his siblings.



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In the face of adversity, Antyodoy Anath Ashram became Hiralal's haven. It was here that his hidden talent for painting began to bloom at the tender age of five. Encouraged by Mr. Balaram Karan, the secretary of the ashram, Hiralal's innate artistic intelligence was nurtured, bringing his visions to life on the canvas.



Today, Hiralal stands as a notable painter in the district, a testament to his dedication and Antyodoy's unwavering support. His artistic prowess has led him to work at the prestigious Singer Gallery in Kolkata, where his talent captivates audiences. Furthermore, he has established a painting school in his native village in Purba Medinipur, where he imparts his knowledge and skills to over 200 children, inspiring a new generation of artists.

Hiralal's success story shines a light on the invaluable contribution of Antyodoy Anath Ashram. Through their dedication and belief in the potential of every child, they have empowered Hiralal and many others like him to overcome adversity and pursue their passions. Antyodoy's commitment to enabling these children to thrive is evident in the profound impact it has had on Hiralal's life and the lives he touches through his art.

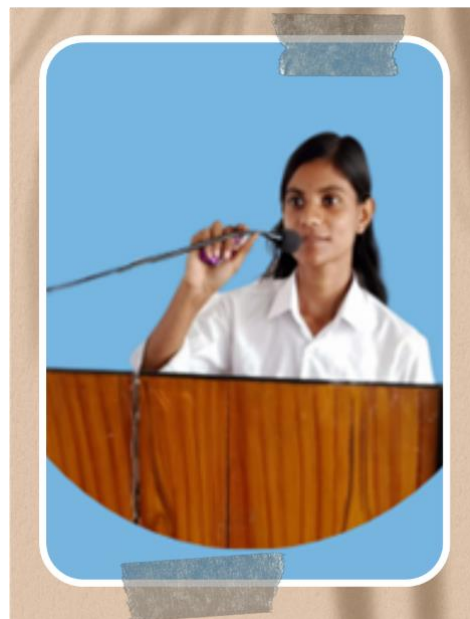
RADHI YADAB, a 20-year-old orphan girl, embodies the resilience and strength nurtured within the walls of Antyodoy Anath Ashram Paunsi orphanage. From a tender age, Radhi has called the ashram her home, finding solace and support amidst her challenging circumstances. Her story is a testament to the transformative power of determination and hope.

Despite the hardships she has faced, Radhi's spirit shines brightly. Her remarkable intellect and active nature have propelled her to excel academically, paving the way for a promising future. Currently, she is diligently preparing to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer, a testament to her unwavering determination and aspiration for a better life.

Radhi's journey serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us that regardless of life's challenges, we have the strength within us to strive for a brighter tomorrow. With her exceptional work ethic, innate intelligence, and unwavering resilience, Radhi is already demonstrating that she can conquer any obstacle that comes her way.

As Antyodoy Anath Ashram, we are immensely proud to have played a part in Radhi's journey. Our commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive environment has empowered her to overcome adversity and unlock her full potential. With our continued support, we have every confidence that Radhi will achieve her dreams and become a successful lawyer, making a positive impact in society.

Radhi's story epitomizes the transformative impact of Antyodoy Anath Ashram. Through our collective efforts, we can uplift orphaned children like Radhi, giving them the tools and opportunities to build a brighter future. Her success is a testament to the power of compassion, resilience, and the unwavering belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive.



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Rahul Manna's journey is a testament to the transformative role played by Antyodoy Anath Ashram in shaping the lives of underprivileged individuals. At a tender age of two, Rahul tragically lost his father, leaving his mother, who worked as a housemaid, struggling to provide for him. Recognizing his potential, a local teacher reached out to the ashram, seeking accommodation for Rahul to ensure his educational opportunities.

Since joining the ashram, Rahul has thrived under its nurturing environment. In 2012, he achieved a remarkable feat by passing his Madhyamik examinations with an outstanding 90% score. His dedication and perseverance continued to shine as he secured an exceptional 97% in Mathematics during his higher secondary examinations two years later.



Rahul's educational journey reached new heights in 2017 when he successfully completed his graduation in Mathematics with Honours from Calcutta University. Armed with his qualifications, he embarked on a teaching career and joined a school in Kolkata, where he now imparts knowledge to eager young minds.

The accomplishments of Rahul Manna stand as a testament to the invaluable support provided by Antyodoy Anath Ashram. Through their guidance and support, Rahul overcame significant obstacles and realized his full potential. His story exemplifies the transformative power of education and the instrumental role played by the ashram in empowering individuals to break free from the constraints of their circumstances.

Rahul's journey is a shining example of the positive impact made by Antyodoy Anath Ashram, providing disadvantaged individuals with a platform to thrive and contribute to society. It serves as a beacon of hope for countless others, inspiring them to dream big and achieve their goals against all odds.

Priyanka Maity, born on 12th November 1999, faced a tumultuous childhood marked by early tragedy. Her father's untimely demise due to cancer left her family in shambles, particularly her mother who grappled with acute financial crises. To compound their hardships, they received no support from other family members during their darkest hours.

In the midst of this adversity, a beacon of hope emerged through one compassionate teacher at their school. Recognizing Priyanka's dire circumstances, the teacher not only offered solace but accompanied her to the Antyodoy Anath Ashram, a place that would become Priyanka's refuge.

The ashram, responding with unwavering empathy, welcomed Priyanka into its warm embrace. At the ashram, Priyanka found more than just shelter; she discovered a home where she could be part of a loving community, sharing meals and experiences that were richer than she had ever known.

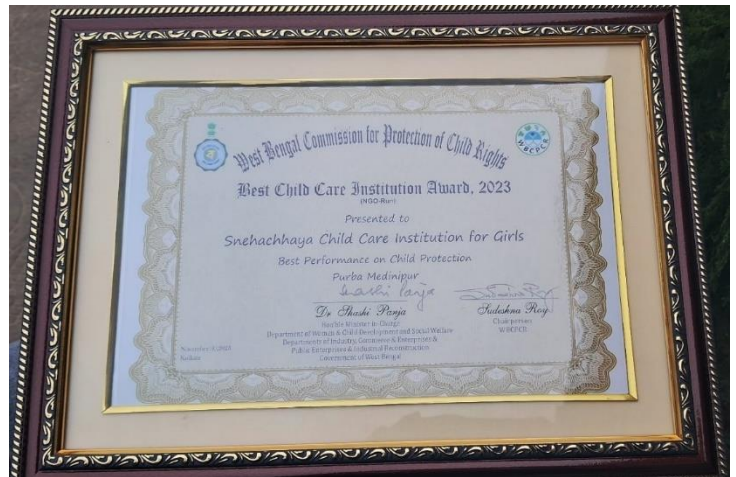


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8

Award Received

Snehachhaya a unique Child Care Institute under the framework of the Juvenile Justice Act. Approved by The Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department, this was set up in 2017 for accommodating girls, rescued by the Police. Since inauguration, over 1000 girls have been taken care of by the institute. 375 girls have been successfully rehabilitated at their respective places after necessary counselling & supportive measures. ***Snehachhaya has been awarded as the “Best Child Care Institution” run by NGO, 2023, by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights!***



রাজ্যের সেরা শিশু আবাসের সম্মান ভগবানপুরের সংস্থাকে

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, কলি : ভগবানপুর ২ নম্বর ব্লকের অন্তর্গত পশ্চিমী অশ্রমাবাসে আশ্রম পরিচালিত মেয়েছারা বালিকা শিশু আবাস রাজ্যের সেরা শিশু আবাসের পুরস্কার পেয়ে। বৃহৎসংখ্যার শিশু অধিকার সত্ত্বার শেখনিমে রাজ্য সরকারের শিশু সুরক্ষা কমিশন কর্তৃক এক অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে সেরা শিশু আবাসের পুরস্কারটি আশ্রমের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সম্পাদক বলরাম করমের হাতে তুলে দেয়া। উপস্থিত ছিলেন রাজ্য নারী ও শিশু কল্যাণ মন্ত্রী শশী পাণ্ডা, শিশু সুরক্ষা কমিশনের চেয়ারম্যান সুবোধ বরুণ প্রমুখ।

১৯৯৫ সালে কেবলমাত্র একটি অনাথ শিশুকে নিয়ে অশ্রমাবাস অন্যতম আশ্রমের পথচল শুরু হয়। দীর্ঘ লড়াইয়ের ফলস্বরূপ ২০১৮ সালে পূর্ণ মেইনস্ট্রাম জেলা প্রশাসন সরকারি শিশু আবাস পরিচালনার দায়িত্বভার দেয়।



শ্রেষ্ঠ শিশু আবাসের পুরস্কার তুলে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। রয়েছেন মন্ত্রী শশী পাণ্ডা-সহ অন্যান্য। কলকাতায়।

সেই শিশু আবাস রাজ্য সরকারের সেরা পুরস্কার অর্জন করার কক্ষ থেকে সহযোগিতায় এই আশ্রম উন্নতির পথে উঠে এসেছে। এই কর্মক্ষেত্র আরও এগিয়ে নিয়ে যাওয়া হবে।

9

Unique Initiative

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a unique idea emerged – the creation of Antyodoy Anath Ashram's remarkable 'Organic Vegetable Garden on Water.' The concept aimed to address the challenge of providing sustenance in space-constrained areas. With a three-acre land that included ponds, the solution became clear – utilize the ponds for agricultural purposes.

While it's common for people to cultivate vegetables near ponds, an innovative twist was introduced here. Instead of traditional methods, the idea of creating a floating garden around the pond, like a protective hat,

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was born. The goal was not only to boost vegetable production but also to safeguard the pond's fish population.

Covering three acres, the garden floats gracefully over four ponds, home to various indigenous fish species such as Rohu, Carp (Katla), Striped Snakehead (Shoal), and Catfish (Magur), it's evident that their development exceeds ordinary expectations.

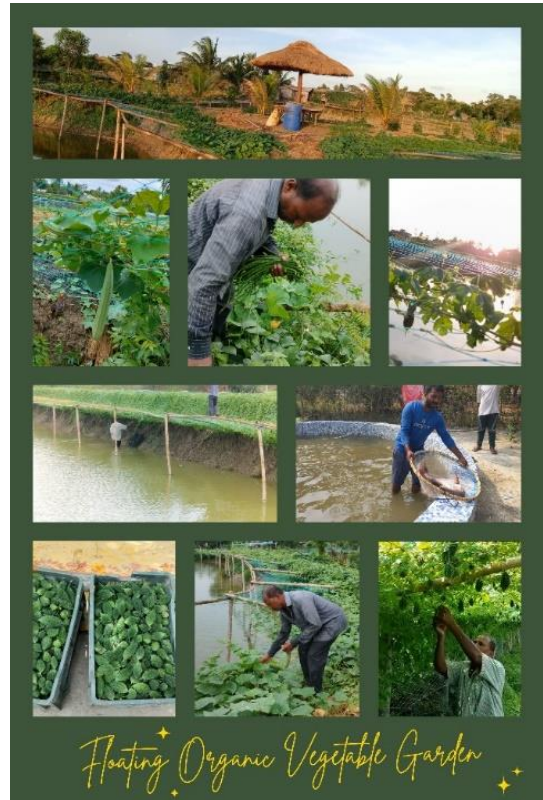
Balaram Karan, the visionary behind this ashram, proudly attests that all these vegetables are cultivated organically without the use of harmful chemicals. The bounty of these gardens plays a vital role in providing nutritious meals to the ashram's residents.

The process begins with creating nutrient-rich soil around the pond, blending components like using lime, cow dung, lime, and sand. Then, carefully selected seeds are planted, nurtured, and grown on bamboo platforms, creating a lush canopy over the pond. This not only provides shade for the fish but also acts as a protective barrier, preventing fish theft and maintaining their health.

The ashram has its unique approach to dealing with tree diseases. Sukumar Samanta and Ashwini Barikra take care of the plants. They mentioned that no pesticides are used. The sap from neem leaves is sprayed to combat tree diseases and pests. When it comes to seed selection, they produce their own seeds from large pumpkins. Similar methods are used for other vegetables as well. In many cases, seeds are sourced from the Block Agriculture Department.

Antyodoy Anath Ashram's Floating Organic Vegetable Garden serves as a guiding light of innovation and sustainability. This remarkable initiative not only addresses the constraints of limited space but also exemplifies responsible, pesticide-free organic farming practices, all the while ensuring the nourishment of the ashram's residents.

Antyodoy Anath Ashram exemplifies a commitment to sustainability through the integration of solar panels as a secondary renewable energy source. By harnessing the sun's power, the ashram not only reduces its dependence on conventional electricity but also significantly lowers its environmental impact. This forward-thinking approach aligns with a broader goal of fostering eco-friendly practices.



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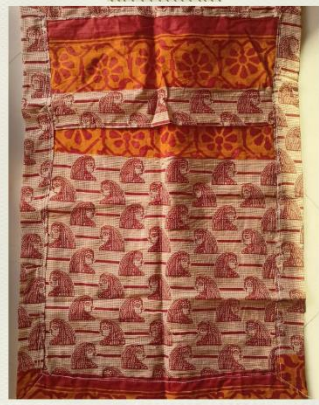
10 Products Gallery



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Visit from Asha for Education Austin Chapter, USA



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11

Conclusion

Antyodoy Anath Ashram's transformative journey, supported by Asha for Education, exemplifies a holistic approach to upliftment. Beyond traditional education at Khagendra Shishu Shiksha Kendra (KSSK), the ashram provides a myriad of livelihood opportunities for destitute women and orphaned children. From eco-friendly jute crafting to mushroom culture and organic agriculture, AAA fosters self-sufficiency and environmental consciousness.

Education is at the core of AAA's mission, reaching beyond shelter provision for underprivileged children. Collaborations with government schools, Shishu Shiksha Kendra, and non-residential schools, coupled with regular assessments, ensure educational progress. AAA's commitment extends to higher education, with mentoring programs and financial aid.

Asha for Education's support has enabled essential computer training and comprehensive vocational initiatives. These programs empower individuals with diverse skills, addressing the challenge of limited employment opportunities. The funding also facilitated a dedicated vocational training building, showcasing the collaborative commitment to holistic development.

In 2023-24, AAA's recognition by the Social Welfare Department of the Government of West Bengal in prestigious events like "Sabola Mala" and the Shrishtishree Fair underscored their impactful work. Participation in these events not only allows marginalized individuals to exhibit skills but also promotes economic empowerment.

In essence, the collaboration between AAA and Asha for Education has transformed the lives of 190 underprivileged children and the broader community. This partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to creating a compassionate, equitable, and empowered society, demonstrating the profound impact of holistic support on individual lives and community empowerment.

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Contact Us

| Name of organization | Address (Regd. Office) |
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Warm regards,

Balaram Karan
Secretary,

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Founder and Secretary,
Antyodoy Anath Ashram

Antyoday Anath Ashram ; Paunsi
Vocational Training Center
Supported by : Asha for Education, USA
Month wise Sale Statement of Finish Goods

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