

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 09







BaikunthapurTarun Sangha

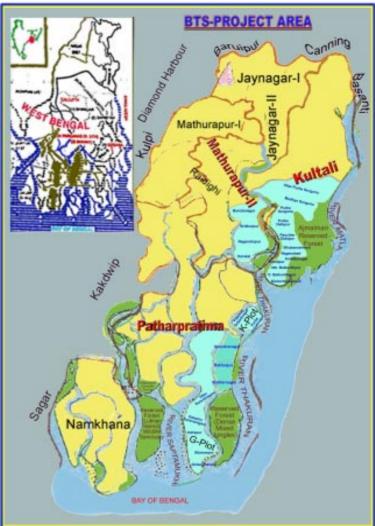


BTS has established its strong partnership with local PRIs and Govt authorities to empower our reference people living in the delta of World's the most popular Mangrove Forest Areas under the teritory of Sunderban, The World Heritage Site as declared by UNESCO.

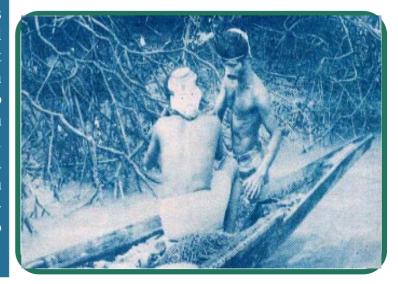
The area where we work for the underserved and the vulnerable small & marginal farmers or fishermen or forest-fringe-people are under the control of Sunderban Bio-sphere Reserve/Tiger Reserve Zone which is usually in every year troubled by the natutal disasters like flood and cyclone creating a huge damage in the life of the poor and the malnourished. They always struggle for their existence .

Poverty & food insecurity, malnutrition, social injustice, gender discrimination, castism, unemployment, child and women abuse while they are in search of livelihoods being migrated to the metro-cities, insanitation and health hazards due to non-availability of minimum basic basic healthcare as there is no rural health centre or hospitals to serve the m with a drop of emergency medicines or treatment by a qualified doctor in absolute need generally creat panics in the live of the islanders...!

On behalf of BTS, I am grateful to express our sincere gratitude to those benevolent supporters and donor-friends, Govt.personnels and officials,well-wishers and my beloved project staffs for their timely support and co-operation to enhance our development support services to those who are in need of our care and concern BTS expands its intervention with the local Govt.Schools of Primary Education alongwith a strong participation with PRIs and Gram Unnayan Samities to explore needbased development possibilities and reflection exchange with a motto to promote rightbased empowerment & security.







CHALLENGING GROWTH

History

In 1978, a group of youngsters started a club for recreational activities for the youth in Kultali block. The major floods that hit the island in 1982 made the youngsters undertake a series of relief measures, physically helping victims to reach safer places, pleading the government and administration for relief support and organizing the relief camps. This was the turning point in the history of the Club.

The youngsters were struck by the extent of poverty amongst the people on one hand and total lack of apathy and support from other quarters. They realized the vulnerability of the people and the need to contribute towards organized community development . Thus the resolve to work towards building better facilities for the people in need but who didn't know how to obtain. Thus, Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha was born, popularly known as BTS .

Challenging Growth

BTS was registered under the West Bengal Society Registration Act in 1983 and later received the certification under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in 1996..

BTS is also registered U/S 12A & 80G(E) of Income Tax Act, 1961, Govt. of India and has a status to receive donations/contributions from all national as well as International sources of development-interest.

BTS started off focusing on Education as a fundamental to empower and liberate people. They started a KG & Nursery School in a hut but the school collapsed down on a cyclone-hit night, thus destroying the only shelter!

However, BTS had the good fortune to meet Geeta Venkadakrishnan, who introduced BTS to Edith Wilkins of the Hope Foundation, Kolkata. They were recommended to the Embassy of Ireland where Pat Scullion, the First Secretary & the Dy. Chief of Mission, was strongly moved by the need to support BTS in the reconstruction of the School Building and thus bore the cost for 3 Classrooms.

Coincidentally, around the same time, BTS came in contact with Kumar Bhattachaya & Shruti Lakhotia of the Seattle Chapter at Asha For Education, USA who after a careful consideration of the fact considered funding for BTS-PathBhavan, the school for the neglected working children engaged in Prawnseed catching from crocodile infested rivers and collecting NTFPs from the Reserved Mangrove Forest infested with the carnivorous Royal Bengal Tigers...

Thus, with the kind support of the initial partners, the eventful journey of BTS begun....

VISSION

BTS dreams of an enriched society where each and every individual will live respectfully with equal rights to information, socio-cultural observations, proper education & healthcare, thus promoting women Empowerment & Childhood liberties at large.

MISSION

To provide equal opportunities to all sections of rural poor and distressed people for their comprehensive development and self-reliance in a sustainable and participatory approach enhancing special emphasis on cause and care of vulnerable women and their malnourished children, who are in acute need of proper care .

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

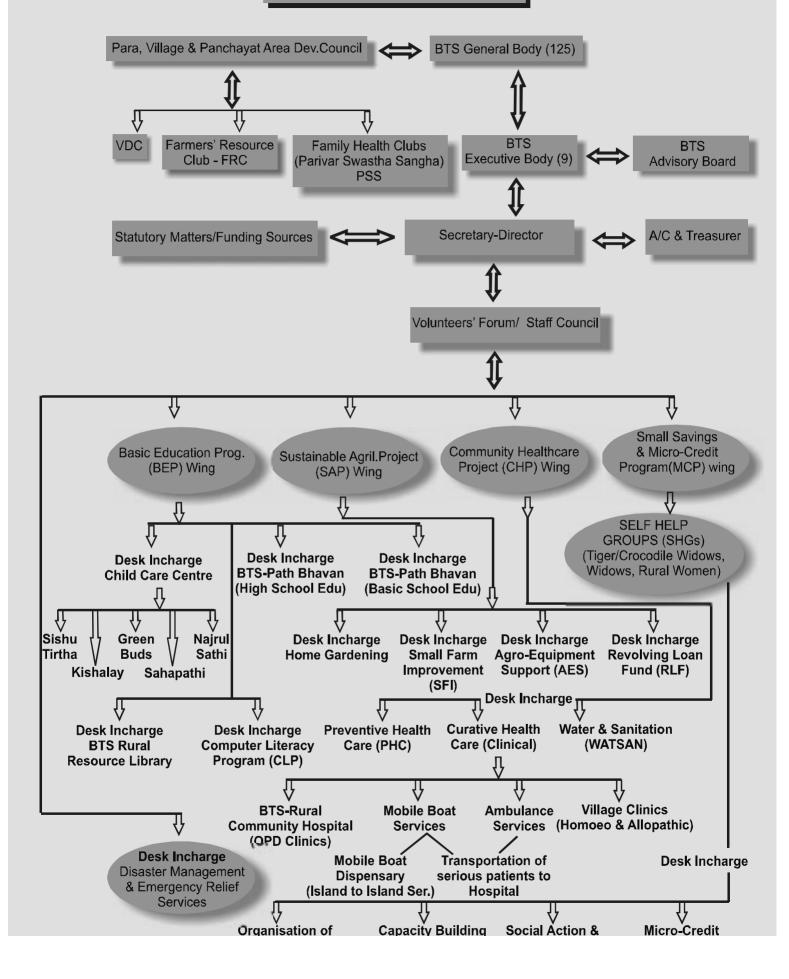
Being a Community Base Organization, BTS believes in Participatory Project planning. For identification of problems in the concerned areas, BTS has conducted several need assessment exercises by involving the community people as a whole while the staff and volunteers have facilitated the entire process. To plan out this project, BTS has followed the Goal Oriented Project planning (GOPP) where the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology is used which reflects the project objectives of the primary stakeholders or the common rural mass in need.



THRUST AREAS

- **Food Security & Alternative Livelihood Promotion
- **Education & Child Rights
- **Basic Healthcare with emphasis on Preventive areas
- **Water & Sanitation (WATSAN) with WASH
- **Micro-Finance through SHGs(Self Help Groups)
- **Sustainable Agriculture through Bio-Farming Process
- **Solar Energy for Household Lighting & Cooking
- **Community Based Disaster Management & Rehab.
- **Save Mangrove Forest, Tiger Reserve & Eco-Tourism

BTS WORKING STRUCTURE



CHILDRIGHTS & EDUCATION

BTS-Path Bhavan is the Working children's education initiative of our organization. This was the first venture into development support in 1983 for the poor working children of Kultali which was later upgraded to the Upper Primary (High School) level.

Presently, there are 232 students in 9 classes from Preparatory to Class VIII. Most of the students are from very poor family background. In addition to Joyful Learning, the students are given nutritional and healthcare support besides Vocational Outlook in absence of Learning –pressure. Asha for Education, USA supporting this education efforts for a longtime partnership.

We are also running a **Children Resource Library** and a **Computer Literacy Center** to support children's education and technical capacities in this remote rural area. BTS also provides Books to Poor Students (BPS), Nutritional Tiffins & Mid-day meals, Basic



Healthcare by doctors, School Uniforms, Hygenic materials and educational materials for enabling the poor parents economic burden-free and to send their loving ones to regular schooling without involving them in the livelihood activities like fishing and farming. Besides exercise on Joyful Learning Process(JLP), BTS is giving emphasis on propagating TLMs by the trained teachers. Expansion of JLP to local Govt. Primary Schools(3 Units) is a good response and the govt schools are interested to take care of the TLMs to attract the attention of their students with a increased attendance. **BTS-PathBhavan** is thus entering into a catalist's role to create a better atmosphere in the field of basic vis-a-vis high school education with parents' interest to allow their children to regular schooling entertaining child rights to quality education and protection.



CLASSWISE CHILDREN ENROLLED

Class	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
LKG	84	33	34	35
UKG	41	43	27	23
I	39	47	34	22
II	37	28	40	23
III	06	31	25	31
IV	09	06	27	22
V	19	04	18	27
VI		16	10	16
VII			17	10
VIII				14
	235	208	232	223



OUR PRIME CONCERN

**No Drop-out/Out-of-school Children

**No Child Abuse/Child Labour

**No Girl Child Trafficking/Sex Abuse

**Quality /Value-based Education with Vocational Approach

**Sponsorship for Rural Talented Students in deplorable situation

**Rainwater Treatment for SDW in Schools



BTS - PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

To ensure protection and rights of the 3-6 age group children of rural working mothers living in the delta areas of Sunderban Bio-sphere Reserve, BTS has been running 6 Pre-School Centres(PSCs) formerly popularized as Child Care Centres(CCCs) in 2 delta CD Blocks Kultali and Patharpratima in the District of South 24 Parganas.

These PSCs are now able to save and take care of 150 vulnerable children from Rural Working mothers' families in need as they are fully engaged in earning livelihoods from nearby Forests or Rivers or from daily wage labouring or working as maid-servants. Anyhow, the children are in their full use of Childhood utilities with motherly cares.



Central Social Welfare Board(CSWB), New Delhi has a; lso been supporting 2 main Centres(Creches) at BTS School (PathBhavan) Campus.BTS has been utilising the full supports from CSWB besides a part from Vibha-USA for other 4 Centres too.

Our main motto is enroll each and every rural working mother's malnurished children into such Pre-School Centres so as to habituate them towards regular schooling and making a part of universal learning under the Campaign of SSA initiated by our Govt.

Joyful Learning Process(JLP) is a medium of spreading this mission of education with ensuring quality education to children of this generation. As a part of JLP, several functions and observation days are observed so as to create an awareness among the children .

Mid-day meals/nutritional tiffins are provided alongwith basic health care facilities by initiating Village Homoeo Clinics with the needed midicines. Besides these, Yoga, Bratachari, Dancing and Singing Clubs have been promoted to attract children's rapt attention. Annual Contest on Sports and Culture are usually held.



5 6	Rammohun	25	05	20	09
5					
	Nazrul	25	12	13	05
4	Kishalay	25	14	11	11
3	SahaPathi	25	13	12	14
2	GreenBuds	25	14	11	06
1	SishuTirtha	25	13	12	12
Sl. No.	Name of PSCs	Total	Boys	Girls	Mainst- -reamed

our concern for working mothers' children

- ** Ensure protection of Working mothers' children
- ** Ensure right to education, nutrition & healthcare
- ** Develop school-going habit & safe from exploitation
- ** Incorporate National Integration & Cultural interest
- ** Empowerment of Working Mothers to regain social dignity, entitlement, job-opportunities and alternate source of income so as to rehab in the same society with a view to stop/minimize migration to urban cities
- **Promotion & inclusion into SHG(Self Help Groups)

EFFORTS AT A GLANCE

- -- Pre-School Centres- 6 Units in 6 delta villages
- --Children Covered-150(25 in each Unit)
- -- Trained Sahayika-12(2 in each of 6 Units)
- --Nutritional Tiffin/Mid-day Meals provided
- --Clinical Healthcare ,ISM in Nature(Homoeo & Yoga)



BTS CONCERN ISSUES TO GO FORWARD

- **Save Motherhood And Child Survival(SMACS)
- **Protection and Care of Working mothers' Children
- **Stop Trafficking and Child Abuse by networking
- **Child Rights and Quality Education
- **Reduce Rate of Malnutrition & Stop Child TB
- **Save Children's Eyesight, prevent blindness
- **No Child out-of-school campaign

BTS-MICRO CREDIT INITIATIVES

Perhaps adversity says so...unlike one morning Kanaklata heard her husband's death news due to sudden attack of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban Reserved Forest when he was busy enough to earn for his family by collecting NTFPs..Since started her life of tragedy and acute helplessness with her little child who is now a hotelboy in Delhi city...!

One of our Field Movilizers came to know this story and went to her hut to motivate and brought her to add as a SHG member in Group No. 95., Lopamudra SHG.

Being a valued SHG member She took loan twice and started Farming in a sustainable way. Successfully she repayed the loan of firsttime and received the second one. She is now earning by selling Vegetable produced in her garden nearer to her hut.

Thus BTS micro-credit project is making a difference here among the 2856 vulnerable women in 187 SHGs covering 8 remote delta villages of Sunderban. More supports can help us to make more such changings. <u>Tiger Widows Organisation</u>, <u>Ireland</u> aided initially the effort and BTS is continuing the supported initiatives.

SHG-MFI Activities	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
No. of SHG/SEG	215	224	231
No. of Members	2760	3071	3201
Total Savings	8,75,670	11,23,540	13,28,400
Total Credit Disbursed	15,13,507	20,17,407	24,70,707
Total Repayment	8,76,553	13,66,583	18,25,783
Total No. of Borrowers	416	268	193





BTS is now taking initiatives to have Bank Linkage of efficient groups(SHGs) for further financial supports/credits to promote livelihood opportunities and stop migration to urban cities.NABARD/SIDBI/SBI will be approached.

BTS-BIO FARMING PROJECT : AN ALTERNATIVE

7 years' back BTS entered into strategic implementation of Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP). The major objective of the project is to ensure food security to the poor, minimizing the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides while promoting the use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pest controls under the agro farming technique. The project gives emphasis on local natural resource optimization. The project has been launched in two phases: Home/Nutrition Gardening by rural poor housewifes and Small Farm Improvement Program for small and marginal farmers in the villages. Through this project, it is expected that the farmers will be able to cultivate fallow lands with residual moisture. Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi has funded the project to make it possible through establishment & promotion of an Agro-Resource Centre (ARC)/Krishi Sahayata Kendra(KSK).PPI-USA has recently supported such type of initiative to promote Bio-Farming with country seeds promoting bio-fertilisers or pesticides. Seed Banks and Grain Bank with Farmers' Capacity building towards organic farming are its key source. A-V aids to sensitize the FRC members on different agro issues/problems to be shown in A-V shows. Promotion of Animal Husbandry(rearing of Ducks/Chicks etc. This Farmers' School of Learning(FSL) Project is considered for 3 years and in the first year it involved 40 farmers to train them and capacitate in bio/organic farming.





WATSAN: WATER & SANITATION

Water & Sanitation Systems in the Sunderban island areas are as worst as that of the Primary Health Care. A recent area study reveals the bare fact of the very crucial need of WATSAN efforts as there is no Sanitary Latrine in 90% of the total families under BTS Operational Areas. Unlike HouseholdSanitary Latrine(HSL), problem of Safe Drinking Water is almost the same tragic event in the Summer Season when almost all the village pond-water run dry. Moreover, there is hardly found any Tubewell which has sufficiently covered 100 families where Pond Water is not goodfor use due to exessive land and water pollution because of massive usage of Chemical Pests and Open-air defecation...!To combat the insanitary condition, BTS has already started to implement a WATSAN Project having initial financial support from PPI-USA. In this effort, building of Lowcost Household Sanitary Latrine(HSL) is going on and till date only 27 units have been built. Selected by the SHG women-members a beneficiary family is repaying Rs.400.00 / Monthly Installments to repay the full amount of a HSL costing Rs.5,000.00 in 12 equal installments.BTS is keen to undertake a pilot project to make the remote villages as Nirmal Gram as per GOI's National Policy.



Development Cooperation Ireland(DCI) under Ministry of Foreign Affairs,Govt. of Ireland through the Embassy of Ireland New Delhi has funded the Phase I(2 Yrs) project support towards construction of OPD Clinics & fabrication with X-Ray & Patho-Lab ,Medicine Bank and Sanitary infrastructures as necessary.

BTS is serving the island communities who have no sufficient access to basic healthcare in their acute need. Present status of BTS-Rural Community Hospital is the former Clinic of BTS. People of Southern Sunderban are grateful to DCI/Embassy of Ireland. Pat Bourne, Hon'ble First Secretary & Dy. Chief of Mission inagurated it and BTS is now trying to raise funding for its recurring and some non-recurring items so as to promote its IPD services basically for Mothers and Children in need. ICA-USA & AID-USA aided the community health proj. previously.

MOBILE BOAT DISPENSARY UNIT

Having supports from ICA-USA in last few years we extended our Island-To-Island medicare services for the suffering people without Hospital/Medicare Centres inside the coastal islands in Sunderbans...Weekly Floating Dispensary is going from one Island to another Island and providing medical supports by specialist Doctors and free medicines against a registration fees of Rs. 5.00 per visit per patient. MIVA-HOLLAND has donated an Ambulance, big size boat & newly purchased speed boat for Mobile Medicare & Emergency Transportation purpose. Such Mobile Boat Dispensary efforts are of greater need in the delta.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT: SB

BTS requesting all of our kind supporters/donors and wellwishers elsewhere they are to come forward and donate our Hospital so as we can run it for the suffering humanity here in the delta of Sunderban where there is no such venture to serve them in great need.

Keeping the Hospital as its central point BTS is keen to extend its medical supports, both preventive and Curative, for people living in other delta/islands close to BTS area of operation. So, BTS has made out a plan to cover atleast 4-5 delta under Kultali, Patharpratima and Mathurapur-II CD Block in the district of South 24 parganas.

A sum of Rs.1.5 Lakhs is required per month (i.e. Rs.18 Lakhs) to run its OPD Clinics here as per plan of area described above.









BTS has 80G(Exemption) under Income Tax Act, 1961

SOLAR LIGHT FOR EVENING CLASSES

Work An Hour(WAH)-2007, an international fundraiser organised by Asha For Education-USA has supported the initiative of Solar Lighting System Development at BTS-PathBhavan, the school being run by BTS for more than 250 rural poor children from farmers' and fisher-men's families in need.

14 Solar units with CFL home lights and inveter to supply power for computers have been installed. Electrification for Evening classes for poor children without such advantage is now a great scope here.

BTS - PathBhavan is now equipped with solar power systems to run such evening classes/Tuitorial Support Centres as was desired by us previously. Asha For Education has done a great job for us. Parents of Sunderban are happy enough to see such an effort for the school children.

More problem of light/kerosene in the remote rural areas of Sunderban are being seen in the recent days. Worst sufferers are the school go-ers and the income-generation-groups at home. They do not get light or sufficient kerosene from the area-ration shop to continue their jobs at night. Rather they stop their night time jobs and try to help continuing their children's studies with a kerosene lamp. It has been seen that a few of the school children continue studies during night time and that is due to light-problem in the villages. As a result, reading is hampered rigorously.

BTS thanks to Asha for Education and its different supporting Chapters for giving this benefit to our education venture. It would be nice and helpful enough if more solar light-systems are installed at different TSCs (Tutorial Support Centres) for evening classes. BTS has a plan to run such 30 TSCs with kind support from Asha for Education or any possible donors in India or abroad.

To run such a TSC BTS expects US\$1000 for 30 Centres for 30 Educators (30-35 children for 2 sections for 3 days in a week, One Solar unit is required to install here for covering 3 TSCs at a time. So, 10 Solar Units are needed more to run such centres covering more than 1000 poor school children.

BTS-COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM

With supports from **Asha For Education-USA through WAH-2007-08**, BTS has launched its Computer Literacy Program(CLP) for rural youths and school children. Initially computers from FOYM were there to have a basic ideas but recently there installed 4 new computer with high specifications for the purpose. Necessary furnitures and Trainers have been organised.

Students from BTS-PathBhavan and local Youths are decided to have this facility in such a delta area of Sunderban where electricity is still a dream. Solar power and diesel engine-generated power to be the main source to run computer training efforts.

More solar units and computers are necessary to include more youths and school children under this venture.BTS is requesting funds or computer along with Solar panels from our donors/supporters.

NEAC ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BTS has been partnering a National level Awareness Campaign on Environment(NEAC) in collaboration with RRA(Regional Resource Agency), SFR-Kolkata under the auspices of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India.in 2008-09 year also, BTS has participated in the effort involving local school children and SHG women so as to disseminate the environmental conservational ideas on Climate Change.

In this venture, BTS took endeavours to conduct a Survey on Bio-Wastes and their possible proper usage by promoting Bio-Gas and bio-fertilizers for rural household electrification and bio-farming purposes respectively. Bio-pits in the name of Public Vats were made and demonstrated before the participants of the program so as to replicate it in a multiferious way.

A seminar was organised on Climate Change and discussion was made on today's burning issue by oiur local school teachers and social workers.











BTS-NEWSLETTER

Volume 03 : Issue 04

February - March 2009

SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL APPROACH:

the Joyful Learning Extension Prog. in Govt.-aided schools in Sunderban delta....



This year can be counted as its consequences of taking up the Joyfil Learning Process as a tool of attracting rural children in BTS-PathBhavan, the
school for promoting basic education in an atmosphere of joyful association. Asha For Education, a
USA based NRI student Association as the complete part of a donor has been supporting the intervention to enroll all out-of-school children into
the model school being run since 1983 by BTSProject Islands of Joy,!, BTS in the delta areas of
Sunderban, the World Heritage Site as declared by
UNESCO.

BTS is now on the move of a Resource Institute on replicating JLP practices among rural children in schools BTS has its own Expertised Team to intervene here in the delta areas of Southern Sunderban. BTS JLP efforts have attracted the children of some local govt.-aided schools during its demos or roll-play in the cultural contests usually held in the community through out the years. The authorities of 3 schools have already been agreed upon the ventures like forming Chhatra Sanghas (Students' Clubs) on Yoga, Dance, Song, Herbal Usage, Drawing & Greeting Cards, Street Dramma, Health & Hygiene. In each of the 3 schools there would be scope of forming 3 units on each trade decided with a resolution of getting 2 Core Groups of atleast 12 Children (6 boys & 6 Girls) so as to replicate it in other schools vis-avis in the community functions to prove their efficiency and potentiality in guiding the social wheels of culture besides general education and social responcibility.

BTS will also advacate the issue of cultural aspects to allure the rural children in schools.

TLM HAS THE POWER TO ALLURE SCHOOL CHIL-DREN: A POST-PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS' TRAIN-ING FOLLOW-UP REVIEW:



As a result of 2 successive teachers' training programmes at BTS-Hospital Campus it is being observed that Pre-School Centre children are very much interested to go through the use of developed TLMs during the training sessions. They are keen to take care of the same so much as they can till morning to late afternoon the time of taking them away to their home. It has also been seen that the working mothers and their malecounter-parts are happy to see such new interventions with the TLMs.

The little stars are learning maths, games, songs etc. through the practical use of the newly given TLMs ensuring full attendance.

VIBHA-USA has been supporting the venture of running 6 Child Care & Protection Units called presently Pre-School Centres which covered 150 2-6 age group children of working mothers.

BTS AS DRDC,GOVT. OF WB APPROVED SGSYTRAINING INSTITUTE IN KULTALI CD BLOCK, SOUTH 24 PGS with a Sanitary Mart



BTS-GB Members: 2008-09

- 1. Mr. Kamal Ranjan Maiti President
- 2. Mr. Susanta Giri Secretary
- 3. Mr. Haradhan Sahu -Asstt. Secretary
- 4. Mr. Haripada Jana Treasurer
- 5. Mrs. Phalguni Sahu
- 6. Mr. Nabakanta Mondal Member
- 7. Mr. Ranjit Naiya Member
- 8. Mrs. Ashalata Das Member
- 9. Mrs.Latika Das Member

Hearty Acknowledgements to:

Govt. of West Bengal & Govt of India

Ministry of Environ & Forests, Govt. of India

Regional Resource Agency(School of F. Research)

Local Panchayat ,Panchat Samity & Zilla Parishad

B.D.O. Kultali & Patharpratima CD Block, 24 Pgs.

Asha For Education-USA

Vibha-USA

Cental Social Welfare Board-New Delhi

W.B. Social Welfare Board

People for Progress in India(PPI)-USA

Swanirvar, Andharmanik, North 24 Parganas

Lok Kalyan Parishad-Kolkata

Membership with

AVARD-New Delhi RDC-Kolkata



BTS-Ambulance is in service to the Community



Visitors from DRDC, South 24 Parganas Cell, WB



Annual Meet of BTS-Volunteers and GB Members



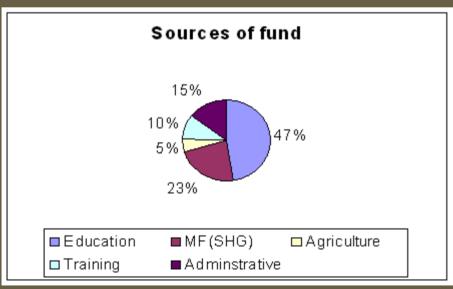
HIV/AIDS Sensitisation by BTS-Sunderban

ACCOUNTS REPORT-2008-09

Financial Utilisation Statement For the year ended 31st March, 2009

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COULCEC	X.	Utiization	'nt tu	nd

Sources & Utilization of	fund	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Opening Balance	Cash in Hand Cash at Bank	52,843.56 10,754.77	63,598.33
Grant In Aid Received :	: Govt. Sources Foreign Sources	91,264.00 19,51,918.56	20,43,182.56
General Program Bank Interest Self Help Group(SHG)	General Program Collection Child Care Centre (General) Collection PathBhavan Education Program(General) Collection Programme	3,74,,563.00 8,087.50 75,738.00	4,58,388.50 6,266.59 7,40,,918.00 3312353.98
General Programme	VIDUATICA CCWD Now Dalki Cont \	Amount (Rs) 380,716.00 537,827.70	Amount (Rs)
Pathbhavan Program(Asha Farmer School of Learning F Work An Hour(WAH) (Ash National Environmental Awa Selp Help Group(-SHG) Pro	Prog.(People for Progress in India , USA Cont.) ia For Education, USA)Prog. arness Campaign(NEAC-08-09, Govt. of India Cont.) gramme	769,291.00 769,291.00 84,535.00 337,597.36 8,624.04 791,508.79	2,910,099.89
Unutilised Fund Balanc Cash In Hand Cash at Bank	.	82,055.21 320,198.88	402,254.09 3312353.98



For Chowdhury Brajesh & Associates Chartered Accountants



(B.K.Chowdhury) Proprietor

