

ACTIVITY REPORT

(July 2024 – June 2025)

PROJECT NAME – NIGHT SHELTER

For the children of Sex workers

Supported by:



Implemented by:



Subuddhipur, De para, Baruipur,
South 24 Parganas District,
West Bengal, India, 700144

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Area of Implementation:

Six Villages of Bishnupur – I Block, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal, India

Background:

In the heart of rural West Bengal—where child marriage, trafficking, and violence against women were once the norm—**Nishtha** dared to challenge injustice. Founded in the 1970s, this community-based organization empowers women and children to claim their rights and fight discrimination.

Working across 369 villages in South 24 Parganas, Nishtha leads campaigns against child marriage, trafficking, and gender-based violence. Through strong women's groups, it has built powerful rural networks that mobilize communities, speak out against abuse, and demand lasting change.

In a hidden corner of Baruipur's red-light area, children born into the world of sex work face deep stigma, neglect, and hardship. Judged by society and denied basic rights like education and healthcare, they grow up too fast—surrounded by danger and isolation. The COVID-19 pandemic made their lives even harder.

But amidst this darkness, the **Night Shelter** offers hope. It provides safety, nourishment, and care—often for the first time in these children's lives. Here, they are seen as individuals with dreams, not labels.

Though challenges remain, the shelter helps them believe in a different future—one of dignity, learning, and possibility. Change begins here, with small steps and a spark of belief.

These most vulnerable and marginalized children, along with their mothers and the entire Nishtha family, are deeply grateful to Asha for Education for their unwavering support in creating this safe shelter filled with love and dignity.

Night Shelter Beneficiaries:

Level	Total Children	Age Range	Description
Crèche & Pre-Primary	10	6 month – 4 years	At the foundational stage of learning; provided with rhyme books, fun learning materials, and drawing supplies to ensure joyful early education.
Primary (Class I – V)	16	4 – 12 years	In early formal schooling; receive exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, drawing books, color pencils, and hygiene support.
Upper Primary / Secondary (VI – X)	11	13 – 15 years	Given extra academic support, emphasis on homework completion, discipline, and exam preparation.
Higher Secondary (XI – XII)	1	18 years	Provided individual attention, encouraged toward higher studies or vocational training.

Night Shelter – A Safe Heaven for Growth and Learning:

Every evening, 30 children including 8 crèche children aged 4 to 16 arrive at the shelter between 4:30 and 5 PM. After school ends for the day, the children staying at the Night Shelter briefly return to visit their mothers before coming back to the shelter. Most of them arrive around 4:00 PM, though high school students—due to their longer academic schedules—typically return an hour later.

Once they're back, the shelter comes alive with creativity. For an hour, the children dive into sessions of dance, music, painting, and crafting. Each child participates in their own way, discovering joy and expression through the arts. These creative activities were introduced on the advice of child psychologists, who highlighted how such experiences help children build self-confidence and manage emotional challenges. Over time, this approach has proven highly successful—especially in reducing aggressive behaviour and helping the children feel more connected and calm.

After this enriching creative hour, the children transition into academic learning, divided into two main groups based on their school levels. The primary group includes students up to Class 7, while those from Class 8 to Class 10 form the high school group. Within these small groups, each child receives focused guidance in key subjects such as English, Mathematics, Bengali, Geography, Science and History. This individualized support ensures that every child is well prepared for school the next day, that no one is left behind, and that each child receives the attention they need to succeed academically.

As evening settles in, the children are given a nutritious, warm dinner served promptly at 9:00 PM. The meal is wholesome and well-balanced, typically including rice, protein-rich eggs, vegetables, and dal. They are also given milk every day in the afternoon upon their arrival. These meals not only nourish their bodies but also provide stability and comfort.

On special days or festive occasions, the children are treated to specially prepared meals at Nishtha's Sarada Bhavan in Tongtala. They enjoyed four special days at Sarada Bhawan with the village children. These thoughtful treats, often tailored to their tastes, make the children feel valued and loved—if only for a while, the shadows of their difficult pasts seem to lift. The purpose of these visits is to help them unlearn the abusive and aggressive language of their surroundings and adopt respectful communication.

To support their academic progress, monthly evaluations are conducted in subjects like Math, English, Bengali, Geography, and History. These regular assessments help track their growth and highlight areas where extra support may be needed.

It is a daily routine for 45–60 minutes, especially during school holidays, for the children to play so they can forget the abusive games that others dislike so much.

In the morning, the children brush their teeth, bathe, eat breakfast, comb their hair neatly, and put on clean school uniforms with shoes and school bags. They then spend time on academic revision before heading off to their respective government primary or high schools, where they are formally enrolled with support.

At the Night Shelter, each day is carefully structured—not only to meet the basic needs of these children but to help them thrive emotionally, creatively, and intellectually. Here, beyond the hardships of their backgrounds, they're given the space to learn, heal, and believe in a brighter future.

Activities

- During this reporting period, toiletry/hygiene kits were distributed twelve times to support the health and well-being of the children. Each kit included essential personal care items such as toothpaste, detergent, soap, hair oil, shampoo, talcum powder during the summer, cold cream in the winter, and hand wash.
- During Durga Puja, the children were also given new clothes to help them feel valued and cared for.
- Educational materials were distributed to all the children according to their class level. Secondary students received exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, and additional books not provided by the schools.
- Primary children were given exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, drawing books, colour pencils, and other materials for art and craft.
- Pre-primary children received rhyme books, scrapbooks, fun books, picture-and-sound books to encourage joyful learning, as well as drawing materials and drawing books.
- All children were provided with school bag & uniform.
- During this reporting period, food packets were distributed three times to all 30 mothers. Each packet contained essential items such as musur dal, mustard oil, biscuits, and flattened rice, and onions— basic staples to help them prepare nutritious meals for their families. This support is especially vital as mothers continue to struggle with the lasting impacts of COVID, lockdowns, and repeated devastating cyclones.
- New saris, kindly donated by compassionate local well-wishers, were given to mothers so they feel seen, valued, and cared for—not forgotten or left behind.
- Nine meetings were held with mothers, focusing on protecting children from abuse, addiction, and trafficking—serious threats in this area. Discussions also highlighted the importance of education, cleanliness,

and nutrition. This year, we placed special emphasis on hygienic cooking practices, as many mothers previously cooked in unhealthy conditions to satisfy clients, often serving the same food to their children.

- Three mothers who lacked Aadhaar and ration cards were finally able to obtain them after persistent discussions with local authorities, ensuring they have access to basic services and entitlements.
- Mothers were also sensitized to act as vigilant protectors, ensuring no minor girls are drawn into this exploitative trade, and standing together to safeguard their children's future.
- During this reporting period, 521 home visits were conducted to assess conditions in the mothers' homes and to persuade the BABU involved not to send the children to other cities or red-light areas.
- Additionally, four campaigns were organized with children and the project team to raise awareness in the broader community and prevent societal stigma, mental pressure, and hatred toward these children.

Asha for Education is supporting a crèche for eight infants aged six months to three years. Every day, these little ones attend the crèche in the morning and afternoon, where they receive milk and nutrimix twice daily. From age one, they are also given eggs, soft-cooked rice with starch, and boiled vegetables. Twice a week, they enjoy khichudi, following the advice of a nutritionist.

During this reporting period, new clothing was provided three times (or more, as needed). Nishtha also purchased soft towels, special bedding, mosquito nets, and other essentials to ensure their comfort. One dedicated caregiver, specially trained in infant health, hygiene, and nutrition, lovingly looks after them every day—offering not just care, but warmth and protection to help them grow strong and healthy.

Impact so Far:

The journey of the Night Shelter has been one of quiet transformation—measured not only in numbers or assessments, but in the subtle, everyday changes in the lives of the children who call it home.

When the shelter first opened its doors, many of the children arrived carrying deep emotional wounds—formed by years of neglect, judgment, and uncertainty. They were withdrawn, quick to anger, and hesitant to trust. Over time, through consistent care and a nurturing environment, those barriers began to soften. The introduction of creative arts like music, dance, painting, and crafts became a turning point, these activities helped the children express themselves, release their frustrations, and begin to rebuild their confidence. Today, laughter is no longer rare in the shelter. Friendships have formed. Emotional outbursts have reduced. And many children now carry themselves with a sense of pride and calm that was once missing.

The parents of other children are no longer protesting against the enrolment of these children in school. They now maintain cleanliness and hygiene, their language has improved, and the rough, abusive games they once played are no longer visible. When they walk on the streets, people cannot identify them as children from the red-light area.

Every year, something beautiful happens: one or two well-to-do families come forward to distribute new, fancy saris to the mothers as a token of love. We see this gesture as a powerful sign of acceptance, a reminder that these mothers and their children, too, deserve dignity and respect.

Photos:









Name of the Organization : **Nishtha**

Name of Project : **Night Shelter**

Project Period : **01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025**

Financial Report from 01-07-2024 to 31.05.2025

S.L No.	Particulars	Budget Amount in INR	Expenses from 01.07.2024 to 31.05.2025
A	Personnel Cost		
A.1	Part time Accountant		
	(Rs.5000 X 12 Months)	60000.00	50000.00
	Sub Total	60000.00	50000.00
B	Programme Cost		
B.1	Night Shelter		
B.1.1	01 Social Worker		
	(Rs.7000 X 1head X 12 Months)	84000.00	77000.00
B.1.2	Other Benefit for the Service Providers		
	Rs.3000 x 12 Months	36000.00	27000.00
B.1.3	Cook		
	(Rs.5000 X 01 head x 12 Months)	60000.00	54992.00
B.1.4	Part time Supervisor		
	(Rs.4000 X 01 head X 12 Months)	48000.00	31994.00
B.1.5	Clothing for Children		
	(Rs. 400 X 30 heads)	12000.00	12000.00

B.1.6	Dinner for 30 children		
	(Rs .20 X 22 heads (average attendance) X 330 days)	145200.00	105241.00
B.1.7	TA for Staff		
	(Rs. 500 X 12 Months)	6000.00	4220.00
B.1.8	Toiletry for children		
	(Rs 50 x 30 heads x 12 months)	18000.00	13399.00
B.1.9	01 Care Giver		
	Rs.4000 x 1 head x 12 Months	48000.00	16000.00
B. 1.10	Food for Mothers (03 times in a Year)		
	Rs.200 x 30 x 03 times	18000.00	12000.00
B.2	Creche for 08 children		
B.2.1	Food for 08 Children	5000.00	1600.00
B.2.2	Clothing for 08 Children		
	Rs.500 x 08 heads	4000.00	4000.00
	Sub Total	484200.00	359446.00
C	Administration & Monitoring		
C.1	Electricity, electrification, electrical fittings, other maintenance etc	4000.00	966.00
C.2	Printing , postage & stationeries	2000.00	1980.00
C.3	TA for monitoring, Carrying cost & Staff	1200.00	1200.00
C.4	Miscellaneous Exp.	1200.00	415.00
C.5	Audit Fees	2400.00	0.00

	Sub Total	10800.00	4561.00
	Grand Total	555000.00	414007.00

FUND STATUS

Particulars	Amount in INR	Amount in INR
Opening Balance	1000.00	
Add : Grant in Aid Received on 20.08.2024	277000.00	
Add : Grant in Aid Received on 17.09.2024	<u>277000.00</u>	
Total Fund Available with us		555000.00
Less : Expenses from 01.07.2024 to 31.05.2025		414007.00
Less : Expenses from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025		<u>107954.00</u>
Expected Closing Balance as on 30.06.2025		33039.00

Expected Expenditure from 01.06.2025 to 30.06.2025	Variance
5000.00	5000.00
5000.00	5000.00
7000.00	0.00
9000.00	0.00
5008.00	0.00
16006.00	0.00
0.00	0.00

39959.00	0.00
1780.00	0.00
4596.00	5.00
4000.00	28000.00
6000.00	0.00
3400.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
96749.00	28005.00
3000.00	34.00
20.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
785.00	0.00
2400.00	0.00

6205.00	34.00
107954.00	33039.00