

PROPOSAL

For the Project

NIGHT SHELTER

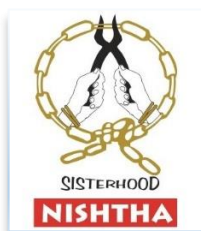
For the Period

(April 2025 – March 2026)

PROPOSED TO:



PROPOSED BY:



NISHTHA

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

Phone: 91- 33- 24331925/24339865

Contact person: Mina Das

Email: Nishtha.wb@gmail.com

Official Website: <http://www.nishtha.com.in>

**AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION: Red Light Area of Puratan
Bazar, Baruipur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal**

THE BIRTH AND MISSION OF NISHTHA:-

In the heart of a remote land of West Bengal, where gender discrimination, child marriage, trafficking and cruelty against women were once an accepted norm, Nishtha dared to dream of change.

'NISHTHA', a community based organization was born in the mid-seventies. From the very inception, its aim was to empower the women/children through awareness building on their rights and demand such rights on necessity. Nishtha presently works in more than 369 villages in 9 blocks in the South 24 Parganas district. Its campaigns against child marriage, trafficking, domestic violence and gender discrimination has endeared the organization in government and non-government circles by its inherent qualities. To address these issues several women's community groups has been formed by Nishtha which create influential new social networks in the rural areas, have empowered women to mobilize their communities to take action to improve their environment, speak up against violence, and advocate for their rights.

Background of the Project:-

Baruipur, a busy sub-division near Kolkata, has a significant inflow of migrant population and hosts one of South 24 Parganas' largest red-light areas in Puratan Bazar. Over 150 sex workers operate here—many living permanently in dark, unhygienic shanties controlled by *maasis* and antisocial elements. Women face daily exploitation, abuse, and live in constant fear.

The most tragic victims are their children. Growing up amidst alcohol, violence, and crime, they face rampant sexual abuse, malnourishment, and complete social neglect.

The mothers live in tiny, rented huts during their working hours, leaving the children with nowhere safe to go. With no protective environment, these vulnerable children are often found playing on the streets or sleeping on drain-side platforms, completely exposed to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Their suffering worsens during the harsh rains and biting winter months, when even basic shelter becomes a distant dream.

Most have no access to education, healthcare, or protection. Schools often refuse their admission due to prejudice, while the mothers—struggling to survive on meagre incomes—remain helpless. With no role models, no rights awareness, and no way out, the boys often turn to offenders, and the girls are pushed into the same exploitative trade.

This vicious cycle must be broken.

Nishtha's Night Shelter: A Safe Haven for the Children of Sex Workers

Nishtha has been working tirelessly to uphold the rights and dignity of children born to sex workers in the red-light area of Puratan Bazar, Baruipur. With the kind support of *Asha for Education*, Nishtha is running the Night Shelter that offers these vulnerable children safety, care, and a chance to build a better future.

Every evening, the children—aged between 4+ and 16 years—arrive at the shelter by 4:30-5 PM. Teachers are engaged to help them complete their schoolwork and prepare for the next day's classes. They are served freshly prepared, nutritious dinners to address their severe malnourishment. The shelter focuses on building a sense of routine and discipline, while also nurturing their emotional well-being. Great care is taken to help them unlearn the abusive and

aggressive language of their surroundings and adopt respectful communication. Cleanliness and hygiene are a top priority here, both for the children and the space.

Beyond academics, children are encouraged to explore their creativity through dance, drama, music, painting, and other art forms. These activities help channel their energy in healthy ways, replacing trauma and aggression with expression and joy. They are also provided with essential items such as clothing, educational materials, hygiene kits, and nutritional health drinks. While most children return home by 10:30 - 11 PM after dinner, some stay overnight, especially when their mothers are occupied with clients or are suffering from addiction.

In the morning, these children bathe, eat breakfast, and continue with academic revision before heading off to their respective government primary or high schools, where they are formally enrolled with the support.

Alongside the night shelter, Nishtha runs a crèche for eight infants and toddlers, aged between 6 months and 3 years. These children are cared for during the day with age-appropriate meals including nutrimix, milk and food prepared in the shelter kitchen. Comfortable bedding, baby cots, mosquito nets, and clothing are provided to ensure their safety and comfort. A dedicated caregiver looks after them in both morning and evening shifts, with special focus on their hygiene and health.

At Nishtha, we believe that these children—born into some of the harshest circumstances—deserve a loving environment, education, and the opportunity to dream. Our Night Shelter is not just a temporary refuge; it is the beginning of a new life filled with hope, care, and dignity.

As part of the Night Shelter Project, Nishtha organizes monthly meetings with the mothers— a vital step in fostering accountability and care within the lap of a mother. These sessions are not just discussions, but heartfelt conversations focused on protecting children from abuse, trafficking, and addiction—dangers that silently threaten many of our little ones. Tragically, several children are *passively exposed to addiction* through their mothers' clients, making these sessions all the more critical.

In each gathering, mothers are gently encouraged and oriented to rediscover their natural role as loving, attentive caregivers, just like any other mother in a safer, more nurturing world. They are reminded that their embrace, their concern, their vigilance—can become their child's safest shelter.

The post-lockdown period brought unimaginable hardship. The fear of Covid-19, coupled with the destruction caused by relentless cyclones, left many of these women devastated—financially, emotionally, and physically. Their homes were damaged, and their already fragile livelihood nearly collapsed as clients dwindled. Despite desperate appeals, it took 8 months to a year for landlords to finally rebuild their shelters.

Understanding their despair, Nishtha stood by them. Monthly rations, hygiene kits and new clothes during Durga Puja were provided, not just as relief materials, but as symbols of dignity and solidarity—reminders that they are not forgotten. Through this journey, we walk with them, helping them rebuild not just their houses, but also their hope.

We engage schools, sensitize communities, and build safe pathways for these children to access formal education, healthcare, and holistic development. The time to act is now. These children deserve a life of dignity—not discrimination.

ACHIEVEMENT:-

One of our most remarkable and heart-warming achievements is the transformation in the lives of the children living in the Night Shelter. A few years ago, enrolling them in formal government schools was a daunting challenge—stigma, neglect, and poor hygiene kept them at the margins. Today, the story has changed.

These children are now clean, well-groomed, confident, and polite. Their body language reflects dignity, and their communication is respectful. Once aggressive and withdrawn, they now use far less abusive language and attend school regularly—shoulder to shoulder with children from well-to-do families. One girl is currently studying in Class XII, and another will appear for the Madhyamik Board Examination in 2026—milestones that were once unimaginable.

Their discipline and sense of belonging at the Night Shelter have improved. They follow the rules, respect the space, and rarely remain absent from Night Shelter—a challenge that once seemed insurmountable. These children are not just beneficiaries now; they are change agents in their own communities. They motivate their peers to attend the shelter, collect vital information about vulnerable children from their neighbourhood, and share it with caregivers—empowering Nishtha to respond swiftly and effectively.

Their health has improved significantly, thanks to the nutritious meals provided daily. Four children have recovered from passive addiction through consistent counselling and care.

In a courageous act, two minor girls trapped in the Baruipur red-light area were rescued with police help, thanks to the brave actions of Night Shelter children and four mothers who stood up against threats to their own lives.

A visible change is also evident among the mothers. Many now actively care for their children, keep them at home in daytime during school holidays, and are conscious of the dangers of passive addiction. The once normalized practice of handing over daughters to others at birth has declined sharply.

More than 13 mothers have taken a strong stand—they no longer want their daughters or any other girls to enter the trade. They have begun protecting their area from new entries into sex work. Over 110 floating sex workers, who come and go from other regions, are in touch with these mothers. Through quiet solidarity, they are encouraged to use protective measures, and are gently motivated to consider alternative livelihoods, with empathy and understanding.

CHALLENGES:-

Yet, the path remains filled with profound and painful challenges.

Many mothers remain deeply addicted. When their intoxication wears off, they often cannot recognize or care for their own children, breaking the fragile emotional bond that the shelter works so hard to nurture.

Nishtha cannot change the atmosphere of the red-light area—the trade continues, and new girls and women, often victims of coercion or poverty, are drawn in. Sadly, we have no means to stop this influx.

Another alarming issue is that mothers travel to other states without informing anyone, often taking their daughters with them—many of whom are tragically initiated into the same trade. These movements are usually orchestrated by brokers and hooligans, making it impossible for us to trace them. Some mothers return in extremely poor health, and some never return at all.

The cooking arrangements are unhygienic and harmful, but few of the mothers, under pressure to serve clients, cannot manage separate nutritious meals for their children. Furthermore, the presence of local goons makes our work extremely risky and limited in scope.

Despite all this, there is hope. And that hope has a name—Asha for Education. In a world that often looks away, Asha has stood by us like a rock. With their unwavering support, deep compassion, and commitment, these children—who once slept beside drains and begged for scraps—are now stepping into classrooms, laughing in dance sessions, and dreaming of futures far beyond the darkness they were born into.

THE PROJECT:-

GOAL:-

To create an environment of *protection, dignity, love, and care* that every child deserves—ensuring the basic rights of 30 children born to sex workers and take care of the 8 infants in Crèche.

OBJECTIVES:-

- To create a safe, nurturing, and non-discriminatory environment that ensures care, protection, and emotional well-being for children born to commercial sex workers.
- To facilitate access to quality formal education by enrolling these children in mainstream schools and institutions, ensuring regular attendance, academic support, and holistic development.
- To ensure children's health, hygiene, and confident integration by providing nutritious food and hygiene kits, promoting acceptance and social inclusion.
- To empower mothers to protect their children from abuse, addiction, and exploitation, and to create a silent shield against the entry of underage girls into sex work.

ACTIVITIES:-

- Running a Full-Fledged Night Shelter (4:30 PM to 11:00 PM and Overnight Stay for Children in Need).
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the children of sex workers during the evening and night hours.
- Ensure each child is bathed and groomed in the morning, dressed properly before going to school.
- Provide nutritious night meals to all resident children.
- Offer substitute health drinks regularly to support their physical development.
- Supply hygiene kits (12 months/year) to maintain cleanliness and proper hygiene.
- Distribute proper clothing to ensure safety, comfort, and acceptance among peers.
- Provide all essential educational materials including school bags and shoes to 30 children to ensure uninterrupted schooling.
- The primary focus is on preparing the children for the next day's school, ensuring they do not feel left behind. This support is provided during evening hours from 4:30 PM to 09:30 PM before dinner.
- In the morning, the children also receive assistance with completing any pending schoolwork from the previous night, along with support for getting ready to attend school.
- Special classes are conducted during school holidays to help the children prepare for their examinations.

- Assist in the admission of eligible children into formal Government schools.
- Ensure a 95% retention rate of the targeted children in school.
- Appoint tutors to offer regular academic guidance and bridge educational gaps.
- Provide additional subject-specific tutors for two girls appearing for Madhyamik and Uchha-Madhyamik (Board Exams).
- Conduct regular sessions of storytelling, dance, drama, music, painting, and singing to reduce aggression and improve expression.
- Develop and introduce new, healthy games to replace inappropriate play behaviors learned in early childhood.
- Conduct monthly mothers' meetings to raise awareness and strengthen their capacity to support their children.
- Undertake regular home visits to build rapport with mothers and community influencers.
- Provide monthly ration support to reduce dependency on exploitative sources taking them out of state.
- Distribute hygiene kits to mothers six times a year to help them maintain a clean and healthy lifestyle.
- Take special care and swift, confidential actions based on sensitive information shared by mothers.
- The major focus is given on the preparation of children for the next day school, so that they cannot feel lagging behind, at evening from 4:30 PM to 10:30 PM.
- At morning they also learn the school activities specially which are incomplete at night class along with their school going preparation.

BENEFICIARIES:-

30 children (aged 4+ to 16 years) and 8 infants (aged 6 months to 3 years) born to sex workers living in the Puratan Bazar Red Light Area — to be provided with nutritious food, proper clothing, hygiene support, care, and the love they rightfully deserve. AND 25 mothers of these children from the Baruipur Red Light Area — to be supported through awareness, counselling, and empowerment initiatives.

PROJECT PERIOD:-

One year - from April 2025 to March 2026.

BUDGET:-

The total budget proposed for the program from April 2025 to March 2026 is INR 8,38,696.00. As of June 30, 2025, we have an unspent balance of INR 33,039.00. Therefore, the amount of additional funds needed for this period is **INR 8,05,657.00 (Eight Lakhs Five Thousand Six Hundred & Fifty Seven Only).**

Name of the Organization : **Nishtha**
 Name of Project : **Night Shelter**
 Project Period : **01.04.2025 to 31.05.2026**

| S.L | Particulars | Budget Amount in INR |
|------------|--|----------------------|
| A | Personnel Cost | |
| A.1 | Project Monitoring Coordinator | |
| | (Rs.7700 X 01 head X 12 Months) (Including Welfare benefit) | 92400.00 |
| | Sub Total | 92400.00 |
| B | Programme Cost | |
| B.1 | Night Shelter | |
| B.1.1 | 01 Social Worker | |
| | (Rs.8258 X 01 head X 12 Months) (Including Welfare benefit) | 99096.00 |
| B.1.2 | Cook | |
| | (Rs.6500 X 01 head x 12 Months) (Including Welfare benefit) | 78000.00 |
| B.1.3 | Clothing for Children | |
| | (Rs. 400 X 30 heads) | 12000.00 |
| B.1.3.a | School Bag & Shoe | |
| | (Rs.800 x 30 heads) | 24000.00 |
| B.1.4 | Dinner for 30 children | |
| | (Rs .20 X 22 heads (average attendance) X 330 days) | 145200.00 |
| B.1.5 | TA for Staff | |
| | (Rs. 500 X 12 Months) | 6000.00 |
| B.1.6 | Toiletry for children | |
| | (Rs.50 x 30 heads x 12 months) | 18000.00 |
| B.1.7 | Food for Mothers (12 times in a Year) | |
| | Rs.200 x 30 heads x 12 times | 72000.00 |
| B.1.7.a | Hygiene kit to Mothers | |
| | Rs.100 x 30 heads x 06 times | 18000.00 |
| B.2 | Creche for 08 children | |
| B.2.1 | Food for 08 Children | 5000.00 |
| B.2.2 | Clothing for 08 Children | |
| | Rs.500 x 08 heads | 4000.00 |
| B.2.3 | 01 Care Giver | |
| | Rs.6500 x 1 head x 12 Months (Including Welfare benefit) | 78000.00 |
| B.2.4 | Non-Wage Benefit for the Service Providers | |
| | Rs.14500 X 12 Months | 174000.00 |
| | Sub Total | 733296.00 |
| C | Administration & Monitoring | |
| C.1 | Electricity, electrification, electrical fittings, other maintenance etc | 5000.00 |
| C.2 | Printing , postage & stationeries | 2000.00 |
| C.3 | TA for monitoring, Carrying cost & Staff | 1500.00 |
| C.4 | Miscellaneous Exp. | 2000.00 |
| C.5 | Audit Fees | 2500.00 |
| | Sub Total | 13000.00 |
| | Grand Total (A + B + C) | 838696.00 |

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 | 277000.00 | |
| 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 | | 107954.00 |
| Closing Balance as on 30.06.2025 | | 33039.00 |
| Proposed Budget for the period 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 | | 838696.00 |
| Less: Unspent amount from period (01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025) | | 33039.00 |
| Fund required for the period 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 | | 805657.00 |