

A
REPORT
OF
NIGHT SHELTER & Sinchan
Project

AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION

Baruipur Red Light Area,
South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal, India

REPORTING PERIOD

April 2014 – March 2015

IMPLEMENTED BY:

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ABOUT ORGANIZATION

'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 300 villages in five 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.

AIM

To provide protection, relief and some essential rights to children of sex workers.

PRESENT TARGET GROUP

41 children children in age group of 3 to 14 years.

OBJECTIVES VS ACTIVITIES

- To provide a conducive atmosphere for children born to commercial sex workers by keeping them away from abusive language, running errands to get liquor and drugs, physical abuse and above all, a safe environment for joyous learning.
- To ensure education of these child in formal schools / institutions.
- To ensure greater acceptance and sensitivity towards these children in local community as well as government authorities and other stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES VS ACTIVITIES

Objectives 1:

To provide a conducive environment for children born to sex workers by keeping them away from abusive language, running errands to get liquor and drugs, physical abuse and above all, a safe environment for joyous learning and ensure a protective environment to them.

Activities

- The children are involved in various activities which include teaching, prayer, singing, drawing, dance, playing etc. so that they have all round development. The normal routine of the children is below mentioned:

Time	Activity
6: 00 AM	Wake Up
6:00 - 7:00 AM	Freshen Up (Brushing teeth, bathing etc.)
7:00 – 9:15 AM	Teaching
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Prayer
9:30 AM	Tiffin and Leave
4: 00 – 7:00 PM	Teaching
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Evening Snacks. Extra Curricular Activities
8:00 – 9:00 PM	Dinner
9:00 PM– 6: 00 AM	Sleeping

- During the period, the project extended services to 41 children of in total. The details of the status as on 31st March 2015 is given in the next table.
- The children are provided with toiletries so that they can maintain their hygiene level and inculcate the habit of cleanliness.
- Clothing was provided twice a year. During Durga Puja, we gave one set of cloth, umbrella, and shoes. Second time during March, we provided one set of inners and any one of the top / shirt / trouser as per their choice.
- Bedding including blanket with cover, mattress with cover, pillow with cover, bed sheet and mosquito net has been purchased this year for the children to have a better condition while sleeping.

Objectives 2:

To ensure education of these child in formal schools / institutions.

Activities and Their Results

- This year we have seen quite an encouraging performance where every children has been promoted to next class or has moved to next level be it from centre to ICDS / Primary or moving from Primary to Secondary level. List of children as per their educational level and status are mentioned below:

< Please note that the children from S. No. 31 to 41 have dropped from the centre and in not continuing in present project period starting from April 2015.>

S. No.	Remarks on Performance	Educational Status
1	Good	Night Shelter
2	Very Good	Class IX
3	Good	Night Shelter
4	Good	Class III
5	Okay	Class II
6	Good	Nursery
7	Good	Night Shelter
8	Very Good	Class III
9	Good	Class III
10	Good	Class V
11	Good	Class IV
12	Okay	Night Shelter
13	Okay	Night Shelter
14	Okay	Night Shelter
15	Okay	Night Shelter
16	Good	Night Shelter
17	Okay	Night Shelter
18	Good	Night Shelter
19	Okay	ICDS
20	Good	ICDS
21	Good	Night Shelter
22	Very Good	Class VII
23	Good	Class VII
24	Poor	Night Shelter
25	Very Good	Class VII
26	Very Good	Class III
27	Good	Night Shelter
28	Good	Night Shelter
29	Very Good	Class II
30	Okay	Night Shelter
31	Migrated to other place	Class I
32	Ran away after marrying #33	Class IX
33	Ran away after marrying #32	Night Shelter
34	Moved to her native place	Night Shelter
35	Moved to her native place	Night Shelter
36	Moved to her native place	Night Shelter
37	Moved to her native place	Class VI
38	Moved to her native place	Night Shelter
39	Moved to her native place	Night Shelter
40	Family Conflict	Class VI
41	Married	Class VI

- The class wise distribution of the children are :

Class	Number of children
ICDS	2
Nursery	1
I	1
II	2
III	4
IV	1
V	1
VI	3
VII	3
VIII	0
IX	2
Night Centre	21
TOTAL	41

- The children were provided with exercise books, pen, pencil, eraser, school bag, colour pencil set / Instrument box (coloured pencil for small child while instrument box for elder children) so that they can continue their education smoothly.

Objectives 3:

To ensure greater acceptance and sensitivity towards these children in local community as well as government authorities and other stakeholders.

Activities and Their Results

- During the reporting period 5 meeting with mothers have been conducted. In this meeting normally mothers of 37- 38 children used to attend. During these meetings we have highlighted our focus on cleanliness and hygiene, sending the children to school, their regularity etc.
- To increase the interest of mother towards the education of the children and to make her realise that her children can also have a better future if nurtured carefully, series of 150 one to one session and small sessions with mothers have been conducted.
- Informal interaction with the local stakeholders and school teachers were conducted to ensure smooth operation of night shelter, greater acceptance of the children and sense of empathy amongst the stakeholders.

CASE STUDY – 1 (S # 8)

Kakali is a young girl of 9 years old. She is very obedient girl, good at studies and is student of Class III. She is quite regular & punctual in schools and enjoys singing, dance and drawing.

The only difference with Kakali and other children in our mainstream society is at the age of 9 years, where normally a child is not much aware of the harsh reality of life. She resides in Baruiapur red light area. When she was small, her mother who was a sex worker, left her with her maternal grandmother (Baby Biswas). Her grandmother was also a sex worker before and is mostly found in drunken state. Practically, it's Kakali who looks after her grandmother. She is the one who has to take her grandmother to home when in drunken state.

She tries to hide her sadness by a sweet smile she possesses but occasionally her sadness become quite visible. She shares that with the staffs of Nishtha and shares that she don't like staying here and feel sad looking after the condition of her grandmother. But, then she quickly changes her mood and start smiling again.

At the age of 9 years, Kakali shared that she wants to continue her education and stand on her own feet to lead a dignified life.

CASE STUDY – 2 (S # 10)

Akansha is a bubbly and energetic 10 years old girl studying in Class V. She along with her younger brother of 5 years used to live in Baruiapur red light area with her mother and a babu of her mother. The babu used to give some money to the family. During that time Akansha was quite regular in studies.

One fine day, the babu he moved out of house abandoning the family. To cope up the shock Akansha's mother started to go to different locations. But, the effect of the area which is ideal for inducing bad habits started taking over Akansha.

She was becoming irregular and even stopped coming to the centre. The staffs of Nishtha then went to her house. It was found that Akansha has to do all household work and take care of her younger sibling. Also, with no one to see and with such an environment she is unable to concentrate on education.

A series of persuasion and discussion was conducted with Akansha's mother and Akansha. At the end, it was decided that even though her mother will not be able to reduce the pressure of household work from Akansha, as she has to go to different places but an arrangement can be done so that the effect of environment is reduced. Side by side, Akansha was also motivated to continue her education regularly.

Now, her mother has rented a house outside the red light area, for Akansha and the younger sibling. Although Akansha still has to do the household work and care of sibling but now she is managing her studies also and is attending the school quite regularly.