

SIX-MONTHLY BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT
Of
NIGHT SHELTER FOR CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS
April 2026 – September 2026

Implemented by Nishtha / Supported by Asha for Education

1. Background

Nishtha is a community-based women's organization working across more than 399 villages in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The Night Shelter in Baruipur provides children living in the red-light area with a safe and nurturing environment, educational support, nutrition, hygiene assistance and emotional care. The project seeks to reduce the effects of stigma, neglect and exclusion and help children continue their education and grow with dignity and confidence.

Background of the Night Shelter

Nishtha established the Night Shelter in 2013 in the Puratan Bazar area of Baruipur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, to protect children of women engaged in commercial sex work from neglect, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and social stigma. Recognizing that many children were left without adequate care and protection while their mothers were working, Nishtha created a safe and nurturing environment where children could receive care, nutrition, educational support and emotional assistance.

With support from Asha for Education, the Night Shelter provides educational guidance, learning materials, nutritious food, hygiene supplies, recreational activities and protection services to 30 children. A crèche also caters to the needs of 8 infants and toddlers. Through mothers' meetings, home visits and community awareness activities, Nishtha works to strengthen family engagement, promote children's education and ensure their safety, dignity and overall development.

2. Key Activities and Support Provided

Education and Learning Support

Children received age- and class-appropriate learning materials, including exercise books, pens, pencils, drawing supplies and picture or rhyme books. Regular academic support was provided in subjects including English, Mathematics, Bengali, Geography, Science and History. Monthly assessments helped identify learning gaps. School bags, shoes and uniforms were also provided.

Nutrition and Care for Young Children

Creative sessions involving music, dance, painting, drawing and crafts gave children opportunities to express themselves and develop confidence. Daily routines also included play, recreation, meals, hygiene and academic revision.

The crèche continued to support eight infants and toddlers with age-appropriate food, milk and daily care. Bedding, towels, mosquito nets, clothing and other essentials were provided, and crèche facilities were improved with new bedding and cradles.

Mothers' Meetings

Mothers were engaged on child protection, education, hygiene, nutrition, addiction-related risks, emotional bonding, trafficking prevention and adolescent girls' safety. The month-wise record for April –September 2026 lists 4 meetings, with approximately 71 participations across the six months.

Home Visits and Community Awareness

Home visits were used to understand household circumstances, monitor children's safety and encourage school continuity. Community awareness campaigns were also conducted to challenge stigma and promote the children's dignity and inclusion.

Hygiene and Family Support

Children received monthly toiletry and hygiene kits containing one bar of soap, coconut oil, detergent powder, toothpaste and shampoo. Mothers were provided with personal and menstrual hygiene materials, including soap, coconut oil, detergent powder and sanitary napkins, in every six months. Food packets containing essential food items such as puffed rice, roasted gram flour, lentils, broken wheat, wheat flour, semolina, mustard oil and sugar were distributed to mothers during the reporting period.

Changes Observed

During the reporting period from April to September 2026, the Night Shelter supported 30 children, including eight infants and toddlers through the crèche. Of these, 24 children were connected with formal education, and the reported educational retention rate was approximately 90%. Four mothers' meetings were conducted, with approximately 41 participations. A total of 152 home visits were carried out during the six-month reporting period to monitor children's well-being, understand their family circumstances and encourage educational continuity. As an important educational achievement, one girl passed the Class XII Board Examination and secured admission to Baruiapur College.

The improvements in children's emotional expression, confidence, social interaction and behaviour following regular creative activities and consistent care. Children were observed to engage more positively with peers and adults.

Nishtha gratefully acknowledges Asha for Education for its support in sustaining this safe and caring environment.

Project Photos:-



Photo 1: Children Having Dinner



Photo 2: Dance Class: Developing creativity and confidence through dance



Photo 3: Drawing Class.



Photo 4: Regular Classes: Strengthening learning through academic support.

