ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Institute of social work

29B, Chetla Central Road, Kolkata – 700 027

Phone No. 033 2479 6607, 2449 8685;

E Mail ID – iswcht@gmail.com

FOREWARD

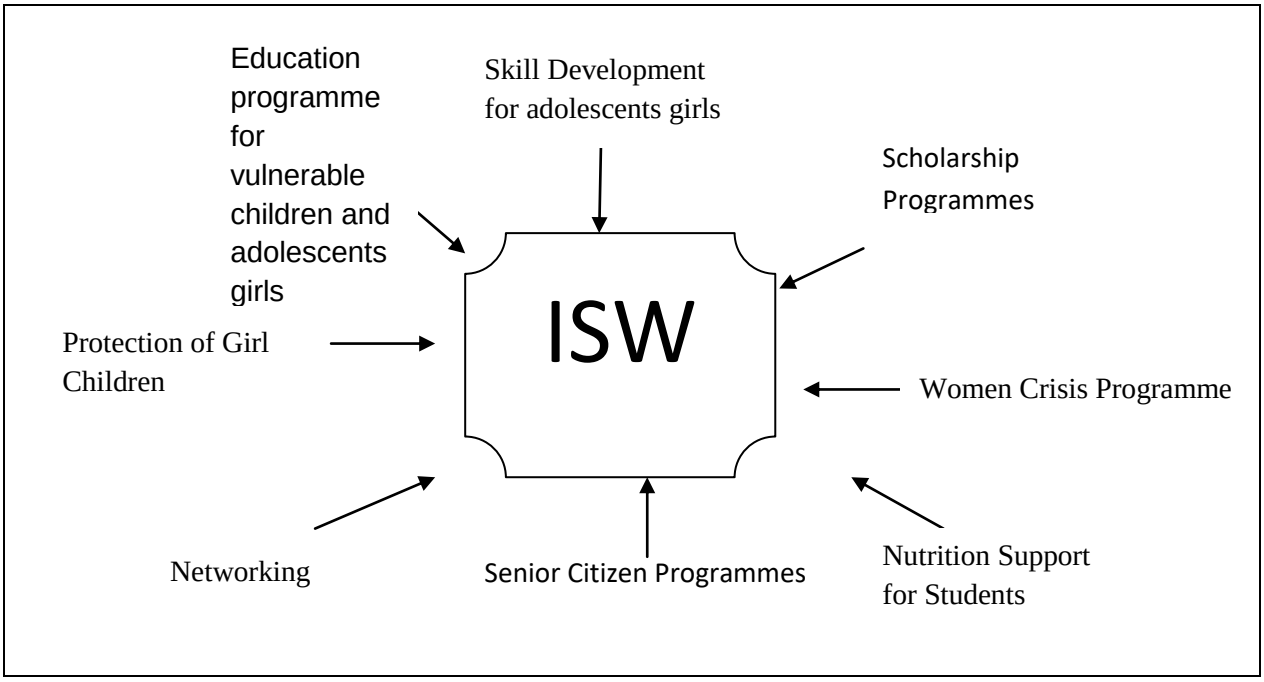
It is a pleasure to place on record narratives of the last one year ending 31 st March, 2019, the forty first year of a journey started way back in 1978 by a group of young social activists. The little steps were aimed to be with women and children of the weaker sections of the society in their struggle for better life. ISW, so formed had an incredible journey in this period of forty one years and those little steps had become long strides. Hundreds and thousands of women and children had been a part in this journey and their determination helped ISW to continue it despite severe hardship throughout .A little insight into the socio-economic scenario of India will show a disturbing picture of imbalance. While sky-scrapers rule the horizon a vast multitude remain either homeless or are in shanties. On one hand a burgeoning upwardly mobile middle class is appearing to be hogging all the limelight of development, on the other the expanding lower strata of the population pyramid is slowly going below the poverty line deeper and deeper. In this milieu the worst sufferers are women, children and senior citizen. Treatment of this populace is akin to second class citizen of a civilised society. This has also led to a moribund situation where the victims start believing that they are solely responsible for their status. This in turn is leading to loss of self respect and the will to face the situation. Beginning of ISW was with a few adolescent girls and young women in the slums of Khidderpore, Kolkata. Empowering them with skills for earning their own livelihood was the target. Others in the neighbourhood slowly joined in. The honesty and integrity of the facilitators infused a sense of belongingness in the participating members of the locality. This also opened other areas that needed looking into. Domestic Violence - Physical Abuse and Mental Tortures, Hunger and Malnutrition, Divorce and Abandonment, High Mother and Infant Mortality, Child Abuse and Neglect, etc. Most important of all these is Illiteracy of mother and the child as well as school drop-outs of the young and adolescents.

The mission of ISW thus crystallised as ÄLLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING AND ASSIST IN UPLIFTMENT OF THE WEAKER AND UNDER PRIVILEGED SEGMENT OF THE SOCIETY WITH EMPHASIS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Awareness is the key parameter in the journey for the upliftment. Our emphasis has been to make the participating women and senior citizen aware of the existing situation and then working with them in moving forward. Several ongoing projects continues to stride for empowerment of women in all respect and increase the literacy rate amongst the children of the marginalised sector in and around the project areas. Over the last four decades, despite severe paucity of resources ISW is proud to have been associated in transformation of lives of more than 45,000 women and 33,000 children. We have also initiated projects for assisting Senior Citizens in leading a comfortable life in their twilight years. Through Medical Camps and Legal Camps we are continuing in our efforts of reaching out to more of these group of people at large.

ISW is appealing again to all with a request to be their resource partner in executing the projects, where a lot has to be done in the days to come.

PROJECTS IN HAND



As of date there are several projects running in six major centres -

A. Khidderpore(Kolkata),

B. Barasat(North 24 Parganas),

C. Chella – Kamarpara(Dist. Birbhum),

D. Chetanalok(Santiniketan),

E. Raytala& Akra(South 24 Parganas), and

F. Joynagar(South 24 Parganas).

In each centre several projects of various nature are going on, as detailed in the following pages.

Target groups in all the areas are adolescent girls, women, children and in some

cases senior citizens from the economically weaker / marginalised section of the

society. The major area of concern in executing the projects remain manpower. Shortage of skilled and dedicated volunteer is a major concern, at times more than fund constraint, in running the projects.

Fund allocations are project specific by the donor organisations. Continuity is therefore dependent on the timely receipt of funds. This is another area that remains a permanent concern.

KHIDDERPORE PROJECTS

ISW started its journey from here in Khiddepore in 1978 and this is the oldest centre

which still continues despite several constraints. ISW gratefully places on record the

laudable and yeomen services rendered by Volunteers and teachers in continuing

the projects undaunted.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10; Adolescent Girls and young adults upto

the age of 25.Total students presently attending various classes are 137 supported by 8 teachers. A salient feature of the Classes is provision of Nutrition Support to all participants and continued this year too.

JUNIOR COACHING CLASS

Few school dropouts and regular students in need of external academic support are attending the classes from 12 pm to 4 pm in Hindi and Bengali medium. The motto of returning a chid escaping from dire straits to mainstream is steering this project. Efforts are on to increase the size of target group but lack of resources is hindering.

SENIOR COACHING CLASS

We are happy to share that the girl students have been continuously performing exemplary and giving us the motivation to do more. Though from economically deprived background, their determination has encouraged us in doing our bits to steer them forward. This year 4 students completed class X and 3 completed Class XII. All the 4 students has enrolled in Class XI and 3 in Undergraduate courses. Subjects of study are various with emphasis on English, Bengali and Mathematics. This year 2 students have passed B.A., one of them with Honours in English.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES

Tailoring Class

One of the most successful programme of ISW here in Khidderpore is this class. It runs in 2 shifts from 11 am to 4 pm. We have been able to sell products generated in these classes in various fairs (melas) during the year under review. However the volume is yet to reach the desired level. We intend to convert these classes to classes-cum-production centres in the year 2019-2020. Nevertheless the sales have raised the enthusiasm of the participants in a great way.

Computer Training Class

This programme was introduced last year with two computers gifted by Lions Club, Kolkata District. The classes are now being held twice a week. A good number of applicants are waiting to join the programme. We intend to increase it to thrice a week by this year and six days a week by mid-2020 subject to resource availability.

Dance Class

One of the most sought after class is the Dance Class. The lone teacher is inspiration for the girls now. The conduct of the participants, we are happy to state, has worked as an advertisement and the list of pending application is growing day by day.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF KHIDDEPORE CENTRE ATTENDED BY GIRLS

In brief :

Sl.No.	Date	Programme
1.	26.04.2018	10 Senior Students of Khidderpore Centre attended the programme on “Exploring Youth Voices to Combat Human Trafficking” at American Centre.
2.	10.01.2019	One Billion Rising (OBR) Campaign against exploitation and violence against women organized by SWAYAM.
3	01.02.2019 to 03.03.2019	Annual Exhibition by ISW at NariSeva Sangha.
4	21.02.2019	A seminar held by West Bengal Commission for Women on “Prevention of Rape” at the Conference room of W.B. Commission for Women, JalasampadBhawan. Rupanjali Chaudhuri from ISW was present at the seminar.
5	08.03.2019	Rehabilitation fair was organized by ISWAR SANKALPA on Urban Mental Health. Girls from ISW, Khidderpore attended the fair.
6.		Women’s Day was celebrated at Madhusudan Mancha Dhakuria by MAITREE. Teachers, 15 Students of vocational class and 8 senior students attended the program.
7	11.3.2019	Seminar was organized at ISW, Khiddepore Centre where volunteers from Xavier’s gave a demonstration of Low Cost Portable Water Filter under Suddhi Mission. 25 residents of the area attended the programme.

PROJECTS AT BARASAT

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10; Adolescent Girls and young adults upto the age of 25.

The programme started in 1981 with 33 school drop-outs under a mango tree today encompasses two double storied building in a two-third acre land with 200 odd kids

(a) in SHISHU VIKAS BHARATI. Three teachers are with these kids from 11 am to 4 pm for 25 days a month;

(b) with students from classes I to XII are provided Special Coaching Classes by six subject teachers 25 days a month from 2 pm to 7 pm.

Co-curricular activities form a part of the curriculum where competencies are build up in music, dance, acting, recitation, drawing and painting, clay modelling, etc.

Independence Day, Republic Day, Teachers Day and Childrens' Day were celebrated with much enthusiasm and fervour by the children, their parents and local

people.

Incidentally programme started in 1981 saw a school growing to a level where more than 600 students upto class VIII were enrolled. Government regulations led to closure of the school. This prompted the introduction of Special Coaching Classes. Co-curricular activities like music, dance, recitation, clay modelling, acting, etc. continued with great participation and enthusiasm among the kids.

A very important feature of this programme – proper NUTRITION SUPPORT to children in Nursery Classes continued this year without fail. We hope to keep it going.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Target Group : Adolescents Girls

We believe that combating the evils faced by vulnerable Girl Child and hapless women can only be done through skill development for better life. With this motto the

programmes like Basic Computer Training, General Duty Assistants Training, Care Giver, Tailoring, etc. initiated in the years gone continued with greater participation. We intend to bring in more such courses in the days to come with assistance and support from other organisations. We are proud to say that several participants have been able to join the main work force and have started earning a doable income at the initial stages. We in tend to conduct follow-up programmes with these participants for skill enhancement as well as increase our pool of volunteers.

PROJECT ON EMPOWERING RURAL WEMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AND POVERTY

We have commenced a project on empowering rural women and adolescent girls to combat violence and poverty from February, 2019. Target group includes approximately 5000 adolescent girls and women 14 – 45 years of age socially and economically marginalised irrespective of caste, creed and religion from 12 villages. We are happy to advise that the project is going on in full swing.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AT BARASAT

Special Programme had been initiated in and around Barasat under the Barast Project Area. School for children of Brick KilnWorkers in Saibana, a similar school for children of the weaker section of the society at Surjya Sen Pally and one at Taldharia Village. We are happy to place on record here that persistent effort by our Teacher Volunteers over the year has yielded results and all the schools are functioning well with increasing number of enrolment.The efforts of our Teacher Volunteers are continuing and we hope to reach more beneficiaries in the year 2020 subject to availability of resources.

Medical Camps for Senior Citizen :

3 Medical Camps were organised in Barasat Centre for Senior Citizens of the locality. We are happy to state here that relentless efforts of our Volunteer Teachers had generated quite a good response in the area. People are found to be eagerly awaiting for treatment in such camps. Though fund and volunteer constraints remain, we are hopeful of organising such camps on a regular basis. We take this opportunity to place on record our gratitude to Dr.PrabirKar, Dr. Chaitanya Malakar, Dr Tapas Saha ofHridaypurNetralaya, Narayana Hrudalaya, Barasat and their teams for their support and participations in making these camps successful.

Health Check-up Camp on 02.09.2018:

With the assistance of Dr.PrabirKar and Dr. Chaitanya Malakar general Health Check-up Camp for Senior Citizen of the locality was organised in our premises. The campaign for the programme was started two weeks in advance by our volunteer

teachers. Natural calamity prevented major participation though many had evinced interest. However number of participants were 36. The effort was well appreciated by all.

Eye Check-up Camp on27.09.2018:

With the assistance of HridaypurNetralaya and Dr. Tapas Saha an eye check-up camp was organised. 46 senior citizen were checked. 12 persons were found to be in need of operations. While ISW paid for the total cost for two most needy ladies, HridaypurNetralaya operated on the remaining patients charging a nominal fee only considering their economic status. Glasses were provided to 10 patients.

General Health, Cardio and Diabetic Clinic on 04.11.2018 :

With the assistance of Narayana Hrudalaya of Barasat the clinic was organised for senior citizens. A total number of 77 persons got themselves checked.

Events at Barasat centre In brief :

Sl.No.	Date	Programme
1	01.04.2018	Seminar on “Child Marriage and Violence against Women – Remedies” addressed by Advocate Subrata Chakraborty
2	08.04.2018	Camp on “Child Marriage and Violence against Women – Remedies” at Village Babpur (15 km from our centre at Barasat). A large number of villagers attended the camp. Speakers were Smt. Anwesha Ganguly, District Child Protection Officer, Advocate Subrata Chakraborty, Smt NupurSanyal and Ratna Chattopadhyay of ISW
3	12.05.2018	Awareness camp for Mother and Child Health and celebration of Mothers’Day at village Maldwip near our centre at Barasat.
4	10.07.2018	Seminar on womens’ rights at Taldharia village near our Barasat Centre. While 60 women attended speakers were our volunteers and the sessions were interactive.
5	14.07.2018 & 15.07.2018	Noted playwright BadalSircar was actively involved with ISW programmes. We celebrated his 93 rd birth Anniversary organising a two day theatre festival jointly with BadalSircar NatyaCharcha Kendra at Barasat Campus. Several Theatre Groups performed in open air (Mukta Mancha). Junior students of ISW presented Tagore’s “JUTA ABISHKAR”, which was praised by all present.

6	31.07.2018	Seminar on “Senior Citizens’ Rights and Protection” addressed by Advocate Subrata Chakraborty. A good number of women and senior citizen participated.
7	05.09.2019	Teachers’Day was celebrated at Saibana, the satellite school of our Barasat Centre.
8	10.01.2019	School Foundation Day was organized by ISW. Cultural programme was performed by the students.
9	12.01.2019	Students visited Birla Planetarium & Birla Museum on an educational trip.
10	26.01.2019	Republic Day was celebrated with great fervor. Songs, Dance, Music and P.T. were performed by the students.

PROJECTS AT CHELLA - KAMARPARA, DIST. BIRBHUM

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10, Adolescent Girls and Young Adult Girls where majority of them are from Tribal families.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

ISW believes Education and Self-Help in Skill Development takes the Girl Child to a better life. With this motto the education programmes have been taken up here as advised you in our report last year. We are happy that we have been able to reach out to more than 90 adolescent girls, majority from the tribal families in the Ilambazar Block of Bolpur Sub Division. Classes continue to be held six days a week from 7 am to 10 am.

SCHOOL DROP- OUT AND EARLY MARRIAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Extensive campaigning and deliberation during classes are ongoing as part of this programme as we found that there are enough such cases.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

ENGLISH SPEAKING AND WRITING

We take pride in stating that the efforts have started yielding results and change in the target area is clearly visible.

Handicraft Training Programme

A programme commenced last year has received quite a good response and is running well. Running the programme faces hurdles in lack of trained facilitators, which we are trying to overcome.

STUDY CIRCLE AND MOTHERS' MEETING

The regular awareness programme on rights and discriminations by way of study circles and mothers' meetings are continuing. We are happy to state that a change is seen in the community while a large number of participants are regular and repeat attendees.

MEDICAL CAMP : Diabetic Clinic, General Health and Oncology :

A Medical Camp was organised on 17.11.2018 in our premises at Chella-Kamarpara Centre for residents of the locality with the assistance of Narayana Hrudalaya,

Howrah. We are happy to state here that relentless efforts of our Volunteers Teachers had generated quite a good response in the area. People are found to be eagerly waiting for treatment in the camp. Total number of participants were 95.

To our dismay a lady was found to be in an advanced stage of breast cancer. She was advised for checkups and treatment at a nominal cost at Oncology Centre of Narayana Hrudalaya Howrah. As of date she is undergoing treatment there and her condition is stated to be stable.

Though fund and volunteer constraints remain, we are hopeful of organising such camps on a regular basis. We take this opportunity to place on record our gratitude to the Doctors,Shri Subhendu Chakraborty and team of Narayana Hrudalaya, Howrah for the support and participations in making the camp successful.

PROJECTS AT CHETANALOK, SANTINIKETAN

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10 and adolescent girls upto age 16.

EDUCATION CENTRE FOR DISTRESSED CHILDREN

In line with our programmes for education of children from the weaker section of the society we are continuing this school with 110 children and adolescent girls on roll supported by 4 teachers. Classes continue to be held 6 days a week between 2 pm to 6 pm. Enthusiasm of the students and their parents are motivating us to improve the scope here.

Nutritional Support is the mainstay here too.

PROJECT AT RAYTALA, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10.

Last year we had mentioned that in an effort to reach out to the neglected and un-attended children an education centre was started at Raytala in Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas. With one teacher and 60 students the effort continues. We are yet to receive enough funds to expand even though there is an overwhelming request for expansion. We place on record here to all that we are in dire need of fund for expanding this project and request for assistance.

PROJECT AT AKRA, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Target Group : Children upto the age of 10.

We are happy to share the fact that the Pre-School education Centre at AKRA, South 24 Parganas with 90 children of daily labourers and fishermen is continuing in full steam. The music class is also going on in full swing with a lot of enthusiasm. We are receiving a lot of enquiry from the local people to expand here also. The project specific funding is not allowing us to do so. Request all to ponder.

PROJECT AT JOYNAGAR, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

Counselling and Legal Aid is the only activity going on in Joynagar, South 24 Parganas centre now. We are happy to advise you that the participation for the programme is encouraging. During the year we handled 30 cases of which 14 cases were in sub-judice category and 9 cases under counselling.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

GENERAL SPONSHORSHIP,

This sponsorship programmewas initiated by ISW in 2007 to assist girls from the marginalized section of the society in continuing education. While general fund was the primary source, project specific funds received from donors were also helpful in continuation. This programme was also supported by an Australia based social service organization, Friends of Kolkata.For various reasons this is no longer available. Owing to near stoppage of fund flow, we are now unable to support students for academic pursuit to the extent we were able to do earlier. We are now extending financial help primarily to select students in the form of paying one-time fees for admission to various courses. Only twelve students have been supported this year. However we are continuing with monthly tuition fees to most needy students but the numbers are coming down drastically.

We have initiated an effort to raise funds and hope to make a sizable corpus to increase the number of beneficiaries. We take this opportunity to appeal to all concerned to assist us in our effort.

SPECIAL SPONSHORSHIP,

This Special Sponsorship Programme for meritorious girl child, to help the girls from economically weaker sectionespecially meant for extremely needy but meritorious students enrolling for higher studies post-Higher Secondarycontinued this year with assistance from Dr.TapanMitra Fund For Academic Support in both at Khidderpore other areas We remain indebted to Dr.Mitra a noted academician of the United States and since deceased, for his kind assistance. Six students have been supported by Dr.Tapan MitraFund For Academic Support

The backgrounds of the students supported are as follows:

Debapriya Das – Passed B. Sc. Honours in Physics, now studying M. Sc.

Nibedita Chowdhury - Passed B. Sc. Honours in Fishery, studying M. Sc. In Kochi

SumanaAuddya – Studying B. ScHonours in Mathematics – 3 rd Year

Jhumpa Chakraborty - Passed B. A. Honours in Bengali, now studying B. Ed.

Sangeeta Dutta - Passed B. Com.

AratiKurmi – Studying B.A. Honours in English in 3 rd Year.

WOMEN CRISIS :

Proper treatment of women has already become one of the major social crisis across the globe. Violence against women across the continents including the developed nations are now drawing attention of all sections of the society. However institutional approach, be it Governments or other bodies are severely lacking. Merely remaining a lip service but otherwise burdening the tax payers. This is more prominent in the so-called intelligentsia and the middle class, who acknowledge the problem but shove it below the carpet. We are proud to tell you that since inception WOMEN CRISIS had been the key focus area of ISW and we have been steadfastly working in this area. Relentless pursuit of getting the women their rights, raising their

awareness, legal protections and fight against domestic violence had been our earnest efforts. We have been receiving help from all quarters and we acknowledge thatwe would not have been going forward without the support of all the volunteer individuals, legal luminaries, bodies and societies and Government departments.
We are happy to advise you that Counselling and Legal Aid support programme continued with full vigour this year too at Joynagar, Barasat and Chetla. Following data reveal the effect our programmes have on the local populace.

Name of the Centre	No. of cases Reported	No. of sub judice cases	No. of case Under Counselling	No. of cases solved	No. of case discontinued
Chetla	18	15	3	-	-
Joynagar	30	14	9	2	5
Barasat	24	3	10	7	4

NARI O SAMAJ – A PUBLICATION

ISW had been publishing NARI O SAMAJ, a collection of paper clippings thrice a year. Daily news items of incidents related to women and children and other vulnerable sections of the society that are published in the local dailies are being clipped together. The publication is going on in full swing with an untiring effort of ISW personnel.

NETWORKING

ISW is striving to increase its effort in reaching out to more and more women in need and children from the marginalised section of the society. In this venture it is not alone. Several organisations are actively involved in national level. We are proud to say here that ISW is acknowledged as an active partner in these organisations. They are

NAWO (National Alliance of Women Organisation),

AMAN NETWORK, and

MAITREE.

Networking with these organisations had been of great assistance to ISW in achieving the targets it had set every year.

NAWO (National Alliance of Women Organisation),

NAWO is a national platform of women set up after Beijing Conference and is networking for peace, justice and development. Secretary, ISW remained a Core Committee Member of NAWO, West Bengal this year too. We are happy that NAWOWest Bengal Focal Point used ISW's premises for their activities this year too. We are taking our relationship to a greater height by actively participating in all the programmes this year also.

AMAN NETWORK,

AMAN NETWORK is an organisation working for gender equality and through seminars, lectures, meetings, workshops, campaigns and several awareness programmes on PWDV Act protesting violence against women. We are happy that our active participation in this network continued unabated this year too and hope to remain such in the days to come.

MAITREE

MAITREE is a platform for several women organisation active in the field of Women Rights in their respective geographical areas. Several mass movements had been initiated by this network and ISW participated in each one of them as an active member this year also. We hope to continue and strengthen our relationship in the future.

FUTURE PROJECTS

One of the most important future programme is to setting up an old age home for 50 people in the land own by our organisation at Barasat with a title “The project for the creation of present life for old age people”.

Awareness through Action :

Setting up educations centres in different communities at Ilambazar block of Birbhum district and different under privileged areas of Barasat Block of North 24 Parganas district.

Reduce teacher student ratios in all the existing centres.

Awareness for Gender Equality;

Protecting Girl Child from risk of trafficking and prostitution through vigorous campaigns;

Strengthening the Cooperative Wings of the organisation; and

Seminars, campaigns, lectures, etc. in rural and slum areas for political

awareness on rights and responsibilities.

Awareness towards health for all.

Medical Camps at all the centres periodically;
Seminars and campaigns emphasising prevention is better than cure; and
Special camps on Obstetrics &Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Oncology.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

ISW is committed to the goal of Women Empowerment, Health and Education for women and children from the marginalised section of the society. Last four decade had been a journey of many ups and downs. Despair, frustration, grief had been a part of the struggle. Silver lining, however always accompanied in those days of darkness. Help and support had come immediately along restoring our faith in humanity and ourselves. We believe our achievement is little as compared to the vast area that needs to be covered. Our efforts are not even the tip of the iceberg as the process needs to be continuous. We are confident that the unstinted support from our well wishersand patrons we will continue with our journey with standards, zeal and enthusiasmthat we have set for ourselves.

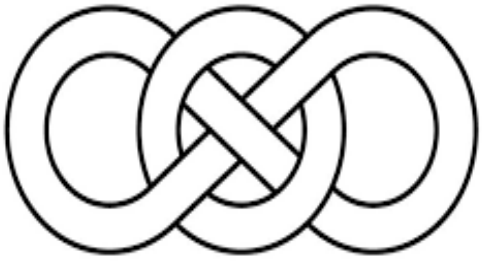
WE THANK OUR PATRONS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In our journey in the last forty years we have been receiving support in different forms from our well wishers and patrons from all walks of life. We are proud to say that our unwavering commitment to the cause and goal have increased the number of our admirers. We hope to have their continued support in the days to come.
We take this opportunity to thank and express our gratitude to all the officials and

staff of different Government Agencies, Departments, Regulators, Banks for their continued support and speedy disposal of our papers whenever and wherever warranted. Their sympathetic advices have steered us in proper direction many a times over the years.

We say thank you to our sister organisations who had been with us in thick and thin in our journey so far. We join the beneficiaries of our programmes in folding our hands to salute the parents, villagers, volunteers, teachers, workmen, assistants, dispensaries and hospitals and other organisations, etc. for taking us where we are today.

DONORS IN PARTICULAR

FOREIGN AGENCIES / ORGANISATIONS

- Kind Baudouin Foundation
- Asha for Education, Asha Sanfransisco
- Tapan Mitra Fund For Academic Support
- Share and Care Foundation
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