



49 Years Of Dedicated Community Service



From the
Director's
desk

I am happy to announce that Seva Kendra Calcutta (SKC) will bring out its first e-newsletter in January 2022. This maiden venture is an effort of a collaborative ministry and hard work of many. This newsletter would offer a testimony of the many activities in which SKC has been engaged for 49 years since its inception. SKC is a social and development organization of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, and a compassionate face of Christ to the whole world. It's journey began as a relief organization in 1971 during the Bangladesh War, and with the need of the society it became a social and development organization. At present, it works in 8 different districts of West Bengal state with 9 thematic areas. In Kolkata city, it works with the urban wards of 85, 86, 89, 55 and 56 at Tiljala, Dhapa, Motijhil and 16 Bigha areas to empower the vulnerable and the marginalized communities and groups. In Midnapore district, SKC works with natural resource management and in North 24 Parganas works for child labor free Gram Panchayat, livelihood for migrants and anti trafficking. Children in districts of Howrah, Hooghly, Midnapur and North 24 Parganas, SKC is working with truck drivers and their families. In the coming years, it is looking forward to working with differently abled children. Through the hospital ministry too SKC brings health and healing to the poor and downtrodden of the society. This e-newsletter will give a glimpse of our services and activities and bring all of us closer to each other. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all our partners, friends, donors, benefactors and stakeholders for their generous and continuous assistance, especially during the first and the second wave of Corona pandemic, and the devastating cyclones of Amphan and Yaas in our effort to bring help, hope and healing to all. I also acknowledge everyone's significant contribution to SKC's present growth and capacity to serve the society at large.

A Word of Gratitude to Our Donors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our donors for their generosity and overwhelming support especially during the covid 19 pandemic times

Vision
A self-reliant society based on peace, love and justice, respecting the human dignity and natural environment.

Mission
Building of a Harmonious Society, based on Cultural Ethos, inspired by Spiritual Heritage, Socially and Environmentally sound through Participatory Process.

About
Seva Kendra Calcutta is the Relief and Development arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta. Established in 1973, the organization has diversified fields of activities within the scope of social development and intermediate technologies. Seva Kendra Calcutta works in eight districts of West Bengal state. It is noted for its result oriented and professional team of staff and volunteers. Over the years it has built up a network of support agencies through strategic partnerships.



PROJECT

Environment



Mrs. Basanti Hansda of Makmalpur village of Dantan Block is a housewife. Her family consists of 5 members. Her husband works as a daily labourer. Basanti would use

60-70 kgs of fire wood to cook over a traditional stove. The cost for the fire wood is Rs. 200/-, 250/- per week. The traditional stove creates a lot of smoke which also contains tiny particles causing health hazards. After installing a single improved cooking stove, she realized the benefits of it. She has started using only 40 kgs of fire wood per week. This improved cooking has saved Rs. 75/- per week and Rs. 375/- monthly on fuel. The improved cooking stove is not only helping her to save money which she can use for other essential commodities, but also protecting her family from fatal health risks.

Education

Child Labour Free GP Initiatives in line with MVF model in North 24 parganas District in West Bengal project has been ongoing since 2007 supported by Indienhilfe, e.V. Herrsching, Germany.. The project goal of achieving universal elementary education by eradicating all forms of child labour in Tepul-Mirjapur, Saguna and Gobindapur Gram Panchayats of Swarupnagar Block. Tepul-Mirjapur Gram Panchayat has been declared as Child labour free Panchayat by the BDO of Swarupnagar Block.

Last two years the community and children suffered due to lockdown and Covid 19. Since the schools were closed, children were the most sufferers. During the month of June and July 2021, our thrust was given on online Remedial centres and motivation centres. It was a challenge for us to start a new process. The process continued with error and learning situation. Our team prepared various TLM for the online classes. There were altogether 175 children participated out of 660 in 22 centres.. Through our learning process we found 480 children did not have access to any



phone. Thus we changed our strategy and decided to provide education by visiting their houses. In this manner we were able to attend 450 Children at home by providing weekly task to keep them busy with studies. In this way we provided education support for children. Besides, these we were also able to involve CRPF, GRPF, CBO members, VLCPC members, ICDS, ASHA, to aware people on Covid 19 protocols and to prevent child abuse, child marriage, child trafficking and domestic violence against women. These groups of people also assisted to fill up the forms of newly announced schemes. We prepared ground work with the community to start remedial and motivation centre from August 2021.

We contacted various stakeholders in our project area. More than 50 per cent parents witnessed increased negative behavior in their kids and more than 60 per cent children themselves also expressed experiencing changes in their behavior. These included an increase in anger and irritability, and lack of concentration. The prolonged closure of schools further exacerbated their situation as it resulted in a decline in nutrition levels among the children, online learning came with severe challenges, and the psychological well-being of the children was majorly affected," The stakeholders shared that as many as 60 per cent of the children in rural India fear they might have to drop out of school if not provided with additional support to cope with the learning gaps in their education. People in the villages were anxiously waiting for a platform where their children can spend their time in a playful learning situation. The online classes conducted by us helped a few number of children. The maximum numbers of children were in a situation of exclusion of studies. The community assisted Seva Kendra Calcutta to reopen remedial coaching centers and motivation centres. In View of inclusion of much more children in our education process, we have doubled the centres from 11 to 22 remedial centres with a number of 761 children and 22 Motivation centres with 758 children. These classes were conducted in peoples' house, under the tree in an open space with Covid 19 national protocol. .

Livelihood (Uttran)



The project Uttran - started in January 2019, was a blessing in disguise for the 20 tribal villages in West Midnapore District. The project aims to empower the

community to become self-reliant in planning, implementing and owning the project work so as to make it sustainable. Advocacy would play a crucial role in this endeavour. Empowered communities foster climate adaptive agriculture and livelihood practices and secure adequate nutritious food. 850 poor households of 20 villages are able to nourish themselves always, even in times of crisis of food.

Social Justice

'Sambandh', is a relationship development Programme designed for truck drivers to motivate and facilitate psycho-social and behavioural changes to transform their professional and personal lives.

'Swadhina' is to eradicate the epidemic of human trafficking and prevent the occurrence of domestic violence from Nityananda Kati Gram Panchayat by providing comprehensive capacity-building support and research backup to the local government, NGOs, CBOs, and the communities of the area.



Food Security

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY, IMPROVE NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



A newly constructed training centre building was inaugurated for the purpose of organic farming to collect and preserve the traditional seed bank. This centre with its 9 acre farmland aims to develop into a model demonstration facility for sustainable farming practices. The local farmers will participate in training to raise organic produce for sale in urban markets and formation of SHG's.

To improve nutrition and health outcomes through community-based approach led by women through environmentally sustainable systems, approach to food availability, food safety and quality.

Health

St. Joseph Nursing Home

Nursing is the backbone of patient care, without which hospitals and doctors cannot fulfill their role. St. Joseph's Nursing School aims to address this developmental challenge by providing young girls of the region access to high quality nursing training and employment generation leading to transformational impact in the area.



St. Joseph Hospital and Nursing Training Institute

Established in November'2011, St Joseph's is a multi-speciality hospital located at Phulpahari in the rural outskirts of Midnapore town. It addresses the healthcare needs of the forested Jangalmahal districts of Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia with a vast population of tribal and socio-economically backward classes. Today, the hospital is a beacon of hope and healing for the citizens of this region of West Bengal.



Goethals Memorial Health Centre

Our Specialised services

- PATHOLOGY
- ULTRASONOGRAPHY
- DIGITAL X-RAY
- CARDIOLOGY
- PULMONOLOGY
- GASTROENTEROLOGY
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- DOCTOR CONSULTATION



Extension Centers



Sindhu Tara training centre, Digha



Serampore Asha Agriculture and Horticulture Farm



St. Joseph's Hospital, Midnapore



SKC. Training Centre



Nazareth Farmers' Training Centre Balihati



A site for a School for the differently abled children, Baduria



SKC Extension Training Centre, Kharghore



Palbari Training Centre

UP Coming Events

Community Empowerment Project Team organizes the following programme during the month February

- World Cancer Day Observance on 4th February, 2022
- One Billion Rising program on 14th February, 2022
- World Day of Social Justice celebration on 21st February, 2022

Sustainable Community Development Project Team organises the following programme during the month of February

- 4/02/2022- world cancer day
- 14/02/2022- One billion rising
- 22/02/2022- sports day for dhapa study center
- 23/02/2022-sports day for vaishali study center.

LAST MONTH EVENTS

- 26.10.21 Inauguration of the Empower Computer Academy
- 26.10.21 Inauguration of the Stitching Academy
- 14.11.21 Children Day Celebration
- 16.12.21 Christmas celebration with 500 children from ward number 56,58 & 80
- 17.12.21 Christmas joy sharing with 200 sick and elderly
- 21.12.21 Christmas programme for our partners of Seva Kendra Calcutta
- 23.12.21 Christmas Celebration at Seva Kendra Calcutta with his Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza. Featuring: THE NATIVITY PLAY

