

APRIL 25

SEVA KENDRA CALCUTTA

Education Against All Odds

Despite heavy rains, the Vidya Prakash project in Solo Bigha continued to support children, adolescents, and families through education and awareness programs. 59 children attended regular study classes, while 53 joined extracurricular sessions of drawing, yoga, and games. 15 youth received competitive exam coaching, and 45 adolescents participated in a health session on hygiene, nutrition, and early marriage awareness. The weekly Help Desk and house visits guided families on government schemes, admissions, and counseling.

A highlight was the success of three Class III students who learned Bengali vowels through creative paper-cutting methods. Looking ahead, the project will focus on parent-teacher meetings, health awareness, indoor sports, and continued academic support—keeping alive the mission of empowering young minds and strengthening the community.



Community Spirit in Action

This month, the Help Desk became a bridge of hope for many families in Solo Bigha. From school admissions to filling bank forms, the guidance provided has reduced stress and built confidence among parents. By ensuring access to government schemes and personal counseling, the project is fostering a more self-reliant community.

Small Steps, Big Impact

Three Class III students, once struggling with Bengali vowels, now proudly read and write using creative paper-cutting techniques. Their achievement is more than academic—it is a story of perseverance, patience, and the power of innovative teaching. These small victories remind us that every child has the potential to shine when given the right support.



From Classrooms to Communities – Ward 57

The Ward 57 project in Kolkata continued to empower children, women, and youth through education, skills, and health initiatives despite challenges during the Ramadan season. 33 children attended regular tuition classes, supported by group discussions that showed progress in reading, writing, and future aspirations.

Skill-building remained strong with 18 adolescent girls completing Mehendi classes, while jewellery workshops inspired women and youth to explore income opportunities. Partnerships with flower vendors and temple priests laid the foundation for an eco-friendly Agarbatti-making initiative that promotes both livelihood and sustainability. Health remained a priority, with a skin disease camp reaching 103 community members and a CAG meeting addressing sanitation and infrastructure concerns.

A highlight of the month was the inspiring journey of Aarti Bhuia, a homemaker who, with project support, began working as a hospital clerk—balancing family duties with financial independence. Looking ahead, April will see SHG exhibitions, livelihood workshops, health camps, and cultural celebrations, all aimed at strengthening resilience and opportunity within the community.



Fighting Substance Abuse & TB Among Sealdah's Street Children

The Prevention of Substance Abuse and Tuberculosis (PSAT) Project at Sealdah continued its dedicated efforts in April 2025 to protect and empower street children, adolescents, and families living in vulnerable conditions.

Throughout the month, the team carried out regular field visits at Sealdah station and surrounding areas, identifying new cases, providing follow-up support, and raising awareness about substance abuse and tuberculosis. Two children were successfully admitted to Abhilasha Niketan hostel in Madhyamgram, while one TB patient received continuous treatment at Goethal Memorial Hospital. Relief efforts also included the distribution of 30 mosquito nets to families in Narkeldanga.

Community engagement remained strong, with a Mother's Meeting at SKC highlighting hygiene, documentation for school admission, and the importance of children's education. A baseline survey across Sealdah, Moula-ali, Dharmatala, and Park Circus mapped 173 street children and 78 homeless families, strengthening the foundation for future interventions.

The month also carried moments of joy—nurse Sayanika celebrated her birthday with 40 children at Seva Kendra Calcutta, sharing biryani and care.

Looking ahead, the project will focus on hostel admissions, school enrolments, and creative activities like drama, storytelling, and drawing, ensuring that vulnerable children not only receive protection but also experience learning, dignity, and hope.

