





-  **Name of the Project:** 'Asha Ki Kiran'- A Ray of Hope through Education & Ecological farming.
-  **Funded by:** SAC - Stichting Actie Calcutta.
-  **Project Period:** April 2022 – March 2024.
-  **Area of Operation:** Number of villages covered- Balihati farming community at SKC's Nazareth Training Center under Borkola no. 7 GP1 of Rupnarayanpur in West Midnapur district.



Beneficiaries:

99 house-hold with 407 population

Number of direct beneficiaries - categorize by age and gender

Total 99 direct Households.

Age group:

- Age Group 0-12 yrs = 69
- Age Group 13-19 yrs = 75
- Age Group 20-35 yrs = 112
- Age group 36 yrs & above= 151

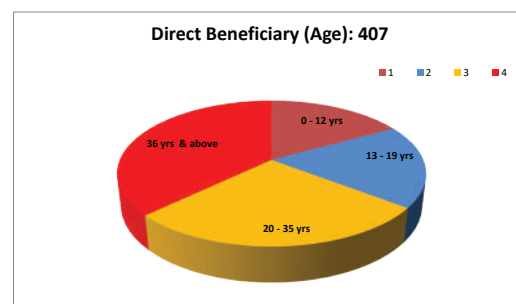
Total direct beneficiaries= 407

Gender:

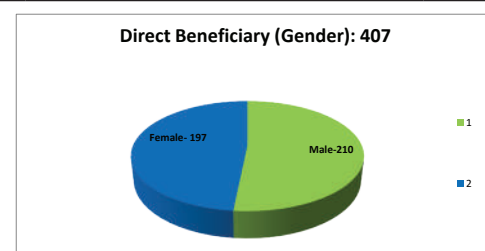
- Total no. of Male in Project area = 210
- Total no. of Female in Project area = 197

Total no of direct beneficiaries = 407

1	Total no of Male in Project area	210
2	Total no of Female in Project area	197
3	Total no of Direct Beneficiaries	407



1	Age Group 0 - 12 yrs	69
2	Age group 13 - 19 yrs	75
3	Age Group 20 - 35 yrs	112
4	Age Group 36 yrs and above	151
		407



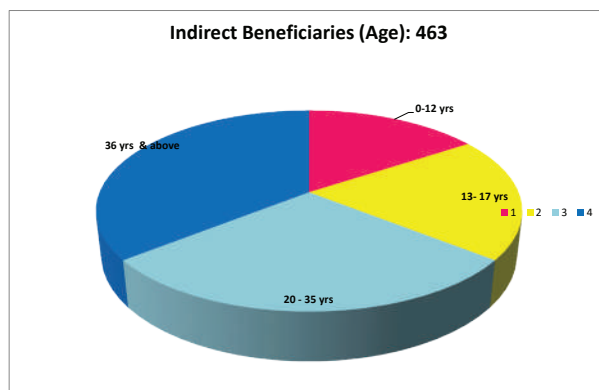
Number of indirect beneficiaries– categorize by age and gender Total 114 indirect Households 463

Age group:

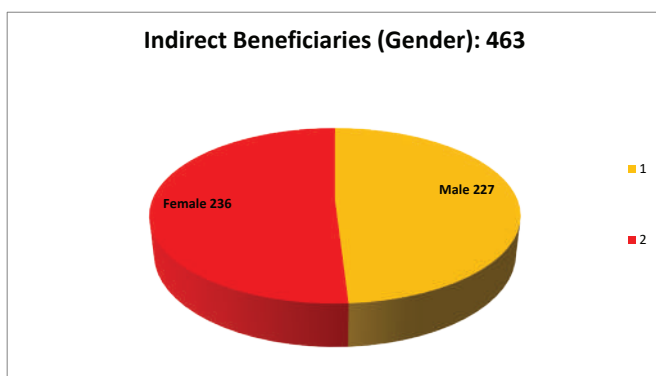
- Age Group 0-12 yrs = 73
 - Age Group 13-19 yrs = 92
 - Age Group 20-35 yrs = 133
 - Age group 36 yrs & above= 165
- Total indirect beneficiaries = 463**

Gender:

- Total No. of Male = 227
- Total No. of Female = 236
- **Total No. of indirect beneficiaries = 463**



1	Age Group 0 - 12 yrs	73
2	Age group 13 - 19 yrs	92
3	Age Group 20 - 35 yrs	133
4	Age Group 36 yrs and above	165
		463



1	Total No. of Male	227
2	Total No. of Female	236
3	Total No. of Indirect Beneficiaries	463

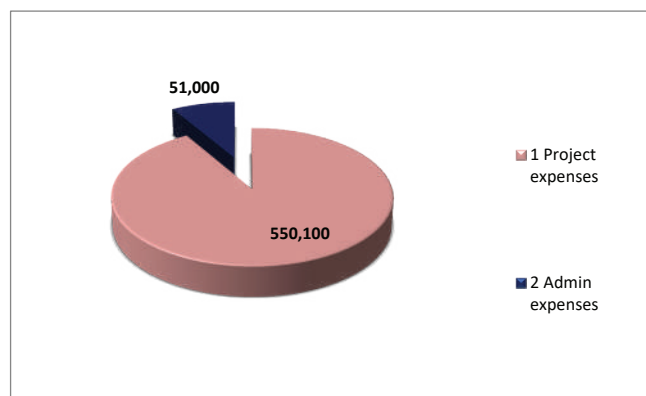
Budget Allocation: Project Expenses & Admin Expenses.

Project Expenses & Admin Expenses.

Project Expenses: Rs. 550,100

Admin Expenses: Rs. 51,000

Project Goal: Improve the academic performance of the deprived students by delivering quality educational coaching support for their all-round growth and development and strengthening the farmer's community through hands on training on ecological farming practices.



1	Project expenses	550,100
2	Admin expenses	51,000

Project Objectives:

- To enroll the need based rural children especially the slow learners, irregular and deprived students, who have performed poorly due to financial constraint and neglect from family.
- To create a friendly learning approach by enhancing an innovative educational techniques leading to learning outcomes and simultaneously promoting co-curricular activities and inculcating good values among the students, in the coaching centers.
- To provide the farmers with hands- on training on better methods of farming and educate them on ecological farming, enhancing their knowledge and skills for sustainable development of agriculture.
- To promote the efficient use of natural resources such as land, water etc. and other inputs like chemicals, fertilizers, seeds etc. simultaneously with increase in productivity of different crops through ecological farming mechanization.

- To build Knowledge based awareness in the community, especially among women on social, environmental and health issues by sharing inputs, information and participatory learning to prevent violence, promote safety, and reduce social and ecological degradation.

Project Activities:

- Total 30 students are receiving knowledge-based coaching according to their school syllabus, along with moralistic learning, through meditation, yoga, painting, sports, rhymes and other extracurricular activities. The academic Performance of 15 girls and 6 boys students has improved and is really impressive.



- The extracurricular activities like meditation, yoga, freehand exercise, art and craft works, Voluntary activities by the children like cleaning and gardening in the center, encouraging children for active participation in indoor and outdoor games.

- Total 5 orientation programmes were conducted with 48 families (As the Project team has identified them through home survey) where 31 male and 82 female had participated. The priority of these meetings was to involve village people and to earn their trust so that they can send their children to the coaching centers and actively be involved in the Income Generation activities.



- Total 10 Guardians and caregivers meetings were conducted for the parents of 30 students , discussing issues related to both academic and personal development.
- Community awareness building for mostly women were encouraged, to attend knowledge based transformation discussions to make them understand about their responsibility to provide input on social, environmental and health issues, to stand out preventing violence, abuse and to promote safety while staying with family and make them responsible and careful towards their children.
- With the help of SKC trainers, the hands-on training on nutrition garden and ecological farming was conducted for 27 men and the women farmers in Balihati, with proper practical demo. This has helped the villagers to fulfill their nutritional needs and to generate more income in less time with the efficient use of natural resources.
- Women upliftment in Balihati was given a special boost with the formation of 'Ekta group', which comprised of 07 women participants , who actively take up small orders of sewing from local vendors and earn to support their own families.



- Observation of special days and events like the Republic day, Independence day, Environment day, Teacher's day, Children's Day and Women's Day were celebrated in the Balihati Training center with the help of the students and the local community members.



- Home visits and counseling at target Households to identify the differently able children, total 7 special children were identified at Balihati and are given special care and attention.



- Rapport Building with the GPs, the ICDS center, ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers, health clinics and the banks. MFI's etc. to avail opportunities and facilities.



- Staff monthly follow-up and review meeting for proper collaboration and synchronization in terms of workflow with a major focus to fulfill project activities, within planned time frame and to meet the desired outcome of the project.



Achievements:

- The deprived students are receiving the Educational support from Balihati coaching centre by three trained educators. Hence the slow learners, irregular and deprived students are now becoming regular, apart from study they are also engaged in many extracurricular activities for their all round growth and development.
- 7 slow learners and 2 drop-out students were mainstreamed into the formal education system.
- Total 52 families are practicing sustainable ecological farming in their house holds , enhancing their nutrition value and financial condition.
- The Ekta sewing Group has successfully delivered about 400 cotton hang bags to promote a plastic free environment with a message "SAY NO TO PLASTIC" and the members of the group has also generated an income of Rs. 10,000 (i.e., Rs.25 X 400 bags) and the profit has been shared among themselves and now the group is on its way to encourage other women of the community, so that they can also earn and support their families.
- Out of 7 special child identified in Balihati, 5 children were successfully able to apply and receive their vital documents like the Aadhaar card and disability certificate , due to the project initiative.



Impact:

- The impact of the Educational coaching for the deprived children from the farmer's community is greatly visible. As all the 30 students have performed extremely well in their School exams and have been promoted to the next standard . This result have encouraged others to join the coaching centre, hence new enrollments have been observed in last few months.
- Socio- Economic situation of total 12 women and their family has changed with the help of SKC trainers and teachers through sewing and other activities.
- A Gender balance in society can be observed because women are also becoming a major part of generating livelihood for their families.
- With the initiation of the project in the area, there have been more participation by the community members in various social events, mainly women are actively involved in several project activities.
- With the help of home visit, capacity building and awareness programme conducted regularly by the project team, the farming community have been able to incorporate new ideas for ecological farming and many ways to engage men and women in income generation programmes and social activities.



Stories of Change:

Case study 1:

Title: 'Include the excluded'.

Venue: Balihati Village, Rupnarayanpur (West Midnapur)

Reported by: Chanchal Sharma.

During the household survey at Balihati, we found a 'Differently able child' named Aditi Rai. A 6-year-old girl child, who could not walk by her own, from a very marginalized household. Her parents seemed very helpless, especially the mother, as her child could not walk and go to school, whereas the other children of her age would go to the school and play. After a detailed discussion with her parents, they are sending her to Balihati coaching center, where she is studying and even playing with other children. She also has made many friends and is happy to come in the center, hence no more isolated.

To our great astonishment we found that Aditi did not even have the 'Aadhaar card' which is a vital document of identification now-a-day. When we asked her parents about that, they said that what is the purpose of Aadhaar card, when their daughter cannot walk or go to School. So a special motivation was given to the parents and they had taken all the initiative to make her Aadhaar card. So she finally received her unique identification- the Aadhaar card, which is a very vital document for every citizen residing in India.

The Education team are presently, in the process to motivate her parents to make the 'Disability certificate', which is an important document for availing any kind of entitlements. Simultaneously rapport is made with a renowned 'Child Care Center' at Dantan for the differently able children, so that Aditi can be enrolled in the special care center, which will expertise her in various skills, giving her a promising bright future.

Case study 2:

Title: 'Education is the key to success'.

Venue: Balihati Village, Rupnarayanpur (West Midnapur)

Reported by: Raimoni Hansda.

Anjali Hansda of Class II, residing in the Balihati Village in West Midnapur District. After the initiation of the project 'Asha Ki Kiran', in Balihati during the baseline survey the Education team noticed Anjali, who was unable to identify Bengali Alphabets, hence she could not read. But after attending the coaching and with regular attention from the Educators for one year, she could clearly identify the letters as well as read clearly.

She also came out with flying colors in her school examination and was promoted to class III this year. She now has shown great interest in her study and do not wait for the parents to tell her to study but revise her lessons whenever she has time. She is regular to the School as well as in the coaching center. Her parents are very happy and are grateful for this Educational support by SKC. Hence through the project SKC was able to reach out and mainstream many Irregular, marginalized, drop-outs, slow learners and Child labour into formal schooling.

