

# SAMBANDH

(Psycho-Social Behavioral Changes and Best Practices Project for Truck Drivers)



**Name of the Project:**

‘Sambandh’, is a relationship development program for truck drivers, designed to facilitate psycho-social and behavioral changes for the betterment of their professional and personal lives.

**Funded by:**

Maersk Group of Companies

**Project Period:**

Ongoing since April 2016

**Districts Covered:**



The areas of operation has been highlighted in green colour



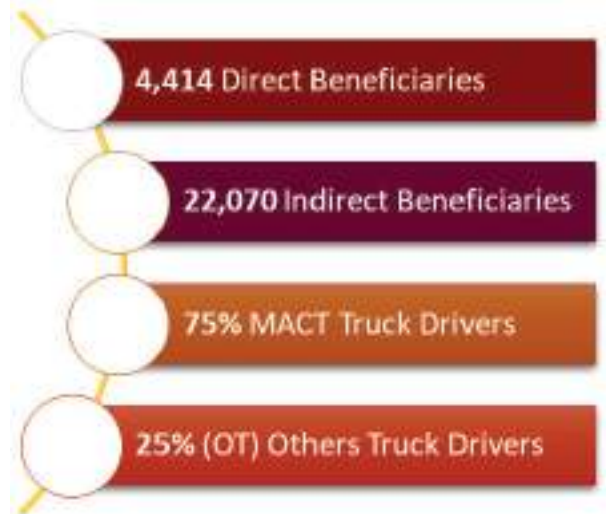
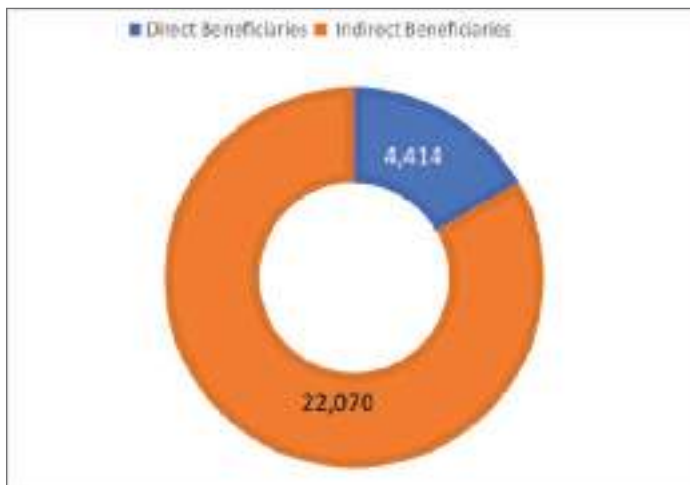
## Operational Areas of Project SAMBANDH:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Ward/Area/ Panchayat	Parking and Logistics
1.	Kolkata	Ward No. 79, 80	Jainkunj Parking, Mukhiya Transport, Jain Kunj Community, Dhobiatalao, Sonai Parking, TN Singh Transport and 15-16 Parking
2.	Howrah	Ward No. 35	Jayguru Transport (Shalimar), Umang Transport, Dayal Parking, Super Translink and Kona parking.
3.	Hooghly	Ward No. 12, 14 & 18	Dankuni Zone Parking, Himalaya Plaza, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL Warehouse)
4.	East Medinipur	Ward No. 8, 14,17, 20	A. L Logistics Private Limited (Talpukur), LOKC parking, CEVA Logistics (India) Pvt.Ltd, Haldia Dock Complex gate (Haldia Port Area), Dhunseri South Asian Petrochem Limited, MCPI Pvt. Ltd (Jhikurkhali), Royal Dhaba and Speedways Logistics (Dighasipur).
5.	West Medinipur	Rupnarayanpur Gram anchayat (Block- Kharagpur)	Patihar Complex, Khan Parking, Kaka Hotel & parking, Jaymatadi Parking, Mallick parking, Kajla Parking, Jamuna Dhaba, Sabetri Dhaba, Bhai Bhai Dhaba, Chowrangee Parking, TCI Parking, and Rashmi Metallic Parking
6.	North 24 Parganas	Chhoyghoria Gram Panchayat	Central Warehouse Corporation parking (CWC), TATA Parking, Lakhi Parking
		Gopalnagar Gram Panchayat	Shefali Sushoma parking, Jayantipur Bazar ground, Bongaon Mahakuma Paribahan Shromik Union, Bhaichung parking, Bhata parking, Doctor parking, Ram Babu parking, Bhai Bhai parking, Dutta parking, Mondal parking, Sunil Saha parking, Kansona Parking, Media Parking, Ghosh Parking, Hasirani Parking
		Aturia Gram Panchayat	Katiahat Ghojadanga Parking
		Shahistanagar Gram Panchayat	Pradhan Parking, Madam Parking, Bhai Bhai Parking, Anando Parking, Biswas Parking, and Choto Pradhan Parking
		Kalupur Gram Panchayat	Bimal Pal Parking

## Project Goals:

Truck drivers, as beneficiaries of healthcare activities, skill training and relationship building exercises with the important stakeholders and supporters create an impact in the logistics industry and improve their social and economic security.

## Project Beneficiaries:



## Budget Allocation:

Direct Project Cost: **97%**

Indirect Project Cost: **3%**



## Project Objectives:

- **Environment wellbeing:** To sensitize truck drivers, transportation staff, children and community on Environment, importance of planting tree, means to reduce carbon footprints, adverse effects of pollution on the planet etc. in a wholistic way.
- **Physical Wellbeing:** To provide humanitarian support mainly in preventive health by conducting health, hygiene, and sanitization camps, reducing ergonomic hazards through wellness camp, prominence on healthy eating habits and cooking process through nutritional camps for truck drivers at both Private as well as Government parking areas of West Bengal.
- **Mental Wellbeing:** To provide Counseling support to truck drivers and family members in strengthening mental health and improve coping mechanisms during/post pandemic. Also, to bring about behavioral changes and reduce high-risk behaviors among truck drivers.
- **Social Wellbeing:** Improving living and working place of truck drivers via participatory approach engaging family members and relevant stakeholders. Creating various platforms to enhance skills of women belonging to truck driver's families through skill enhancing training programs and supporting their children in enhancing education through coaching support. Sensitizing drivers' communities on governmental social schemes and liasioning with relevant stakeholders.
- **Capacity building, learning, and development:** Awareness and Capacity Building both for project staff and for core beneficiaries of project through workshops and training program and relevant use of IEC Materials.



## Project Activities:

### 10. A. Plantation Drive and Environmental Literacy Camps



Plantation drives in different districts of West Bengal were one of the special events for Project Sambandh (financial year 2022-2023).

- The first Plantation Drive Campaign **দ্বি-কোম্পানী** was organized at Central Warehouse Corporation Parking, Bongaon, North 24 Parganas near India Bangladesh Border, involving Parking authority, Land Port Authority of India, truck drivers, transportation staff, Local community stakeholders, St. Joseph's School Children, and faculty, thus marking it as the official launch for the year.
- The entire campaign was designed keeping some of the important aspects, such as pre-plantation site survey, discussion, permission, and approval from relevant stakeholders (Forest Department, local Panchayat, Police and Border Security Force personnel), identification of members, and formulation of aftercare committee (post Plantation), plants selection based on stakeholders' preference, accessibility to either local nursery or Self-Help-Groups, logistics for transportation of plants to the parking site. Selection of Volunteers for Work.



## Outcome:

- Overall, **500** people directly participated and in the Plantation Drive Campaign, which involves beneficiaries, local and rural community, volunteers, post-plantation care committee/groups and other support groups.
- 12** Post Plantation Care Committee/ groups formulated for each area (Plantation Drive) each consisting of approximately 5 members, and the members were sensitized to look after the plants post plantation.

### A Glimpse of Overall Plantation Drive - Project Sambandh (FY-2022-2023)

Sl. No.	Parking Areas & others	Districts	Month & Year	Number of Plants	Plants Survived	Post Plantation Committee/ Groups
					(March 2023)	March (2023)
1	CWC Parking, Bongoan	North 24 Pargana	21st & 22nd August 2022	199	194	Active
2	Chhoyghoria Church, Chhoyghoria					
3	Sambandh field office, Chhoyghoria					
4	Khan Parking, Bongaon					
5	Jainkunj Parking, Jainkunj	Kolkata	27th August 2022	50	137	Active
6	Sri Saraswati Vidyalaya, Jainkunj					
7	BSS Club, Jainkunj					
8	KMC ward 56 & 58 Muslim Camp, Kacharipara, Motijheel, Dhapa		19th September & November 2022	100		
9	Steel Authority of India Ltd., Dankuni	Hooghly	29th August 2022	100	100	Active
10	Steel Authority of India Ltd., Dankuni		7th November 2022			
11	L.C.L Logistics, Haldia	East Medinipur	8th September 2022	340	250	Active
12	A.L. Logistics, Haldia					
13	Bhawanpur Police Station, Haldia					
14	MCPI Ltd.,Haldia					
15	Speedways, Haldia					
16	Pondapata	Jhargram	21st September 2022	900	889	Active
17	Borosole					
	<b>Total - 17</b>	<b>Total - 5</b>	24th September 2022	<b>Total - 1,689</b>	<b>Total - 1,570</b>	

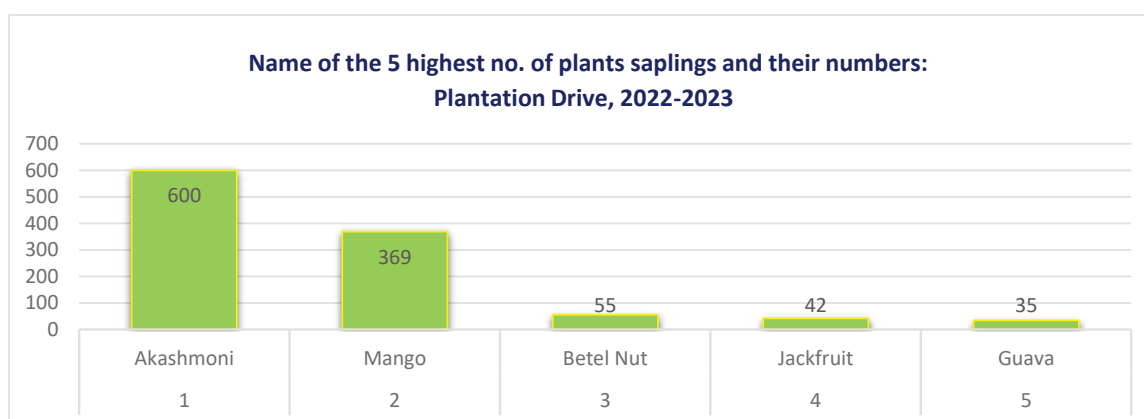
### 10. A.1 Mini Forest and Fruit Orchard Creation:

One and a half acres of land utilized in creating a Mini Forest and Orchard in Pondapata and Borsole village of Kendugari No.7 Gram Panchayat, Gopiballavpor Block 1, Jhargram districts of West Bengal. With the support of the local community, 600 Akashmoni tree saplings (for mini forest) and 300 mango tree saplings (for Orchard) plantations have been done.



Mini Forest and Orchard Creation, Jhargram, West Bengal	
Village Name	Pondapata & Borsole
Gram Panchayat, District, State	Kendugari, Jhargram , West Bengal
Block	Gopiballavpor Block 1
Pradhan Name	Mr. Madhav Hansda (Kendugari no.7)
Name of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (Post Plantation care committee members)	Kapurmulu SHGs, Borsole SHGs
Main Members of SHGs	Hiramoni Besra & Laxmi Murmu
Local Contributors for Mini Forest	Prasenjit Hembram, &Pradhan Murmu
Local Contributors for Fruit Orchard Creation	Jaget Besra, Daso Murmu & Dukhi Hembram

### 10. A.2 Highest no. of plant saplings and their coverage:



The other plant saplings were Lemon, Coconut, Water Apple, Blackberry, Timber plants, etc. planted as per the preferences of the designated stakeholders.



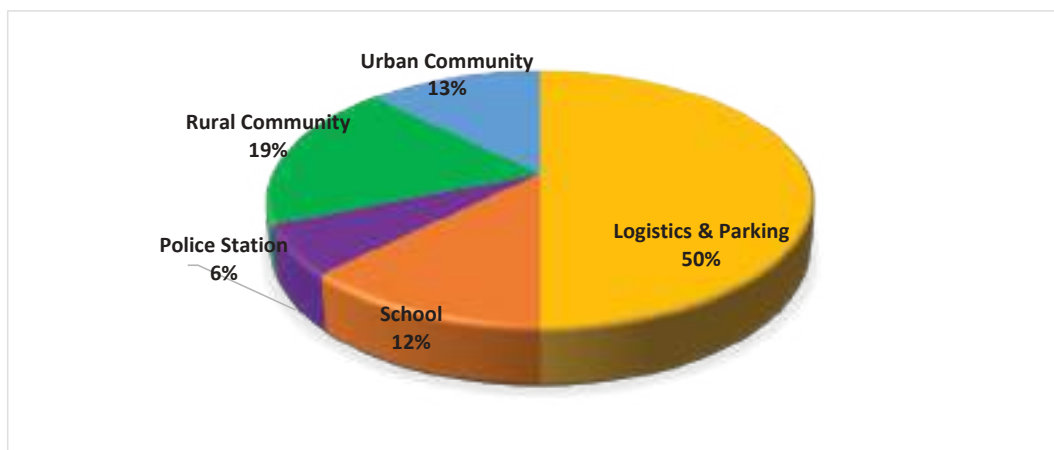
### A.3 Plantation Drive Campaign & Camps Coverage (location Specific):

12 Camps were conducted for planting 1689 saplings in different districts in the span of five months opting for different campsites based on permission and approval. In the entire Plantation Drive following campsites were selected 8 parking of 5 districts, 2 schools, 2 police stations, 3 urban communities, and 3 rural communities where 1 Orchard and Mini Forest (Jhargram, West Medinipur) were created with the involvement of 2 self-help group.

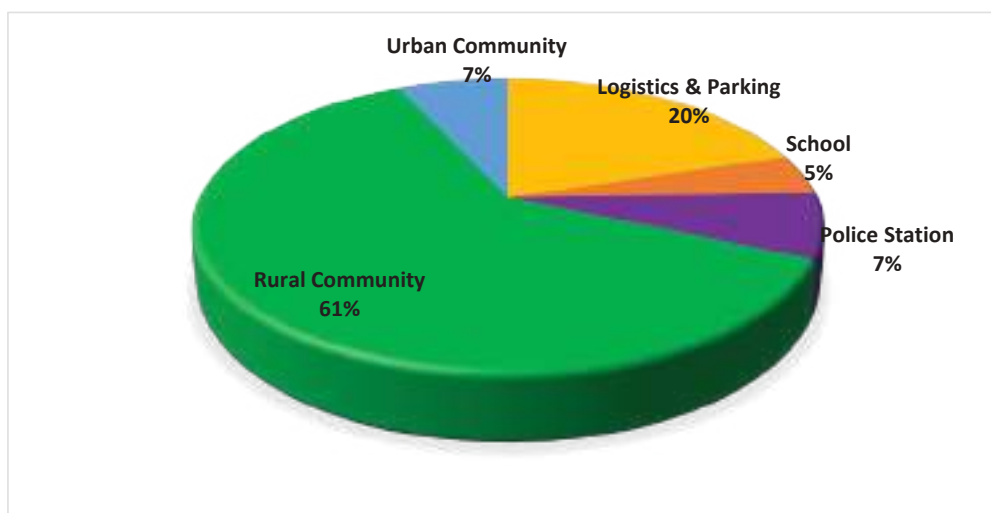


100 tree saplings were contributed from Bongaon Forest Department for Plantation Drive.

## Percentage of Plantation Drive Camp Coverage: Parking vs Other Camp site



## Percentage of Plantation done in the Campsite: Parking vs Other Camp site



### A.4 Environment Literacy Program:

The environment literacy program was designed to understand in general the importance of ecology and its role in mitigating the risk of climate crises, implementation approach, and impact of the entire plantation drive.

- **8 sessions for 3 months** were organized by Seva Kendra Calcutta's Environmental experts for the staff. The adopted model for better impact was training the trainer approach; ensuring staff are thorough and acquainted with knowledge and skills to implement the work smoothly at the Project site. Also, to sensitize the participants on Environment care during and after the post-Plantation Drive.
- **53 staff members** of Seva Kendra Calcutta along with interns participated in this workshop.





## Outcome

- The session learnings were further percolated to truck drivers by the staff during “**Drivers’ Baithak**”, as a result 76 truck drivers directly benefited from those sessions.
- It also opened the window and concept for having a ‘**Green Dhaba**’ in the parking area. As a result, 110 vegetable saplings were planted in a few selected parking spaces and in nearby communities, jointly in West Medinipur.
- In addition, as an impact, local community involvement also resulted in **Mini Nursery** creation. **536 saplings** were planted in Serampore (Hooghly) and **83** plant saplings in Balihati, (West Medinipur).

## **B. Preventive Medical Camps and Counseling workshops:**

Preventive health checkups camps, and counseling sessions were conducted in five districts of West Bengal.



### **B.1 Medical Health Camps (Blood Tests) for Truck Drivers and Transportation Staff:**

- **581** Truck Drivers and some of their family members benefitted from **10** free Blood Test check camps.
- This medical health camp provided **6** different types of diagnostic tests mainly Hemoglobin, Liver Function Test, Glucose Random Test, Creatinine, Calcium, and Blood grouping (need-based). The camp also had provisions to get blood pressure checked on-site.
- **2** Medical Health Centers were involved in conducting mobile medical health camps in selected parking.





**Outcome:** It was identified post camps that most of the truck drivers had deranged Liver function values of nearly **42%**, **25%** were reported with Low Hemoglobin, **15%** were reported with High Glucose and the remaining **32%** were found to have normal test reports. Project Staff contacted them on a one-to-one basis and required counseling and further interventions were explained to them.

## B.2 Eye Screening Camps for Truck Drivers and Transportation Staff:



- **461** Truck Drivers benefitted from **10** free Eye Screening camps. Truck drivers were provided with free spectacles and prescribed eye medicines.
- **301** prescribed spectacles and **83** prescribed eye drops were provided to Truck Drivers.
- **33** Truck Drivers from the onsite camp were identified as the first-time spectacle user, who got diagnosed at the campsite and were able to adhere to the intervention suggested.
- After doing a dipsticks analysis of camps, it was found that most of the truck drivers have issues related to **“Near Vision”**.
- The other findings revealed that truck drivers also have issues related to allergy, redness, and dry, watering eyes specific to their work area mainly in West Medinipur. Eye drops were prescribed, and eye care-related information was shared with them.
- **3** Optometrists were involved with these eye screening camps.







**Outcome:** Dipstick Analysis of Report revealed that **54%** of truck drivers had issues related to Near Vision. Cataract cases were found to be **4%** altogether. The identified truck drivers were informed and counselled by the optometrist for further treatment.

### B.3 First Aid Box Distribution Camps for Truck Drivers and their Family:

- **500** First Aid Boxes were distributed among truck drivers and their families, in **6** different camps.
- The First Aid Box contained **24** first aid management consumables (1 antiseptic solution, 10 strip bandage, 6 antacid (over the counter), 1 antiseptic cream, 1 topical antiseptic for cut and bruise, 1 cotton roll, 1 sterile gauze, 1 adhesive tape, 1 roll bandage, 1 first aid box) with IEC Materials for a need-based interventions.
- All these consumables were discussed and verified by the registered practitioner prior to distribution. Staff and First aid instructor also explained on the usage while distribution to Truck Drivers.
- Staff's interaction with few Truck Drivers post distribution revealed that the practice of keeping the First Aid Box inside the truck is specific to the need, preference, and distance they travel.
- The highest First Aid Kits distributed in Haldia (**56%**), and Garden Reach (**21%**).
- All long-distance truck drivers mainly from Southern part of India were found to have first aid box inside their truck (reported from Central Warehouse Corporation Parking, North 24 Parganas).





## B.4 Counselling and First Aid Management and Training Program for Truck Drivers:

- **649** Truck Drivers benefitted from the Counselling and First Aid Management and Training Program, and **10** camps were organized in different parking areas of **5** districts of West Bengal. Wellness (Yoga & Exercise), Nutrition, Deaddiction, Cyber security, the ill effect of drink and driving, Health, and hygiene (Anemia, Hypertension, Diabetes, AIDS, and others).



## C. Drivers Baithak and Call & Connect for Truck Drivers:



- **542** Truck Drivers participated in Drivers Baithak in **34** camps.
- Topics were mainly on Need Identification, Awareness Building on the Environment, the importance of Plantation, Health, Cyber Security, relevant topics shared through IEC Materials, Stakeholders Connect, Lawyers on the Spot (LOTS), Health Camp's benefits and misconceptions, Green Dhaba and Kitchen Garden creation in Dhabas & Parking.
- **64** Truck owners and truck drivers participated in **4** sessions of the LotS virtual training program. Among these participants, **9** truck owners from Bongaon Mahakuma Parivahan Shramik Union (BMPSU, Bongaon) have successfully registered with LOTS services.
- **476** Truck Drivers were connected through Call & Connect by the community mobilizers of the Project to find out the ground reality of parking areas, their needs, and issues of day-to-day lives and generate awareness.



## D. 'Lawyer On-The-Spot' (LOTS):

- Harassment, accidents, thefts, and seizures of commercial vehicles by officials and assaults against truck drivers are a key concern and they have been facing these unfair harassment for years. To address this issue, the road transport fraternity, the All-India Transporters Welfare Association (AITWA) launched India's first on-road legal help to truck drivers and transporters via a program called 'Lawyer on-the-Spot' (LOTS). The program is also recognized by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- Project Sambandh collaborated with the core team of LOTS and participated in the program for creating awareness among truck drivers, truck owners, parking managers, transport associations, and unions on these new initiatives.

### Outcome:

- As a result, 3 online training sessions were conducted in the months of December 2022, January 2023 and March 2023. Parking managers, truck drivers, truck owners, and members of Union and Association participated virtually from five districts of the Project area.
- **3** Online sessions were conducted (December, January, and March) in collaboration with LOTS.
- **75** Truck Owners and Truck Drivers joined, from different parking areas.
- Bongaon Mahakuma Paribahan Shramik Union (BMPSU Bongaon), Jainkunj Parking (Garden Reach), Steel Authority of India (Dankuni Warehouse), Balihati Kajla Parking (Kharagpur), A.L Logistics (Haldia).
- **11** Trucks from BMPSU from Bongaon, North 24 Parganas are in the process of registering in LOTS Registration Portal.

## E. Stakeholders' Meeting:

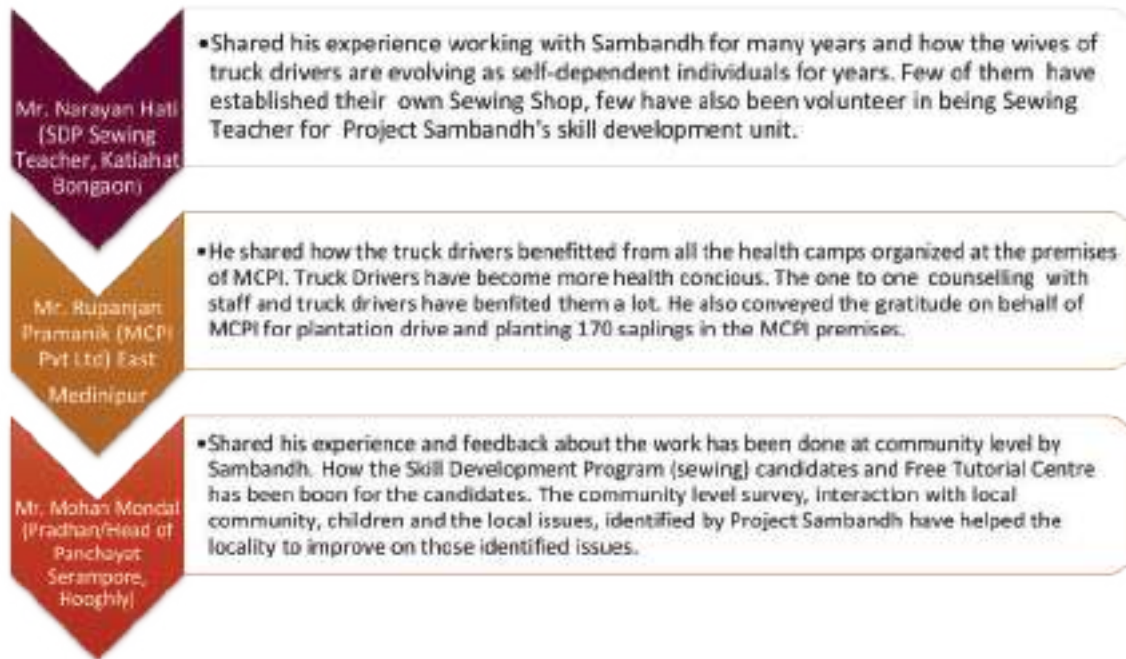
- Project Sambandh organized a Stakeholders' meeting on 9th December 2022 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Anthony Tushar Rodrick, the Director of Seva Kendra Calcutta at Kolkata.
- **35** Stakeholders, mainly Truck Drivers, transportation staff, Pradhan, Parking managers, Skill Development teachers, children, and staff were part of this program. They shared their extensive experience and feedback since their association with Project Sambandh.
- **20** children, from Free Tutorial Classes (FTC) of Jain Kunj, Kolkata, Divers' Community, and Sambandh's staff members performed a skit together, which had the specific message "How Project Sambandh has evolved over the period of time since its inception and brought a change in perception of and for Truck Drivers in the society".





## Outcome:

- The truck drivers present at the event felt acknowledged for being a part of the event as they got an opportunity to share their thoughts and a few memorable stories.
- In addition, a few of them got emotional while expressing their gratitude for being welcomed as chief guest of the program.



## F. Skill Development Program (SDP) Unit to Empower Truck Driver's Community:

### F.1. Stitching and Knitting:

- **87** candidates from 4 districts (Kolkata, West Medinipur, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas) were enrolled for the SDP Sewing training program, each of them successfully completed the course and received certificates from Seva Kendra Calcutta. Total **6** batches, each for **3** months short course from September 2022 to March 2023.
- Candidates learned **20** stitching items and have expertise mainly on **10** items (Petticoat, Jute Bags, Blouse, Churidar, School Dress, Baby Undergarments, etc).





## Virtual Students Engagement Program for Cross learning and experience sharing

99 candidates of Skill Development Program (Sewing and Solar) of 4 districts took part in the Virtual Students Engagement Program on 30th December 2022. Through their active participation, they had an opportunity to share and display their learned skill and talent with each other. They displayed and showed each other their handmade artwork and miniature version of items, assembled solar lanterns etc. Learned from the skill development classes while interacting with each other. This was new learning for all of them to come together to a single digital platform and share their experience and witness online interface meeting with each other.

### F.2 Solar & Renewable Source of Energy:

- **12** candidates enrolled for **3** months short course on SDP -Photovoltaic Solar Assembling Training Program for the period of September 2022 to December 2023.
- **24** Solar Lanterns assembled by the candidates.



### F.3 Skill Development Program (Sewing) and Closing Ceremony of 4 Districts of West Bengal:

- **4** centres' candidates of **4** districts mainly North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Kolkata, and West Midnapore of West Bengal took part in the closing ceremony jointly, held at Seva Kendra Calcutta, for the very first time on 30th March 2023.
- Candidates shared motivational stories on how the program was beneficial for them. They also suggested feedback on how this program could be made more engaging and effective in the future.
- Candidates (post-assessment) were also given a certificate of participation. Director of Seva Kendra Calcutta, different Project staff members and Special guests from Singer India Pvt Ltd. were present to grace the occasion.
- **16** candidates out of **87** have been identified as growing trainers from all **4** districts, in West Bengal.





### Outcome:

4 groups have been formed from these 4 districts – **Team Bandhan** (Balihati, West Medinipur), **Team Bunai** (Garden Reach, Kolkata), **Team Patkatha** (Serampore, Hooghly), **Team Anmol Zari** (Katiahat, North 24 Parganas).

### F.3.1 Exhibition Show and the Response:

- Project Sambandh organized an Exhibition show in which the Batch 14 students of SDP -Sewing participated on 30th March 2023 post completion of the felicitation ceremony.
- **87** SDP sewing applicants and 5 Sewing Instructors were invited for the ceremony from four districts (Hooghly, Kolkata, West Medinipur, and North 24 Parganas) of West Bengal in which only **50 %** of students could participate, the rest could not attend the program due to their festival.
- During the Exhibition show, all **4 teams**: Team Bandhan (Balihati, West Medinipur), Team Bunai (Garden Reach, Kolkata), Team Patkatha (Serampore, Hooghly), Team Anmol Zari (Katiahat, North 24 Parganas) displayed their beautiful artworks on jute bags, which gained everyone's attention and got an appreciation for their work.
- The students and teacher had an opportunity to discuss the future scope of work in line with stitching and knitting with the **Singer India Pvt Ltd** team present on the day.



### G. Free Tutorial Classes (FTC) for Truck Driver's Children:

- **124** children from three districts (Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, and North 24 Parganas) were provided tutorials and skill enhancement lessons. These children belonged to mixed groups both school-going children as well as dropout children from truck driver's community. They had an opportunity to learn from free tutorial classes from professionally trained teachers.
- **3** volunteer teachers for Science, Arts, and basic English spoken were enrolled mainly in Kolkata, Howrah, and Hooghly, and **1** computer training institution (ITRC Computer Institute) at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas was enrolled for a basic computer 3 months course.
- **204** classes conducted (August 2022 – March 2023) with an average of **85% to 90%** attendance.
- **75** Educational kits were distributed during the Children's Day celebration, which was associated with Project Sambandh as on November 2022 (Kolkata, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas). The kits mainly consist of a notebook, pen, pencil bag, and nutritious ready-to-drink items. **11** mosquito nets were also distributed to children with special needs.





## H. Special Days Celebration with Truck Drivers and their Family:

Truck drivers are amongst the hardest working people who have committed their lives to serving society. As a result, the staff ensures that these overlooked warriors and their family members, as well as stakeholders, have the chance to gather and celebrate together, so to strengthen their bond.

- **616** Truck Drivers took part in Special Days Celebration like Independence Day, World AIDS Day Awareness, Drivers & Stakeholders Meeting and Christmas Celebration, and Republic Day Celebration. **50** Truck Drivers and transportation staff exclusively participated in the World AIDS Day Awareness Rally on 1st December 2022 at MCPI Pvt. Ltd. Ground.
- **188** people of the Drivers' Community participated in programs such as Skill Development mainly on Sewing and Solar. Children too actively participated in Free Tutorial Classes. Children's Day, Republic Day, and Women's Day celebrations were some of the events, which were celebrated jointly.





## I. Information Education Communication (IEC) materials distributed to Truck Drivers and Transportation Staff:

- **1440** IEC materials and leaflets were distributed among truck drivers and transportation staff in **15** camps of **6** districts of West Bengal and parking areas.
- The main topics were as follows: Environment-Plantation Drive Campaign, Diarrhoea, Anemia, First aid, Eyecare & Spectacles, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Cyber security.

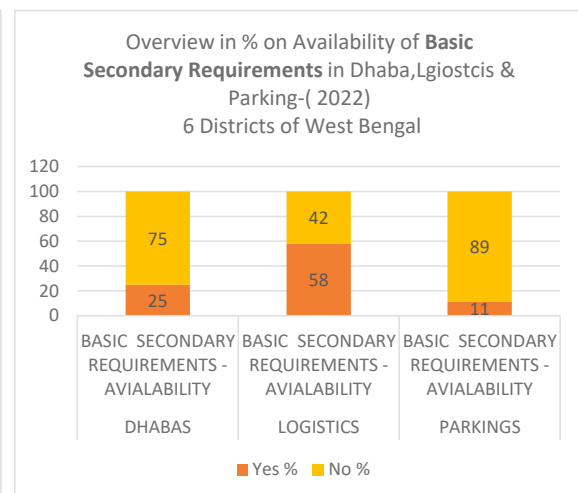
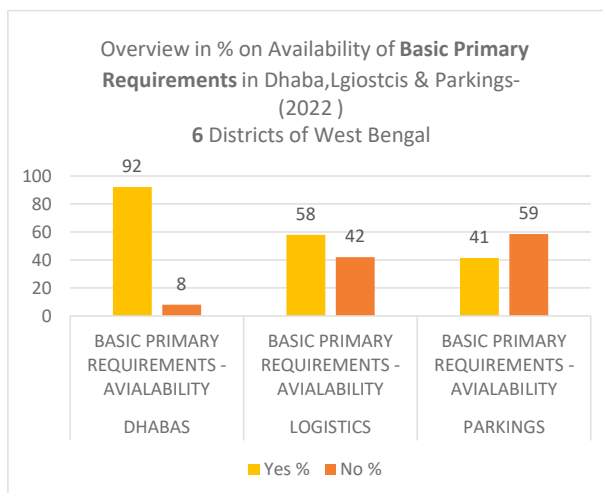


## J. Project Parking Mapping & Human Rights Commission advisory for Truck Drivers:

Project Sambandh conducted the survey on parking mapping of its functional parking areas in 6 districts (Kolkata, Hooghly, West Medinipur, West Medinipur, and North 24 Parganas) in the month of April 2022 - June 2022 and identified the future scope of work for the betterment of the Truck Drivers. Out of **53** selected points, **4** were Dhabas, **8** were Logistics and **41** were Parking. The findings were mainly in terms of identifying the availability of the following inside the working points.

- A) Basic primarily requirements:** which include -Availability of clean- food, water, toilet, and rest room facility.
- B) Basic secondary requirements:** which include -Availability of - First Aid Box, Security -Fire and general security, Vehicle tech support, Help Desk, Information board, and basic Healthcare support facilities.

### Specific findings are given below:



### Outcome:

- Creating Helpdesks, installation of Information Board, ensuring availability of First Aid box within premise for truck drivers were selected key areas identified to work for the next phase, as it requires cooperation and support of the premise in-charge. Few working points in North 24 Parganas have been identified and initial work been initiated.
- On a similar line, on 27th June 2022, the new advisory by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for protecting the Rights of Commercial Truck Drivers was issued, and it exclusively specified (in few of the pointers) the few mandates, each parking authorities and other associated needs to ensure for Truck Drivers in their premise like provision of clean drinking water, clean toilet with good water supply, food facility, rest room, fire security, CCTV etc.
- The same circular was shared with the different stakeholders too (mainly to the parking in-charge) to work collaboratively in the future by Project Staff in their specified locations.

## Story of Change:

In the heart of Rupnarayan village, Balihati, West Medinipur, West Bengal, a story of transformation unfolds through the narrative of Shipra Deuri, a 46-year-old woman who defied societal norms to embark on a remarkable journey of skill development (sewing).

Shipra devi's journey began with a three-month sewing and stitching course under Project Sambandh. Her goal was to elevate her machine stitching skills, with the overarching aim of improving her financial standing. Shipra Deuri, a living testament to the philosophy that age is no barrier to learning, proved that determination knows no bounds.

Hand stitching had been Shipra devi's childhood passion, but life's twists led her down a different path. Married at an early age, she faced the untimely loss of her husband when her son was a mere two years old. Undeterred by adversity, Shipra devi raised her son as a single mother while managing the family and running a small tea stall. Her path was laden with struggles, each hurdle surmounted with the unwavering goal of mastering her craft and progressing to new heights.

Project Sambandh became the pivotal platform that enabled Shipra Deuri to breathe life into her dreams. Here, she found not only a guide and teacher who imparted crucial skills previously beyond her reach but also a supportive community – a women's skill development group 'Bandhan'. Shipra devi emerged as a proud certified candidate and the front-line-trainer within the skill development unit, garnering popularity and admiration within her local community.

Her talent and perseverance became beacons of inspiration, and with the newfound machine stitching skills, Shipra devi's daily orders surged, bringing a radiant smile to her face. From 20 to 30 orders a day, her creations became sought-after in her locality. Beyond technical proficiency, the training instilled in Shipra a robust mental fortitude, boosting her confidence and sustaining her spirits. Shipra Deuri's story encapsulates the essence of Project Sambandh – an initiative that goes beyond imparting skills, fostering a sense of community and empowerment.







## Impact:

1. After the successful training for SDP Photovoltaic Assembling Training Program and information shared on importance and uses of solar lights through Drivers' Baithak, truck drivers are interested in learning solar training. Based on their interest Solar Knowledge Briefing Session was held for the truck drivers, stakeholders and official staff of A.L. Logistics Haldia on 2nd December 2022. Resource persons Mr. Mominul Islam and Mr. William Domingo came from Balihati to give a brief session based on their interest of solar lights. Truck drivers understood the benefits of having solar lanterns with them while driving on an empty road. Participants shared they want more session like this as they want to convert their home into solar home.



2. Handcrafted jute bag made by SDP candidate Sumita Manna (one of the selected trainers) from Balihati to show gratitude on behalf of whole SDP batch to Maersk Group of Companies for giving them the platform to achieve their dreams.



3. Sujata Khatoon, Candidate of SDP Sewing (November 2022) batch. She is from Bangihati, Serampore (Hooghly). Have completed 3 months sewing training program under Project Sambandh. She is now independent, taking care of her family and earning as well. This beautiful dress is one of her creations for a 3-year-old child. Project Sambandh has chosen her as a trainer.



4. Mr. Sehdab Hussain, a multi-axle truck driver from Uttarakhand (UK) is a motivation for driver's volunteering as Health Awareness in Blood Test Camp Haldia (November 2023). Misconception and lack of health awareness have been there among the truck drivers, but there are people like Sehdab who inspired his fellow truck drivers and motivate them to blood check in the health camp.

