6.5 An Education Project for the Children and Adolescents in the Calcutta Slums

Project Name: Joy for Kids.

Thematic Area: Education.

Funded by: Joy for Kids.

Project Period: April 2023 to March 2024.

Areas of Operation: Ward 58 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Study Centres: Vaishali, (25 & 26 PK Road), Dhapa, 38 No.GK Road, Kacharipara,Vaishali (Pottery) & Bibi Bagan.

Study Centre Activities:

- The tuition classes for the marginalized classes are continued being taught in the Vaishali, 38 G.K Road, Kacharipara, Dhapa & Bibi Bagan study centre.
- Teacher taught the students Bengali Alphabets, Bengali 2 Letter word, English Alphabets, Number, Rhymes, English to Hindi meaning, vowels, sense organ, Art & Craft, game activity, song & moral values.
- Everyday a total no. of 30 students appeared for the class.

25/26 No. P.K. Road Study Centre.

Teaching moral Values

38, G.K. Road Study Centre

Teaching action Song

Art & Craft session

Group Study

Rally & Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

On 5th June 2023 for the observance of World Environment Day. The emphasis of this year's theme was "Solutions to Plastic Pollution".

The Objective of the rally was to educate people and urge them to abstain from using plastic and keep the environment clean. The platform for the rally was created to take up the issues related to climate change and the environment with the motto of protection of trees, water bodies, and natural resource, conservation of environment, forests, nature, and correction of lifestyle and use of plastics. For this throughout the rally they also gave awareness through slogans like, "Go Green Go", "Less use of plastics". The participants of the rally held placards that carried messages

on the protection of the environment biodiversity and issues that are affecting the environment. Around150 people, including children, women, youth from different communities, stakeholders, and the Sergeants of Entally and Tangra police station participated in the rally. We were fortunate to have the assistance of our director, Fr. Anthony Rodrick for joining this event and motivating our community members. After the rally a plantation drive was also organized by the Community Action Group members & the local club members. The event was graced by the Councilor of Ward 58, Sri Sandipan Saha and planted 7 saplings of medicine and fruits tree at Vaishali Playground.

World Yoga Day

An Education Project for the children and adolescents in the Calcutta slum of Seva Kendra Calcutta observed the International Yoga Day on 21st June 2023 at Adarsh Hindi Vidyalaya. The objective of this program was to create awareness among the children about physical and mental health through yoga. A Yoga session was conducted by the instructor, Mr. Gopal Sonar, he shared the benefits of yoga for children such as it improves balance, strength, stamina and aerobic capacity. He had also shared that yoga and mindfulness provide psychological benefits in children.

Towards the end of the program, the Head Master of the school Mr. Jaideep Kumar shared a few words to express his gratitude towards Seva Kendra Calcutta for organizing this event. 70 students had participated in this session.

Yoga Day at Adarsh Vidyalaya

Case Study: Mainstreaming a dropout

Background: School dropout is a universal fact. Whatever be the reason, the mere fact that a child is not completing her/his school education is not virtuous. Such children, many a times fail to be an asset for the nation given their inability to contribute in any way. In our community dropout of children had become a major issue especially after the pandemic. Children discontinuing schooling for various reasons, is not the right practice as it could impact their future and overall development. This story of change can inspire other children to return to the path of education.

Problem: Tanu Hazra, a 13 year old young girl resides in 38 No. Gobinda Khattick Road of Ward 58 with her parents. Her mother is a domestic worker and father is unemployed but an addict. One of our social Mobilizer identified her for not going to school and playing around. Even after her mother insisted to go she refused to. So her parents decided to send her for work since she was not interested in academics.

Intervention: At 38 G. K Road, a study center was started for the marginalized children, especially for those who could not afford tuition fees. Our social mobilizer initiatedfree tutorial classes in this centre. After identifying Tanu, the social mobilizer visited her home and counselled her parents to insist more for her studies and explained to them as well as the child that children under 18 years of age are strictly prohibited to work. If they are seen from doing so, it will be considered as an unlawful act for which the child's parents might also have to be put behind the bars. Then girl understood the whole situation and after that she started to attend her classes to the study center. Now she is also going to school every day.