



Annual Report 2020-21



NAIHATI NEW LIFE SOCIETY

Estd: 2009

Message From The Founder – Dr. S. Sarkar



Pressing on to the Goals of Educating, Enlightening, Empowering and Emancipating for those who can't achieve by themselves...

As a teacher and an educationist I am entrusted with the responsibility of 'educating, enlightening, empowering and emancipating'- (4-Es) thousands of young children and their extended families, and I continue to pressing on to achieve these goals as long as I have the breath in me....!

Towards pursuing these '4-Es', I've firmly realized that there exists huge gaps in what a child is taught and what the child actually needs to be successful in life, and larger the gaps remain unresolved, the greater the discontentment follows in aftermath in life, and that's why there're so many youth in the society remain idle without purpose in life!

The Naihati New Life Society is founded on the premise to fill these gaps, instilling a new life of hope and purpose in the hopeless persons, beginning with the children, youth and women...

I warmly extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all my co-travelers, staff, friends and well-wishers for all your valued contributions in many forms and facets in pursuit of these '4-Es' and with your active co-operations, we're sure we will press on with greater valor and prudence, enabling as many young persons as we can in our lifetimes, to discover their strength and purpose in life in order for bringing the best out of them, till we reach the goal.

With these prudence and assurance, we're now on a special "Mission – Save Sundarbans".

Sundarbans – the world heritage, boasts of her largest bio-diversity with her rich cultural heritage... yet, bears the scourge of massive destructions and exploitations of the people and natural resources that form the biosphere and the nerve centre in entire South-Asia.

The exploited people of Sundarbans who strive to preserve the coastal ecology with Mangrove Forests – prime sources of carbon sequestration, need urgent intervention with a comprehensive program encompassing '4-Es'.

Friends, would you join us in this novel venture of educating and emancipating millions of powerless people of Sundarbans victims of multiple injustices and exploitations...?

For indeed I have seen the miseries of thousands of children, adolescents, young housewives being trafficked for economic and sexual gratification, and widows remain vulnerable without shelters and food with their kids! Therefore, may I hope to see you friends as co-travelers with us, pressing on till we achieve justice long due to them?

Mission

The mission of 'Naihati New Life Society' is to Collectivize, Educate and Empower the most Un-organized and Powerless Citizens with Tools and Skills they lack so long.

Vision

Our vision is to develop an egalitarian society devoid of illiteracy, ill-health and inter-generational poverty, in which everyone enjoys economic and social justice.

Objective

'Raising and Developing
'Collectives of Human Social Capitals'
with a special focus on younger people,
beginning with early childhood development that builds
'Healthy Youth' being the catalysts of all development.

Executive Committee Members of Naihati New Life Society



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Gayatri Sadhukhan



Vice- President

Aparna Das Roy



Secretary

Dr. Subrata Sarkar



Treasurer

Santwana Chakraborty



Member

Mampi Das



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Mitali Chakraborty



Member

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Shri Partha Das



Dr. Arup Karali



Shri Ramanana Roy



Dr. Tanima Banerjee



Adv Debojyoti Das



Dr. Goutam Bose



Miss Sejal Chaudhari



Samuel Breitenstein



Miss Lauren Certin



Shri Suvodip Sarkar

COMMUNITY HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Charitable Dispensary

Our charitable dispensary facility in the Harishpur village turned 7 this year. Since the inception of our organisation, we have been working tirelessly to make positive changes in the lives of people. Health is one of the major aspects that need attention both from the CSOs and the government. We started a charitable dispensary with the aim to curb the graphs of early childhood diseases and low-quality hygiene maintained in the rural areas. Initially, we focused on the children and mothers of the village. With the passing of time, our focus shifted to institutional delivery, better pre & post-natal care and regular health check-up camps for the villagers.

We are glad to state that we have almost achieved all the pre-set goals. Now all the newborns of Haishpur are born in government hospitals. Child mortality has decreased to 0.27 per year as well as the health status of the entire village has shown positive changes in the past 4 years.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPEMNT INTERVENTION

Pre-Primary School



eventually, the number of students grew exponentially. All four of our schools are in full motion and all the children and their parents are also elated. It is also to note that the number of enrolled female children has increased exponentially.

Nutrition Camp

Standing in the 62nd position in the global poverty index – which is also one of the reasons for the higher level of malnutrition cases in India – there is plenty of work left to be done to curb this issue.

Malnutrition, one of the looming threats to our society, gives birth to many diseases which adversely affect millions of children throughout the country every year. Policies like ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) and MDM (Mid-Day Meal) have been proven effective but they too have their boundaries.

Often, the lack of knowledge regarding the nutritional aspects of various common vegetables and crops is overlooked. Low-cost nutrition is one of the possible ways to rotate the cycle and to do it women need to know about low-cost nutrition. We organized a Nutrition Camp with 200+ women in Harishpur village of Naihati. Eminent experts from IIMC (Indian Institute for Mother and Child) addressed the participants of the workshop regarding the benefits of various vegetables and fruits which are easily available and don't hurt the pocket of the people who are living on the edge.



Advocacy on Child and Maternity Care



The people of far-flung areas of the Sundarbans are not well connected with the health facilities such as primary health centres and hospitals. The availability of private institutions and pharmacies are also negligible. This gives rise to lower health status to child and maternity health. We organized an Advocacy Campaign on Child and Maternity Care with the women of Mathurakhanda, Satyanarayanpur and Amlamethi. These campaigns have been designed to empower women with the knowledge to take good care of children and mother during the pre and postnatal period.

Rehabilitation of the victims of Human-Animal Conflict in the Sundarbans

Human-Animal Conflict is an everyday issue for the people living in the distant areas of the Sundarbans. Mother of two sons, Sobha (now 27) lost her husband 6 years ago. Her husband, who was a honey collector, wasn't fortunate enough to save his life when he fell in front of a tiger while collecting honey. Sobha now works as agricultural labour to sustain her family. Her elder son, a student of class XI, works in a local shop to support the family.



Manjari Mondal of Satyanarayanpur goes fishing in the same tidal waterways where she lost her husband long ago. She had no other options but to choose this same path to feed herself and her two daughters. As both of her daughters are coming to the age of marriage, she has no idea how to make both ends meet.

There are hundreds of women throughout the Sundarbans who have the same story to share. They are called “Bagh-Bidhoba” or the Tiger Affected Widows.



Neglected by society and their neighbours and to sustain their livelihood, they end up working either as agricultural labourers or follow the same path of their husbands' doom. Due to the absence of information, they are also deprived of various government schemes. To address these issues and to, we organised a two-day advocacy session with 235 tiger-affected widows at Satyanarayanpur. The participants were empowered regarding various welfare schemes such as ‘Widow-pension’, ‘senior citizen pension’ & ‘Swasthya Sathi- health insurance’.

Livelihood Support Program for Tiger Affected Widows

The Sundarbans is one of the places in the world where mainstream livelihood opportunities are very few. To support and sustain their families the tiger affected widows struggle every day to make both ends meet. Ensuring Food Security of all is one of our goals and to fulfill it we supported 100 families of Mathurakhanda, Amlamethi and Satyanarayanpur village of Bali-1 block to set up a kitchen garden in their backyard. We have also supported 35 families in goat and poultry farming.



Advocacy for Reproductive Health and Adult Education for Adolescents

Adult Education and Information regarding reproductive health is one of many aspects that is addressed the least. Youths often without having proper knowledge have to face many problems. In rural areas, where access to smartphones is comparatively less, there we get to see very nominal awareness on such issues. To address such issues and to empower the youths we organised an advocacy campaign with 78 adolescent boys and girls in Satyanaraynpur, Mathurakhanda and Amlamethi.



RELIEF WORK

Relief Work for Natural Disaster Amphan:



Cyclone Amphan which hit West Bengal on 18th May 2020 caused huge damage both to human life and properties. Thousands of people were left stranded on the street. As the entire country was in the stage of lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic people were also out of their jobs. With the sudden hit of the cyclone, the people in the coastal area of West Bengal were in a grave situation. As the cyclone got over we reached the Bali-I gram panchayat of Gosaba block and provided almost 500 packets of cooked food and clothes to the victims of the severe cyclone Amphan.

COVID-19 Relief

The sudden attack of the pandemic impacted the livelihood of billions of people globally. Though the surge took time to arrive in India, the country became one of the most affected nations. West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, the 2nd most populist district of the country, saw a rapid rise in COVID cases throughout the year. After the commencement of Lockdown, which was supposed to prevent the spread of the diseases, people's life too came to a halt. Daily labourers who struggle to make both ends meet had to go through a very hard time.

We provided basic food and sanitization kits to more than 3000 families in Naihati, Harishpur, Keutia, Saheb Colony, Ramchandrapur area in North 24 Parganas and Mathurakhanda, Amlamethi, Satyanarayanpur village in the Sundarbans area. Our 8 months long relief camp started in May and continued till October.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROMOTING INDEGENEIOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, ART & CULTURE

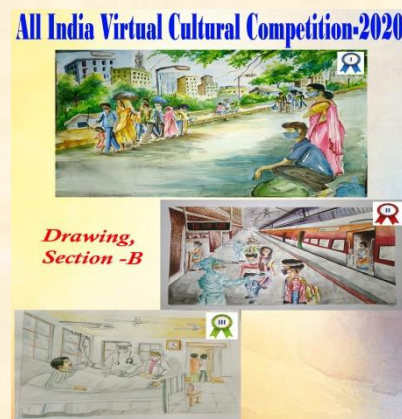
PROMOTING INDEGENEIOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, ART & CULTURE

We take special initiative to promote the rights, art and culture of indigenous people. This is an alternative way of saving bio-diversity, saving lives, managing climate change making the efforts of promoting Disaster Risk Management essential in the islands of Sundarbans....battered by natural calamities in almost every year!

A one day Cultural Program was organized in the rural Sundarbans to promote the identity of the rural indigenous people. The program was organized in the month of November and all Covid protocols were followed. Jhumur Dance and Songs were performed by the indigenous communities. Apart from that Bhatiyali songs were performed by famous musicians. The Cultural Program boosted the morale of the rural indigenous communities.

Virtual Cultural Competition

Every year we organize our annual cultural Program 'Bangiya Sangaskritik Pratijogita' in the month of December. This year, the program was organized in virtual mode to keep the spirits high and to boost positivity among the cultural enthusiasts in and around West Bengal. The competition was held in a very fair way with talented judges and the prizes were awarded in the form of certificates and trophies for the first position, second position and third position. We are happy to see the enthusiasm and overwhelming response from the enthusiasts.



Independence Day



Every year, the Independence Day is celebrated with much zeal and enthusiasm. This year too we followed the same path but due to the situation of the pandemic, we did not invite many people. The ceremony started at 10:30 am with an informational and empowering speech by our secretary Dr Subrata Sarkar. After that, the national flag was hoisted, sweets were distributed among the children.

Open Shelter

Our Open Shelter Program for orphan girl street children turned 3 this year. With the pandemic spread across the world, it's been a year of mix & match for us and also for the inmate children. They couldn't go and play outside as they had to stay inside the premises. With regular online classes and recreational activities such as dance performances, in-house singing competition, weekly poster making activities we kept the children engaged in various flows. Their growth can be tracked.

We assessed the learning gaps in children and the psychological effects of the pandemic on their mental health.



Future Plan:

- Senior Citizen Home
- Charitable Hospital in Sundarbans
- Ambulance Service at Mathurakhanda and Harishpur
- Primary Schools in rural Sundarbans
- Promoting Sustainable Agriculture
- Ensuring Social and Economic Justice for the Tiger Affected Widows of the Sundarbans



We make every effort to ensure children's participation as rights holders and change-makers in all the initiatives we undertake in tune with the principles of UN's CRC. In

fact, strengthening families through alternative livelihood in a most resource constrained region is essential part of the comprehensive child development program that enables their school completion along with Academic Performance, we ensure that they achieve better Physical growth with Social and Emotional Learning (ESL) abilities etc. that further determine their productivities aftermath in life.



NAIHATI NEW LIFE SOCIETY

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Regd. With : The Govt. Of West Bengal-Under Society Registration Act [Regd. No 1961S/11/61502/2009].

Regd. With : Income Tax U/S 12AA, Of I.T Act 1961 [M. No. DIT(E)/8E/95/10 11/1282 84]

Regd. With : I.T. U/S 80G (5) (VI) Of I.T Act 1961 [M. No. DIT(E)/8E/95/10 11/3050-3052]

Regd. With : Under FCRA, Registration No. 147111099

Regd. With : Govt. Of West Bengal JJ Act of 2015.



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