

Annual Report

2021 - 22



Barasat Unnayan Prostuti

www.bupkolkata.org

Legal Status

Society Registration No.: S / 75414 of December 1993
FCRA Reg. No.: 147110437 of July 1998
Section 12A Registration: S-16/96-97 of July 1996
NGO Darpan Registration: WB/2009/0002959

Barasat Unnayan Prostuti

2, Shalbagan Lane, Noapara, Barasat, North 24 Parganas,
Kolkata - 700125, West Bengal
Phone: +91 - 94338 09012
Email- reachbup@yahoo.co.in || Visit Us: www.bupkolkata.org

CONTENT

Director's Desk	1
Preface	2
Our Reach	3
Programme Intervention	
Taateesh	4 - 7
Leadership Next	8 - 10
Sanhati	11 - 14
Shakti	15 - 19
Trafficking Prevention	20 - 21
Supplementary Coaching Programme	22 - 23
Management Information System	24 - 25
Communication & Visibilities	26
Partners in Solidarity	27
Way Forward	28

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Barasat Unnayan Prostuti was established in 1993 as a humanitarian organisation and has been able to establish meaningful relationship with communities, different stakeholder groups and government departments. The organization stands on three major programme verticals namely Child Protection, Women Empowerment and

Development of Environment addressing Climate Change issues. The 27 years journey has never been so smooth despite all efforts. Arranging resources for the activities of the organization has always been the major challenge. The organization intends to arrange adequate resource to support the communities towards sustainable development. The outbreak of Corona Virus has created a difficult situation and affected the entire World. This is one of the biggest threats to humanity after World War-11. In this situation we are to learn many things related to technology. Programme implementers need smartphone / laptop to arrange meetings and provide support. Reality of protection of children has increased. Lock down has hampered the earning sources of the general people. It has created many problems of family life. Domestic violence has increased in the families, thus working with women issues has also increased. Along with Covid crisis for North 24 Parganas super cyclone Amphan has destroyed the environmental situation. Working on environmental issues has come forward for proper development.

Barasat Unnayan Prostuti implement anti-trafficking programme, stop child marriage programme, education for all and stop school dropout, skills development for adolescent girls and women, organise self-help groups of Women for their livelihood Development. Covid crisis has shown us the necessity of environment programme. Waste management and necessity of plantation we feel always to develop. These programmes we are implementing long years but necessity of increasing such activities we felt facing corona crisis and Amphan destruction. The partners who supported us and the stakeholders cooperated to implementing our activities I thank everyone whole heartedly and expect their cooperation in future.

Ranjit Kumar Dutta
Director

PREFACE

Barasat Unnayan Prostuti (BUP) is a non-profit social organization established in 1993 with some likeminded persons for holistic community development. Over the last 27 years, the organization has grown with its wide range of programme activities involving several other issues covering human trafficking, health, education, and environment and livelihood promotions.

During the course of operation, the organization has obtained necessary certification from the Ministry of Home Affairs under FCRA, Govt. of India and also been registered under the NGO Darpan under NITI Aayog. The organisation is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act.

The organization strongly believes in community-based interventions and working together with the communities. Empowerment of the targeted population to access their rights and entitlements is the core focus of the organization. The team of BUP has been working dedicatedly closely with the communities and the government departments to ensure that appropriate services reach the people across the intervention areas.

The organization strives towards the Mission of:

BUP strives the process of awareness raising, skills, development and provide required resources to bring about a meaningful and sustainable change in human, environment, finance and cultural areas of life

The organization stands on the Vision of:

BUP envisions a society where people, irrespective of gender, caste, creed, ethnicity and religion can fully utilize their potential to establish a process of socio economic and cultural development.

The present core programmatic focus of the organization is addressing issues related to human trafficking and it has expanded its work across the district of North 24 Parganas. This district is one of the vulnerable districts of West Bengal in terms of human trafficking and BUP has been working closely with the communities and administrative system in rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of the survivors of human trafficking. The organization has been able to establish itself as one of the leading entities in dealing with human trafficking issues.

Apart from the above, the organization has been working on livelihood promotions among rural women and micro-finance programmes. Community based health care and education programmes are also being taken care of under the model village initiative. Sensitization of the communities on their entitlements and environment are the other initiatives of the organization.

OUR REACH

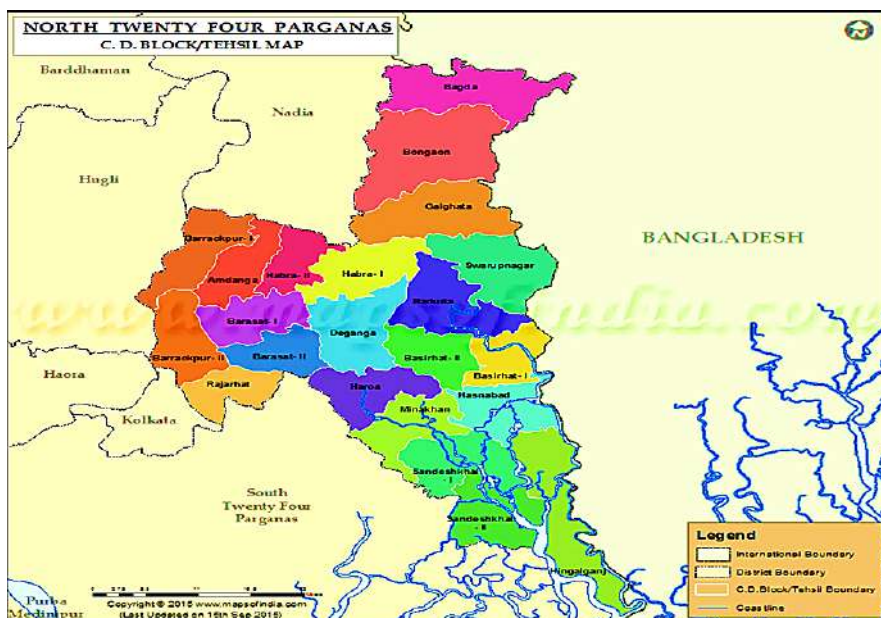
Name of the Districts : **North 24 Parganas & Nadia**

No & Name of block : **18 Community Development Blocks**

Barasat- I, Barasat-II, Amdanga, Bagdah, Bongaon, Gaighata, Habra, Swarnapagar, Baduria, Deganga, Basirhat-I, Basirhat-II, Hasnabad, Sandeshkhali-I, Sandeshkhali-II, Barrackpur-I, Barrackpur -II, Hingalganj

No & Name of Municipalities: **8 Municipalities**

Barasat, Baduria, Madhyamgram, Bongaon, Basirhat, Taki, Barrackpore, Habra



TAFTEESH

Tafteesh is a coalition of survivors of human trafficking, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, researchers, and human rights activists who have come together to empower trafficked survivors access justice & support efforts to combat human trafficking. The purpose of this kind of initiative is to identify the gap in System responses in the way of ensuring the easy accessibility by the survivors of their rights. As part of TAFTEESH, BarasatUnnayanProstuti has been working since 2016 with the several strategies and axis. Through this consortium BUP-named Partners for Anti Trafficking (PAT) is trying to develop eco system to ensure easy access in the judicial system by the survivors and helping them to rehabilitate in the mainstream of the society.



Major areas of Legal Case Management:

Procedural Correction: Procedural correction is one of the important activities which pave the way of ensuring justice for trafficked victim survivors through the adding trafficking related sections IPC 370, ITPA, POCSO so that chances of punishment would be increased. This process is helping to bring accountability among Police administration and exiting system to ensure survivor legal rights.

Victim Compensation: Get compensation is not the demand of survivor it's the responsibility of government to compensate the losses of survivors. As of now 20 numbers of survivors awarded Victim compensation of nearly INR 58 Lakh.

TAFTEESH

It is huge achievement of BUP. Through the process BUP created an impression in North 24 Parganas District and trying to replicate this learning to other districts also.

Interstate Case Management: A large of numbers survivors rescued from the different states such as Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi, UP and Gujarat .With collaboration with destination organisations BUP has rescued several girls this year also. Thereafter, BUP supports the survivors by facilitating managing the cases of destination areas to ensure that survivor get justice. In this process, several arrangements required like obtain regular update regarding case progress at destination areas, arrangement of Video Conferencing to participate in the legal process of destination areas.

Engagement of AHTUs and State Legal Aid Services: Survivor's justice only would possible to ensure if proper investigation report possible to produce. In the past experience, it seen that local police not usually do investigation in proper way. As a result of it, most of the time trafficker acquitted due to lack of proper evidence. After a several advocacy initiatives with AHTU of Barasat police district and Basirhat Police district, several cases already transferred at Basirhat AHTU.

Community Based Rehabilitation and Advocacy for Systematic Changes: Community based rehabilitation is a model through which trafficked survivors rehabilitating in the mainstream of Community by getting easier access in social benefits rather than keep themselves in locked Shelter Home . During Covid situation, Advocacy process hampered at certain level. Instead of that BUP done issue based advocacy such as New SHG formed at Barasat-II block and Usha SHG Started Canteen business at Chandapara BDO office premise. This kind of role shifting is a positive indicator of System Change and effective implementation of Community based Rehabilitation model. Therefore, BUP as a secretariat organization collected copies of Housing applications and reminder letters from 7 more Partners CBOs and approached District Magistrate in term of non responsiveness of block administrations.

Communication and Visibilities: Without visibility it would not possible to add mass people in movement activities. BUP has been working relentlessly to ensure it presence on social media and mainstream media. In this year, BUP could organize two press conferences at Gaighata Block and Bongaon block. In those press conference survivor leaders and youth group leaders address several issues like preventive action to stop trafficking and child abuse, ensure smoother rehabilitation process of trafficked survivors and effective function of notified AHTUs in the district of North 24 Parganas. Beside of that BUP social media engagement increased than the previous time.

TAFTEESH

Strategic Partnership and Collaboration

Partnership through Consortium Network:

BUP as a Secretariat of Partnership collaboration with 7 CBOs through a consortium in the name of PAT working in the widespread areas of north 24 Parganas. Through the collaborative approach, BUP has been working for the rights of trafficked survivors in the way of Legal Case management, rehabilitate survivors in their community and leadership development within themselves. Several joint movements, activities done and strategic actions taken in collaboration with partners by escalating housing right violation issue to District Magistrate, advocacies with AHTU of Barasat, Basirhat and Bongaon Police for their effective functioning and addressed gaps in availability of mental health treatment facility at district hospitals. To make survivor financially empowered, BUP along with it consortium partners worked on survivors' livelihood development by mentoring survivors led SHGs to start their group business.

At Inter District and Inter-State Level: GGBK, BBSS, Mission Mukti, HELP, Dishari-Nadia, World Vision, ASHA Ngo, BBA, Sanjog, Trafficking problem is not possible to address by a single organization. BUP has built strong strategic partnership with different organizations in other states. Instead of having pandemic situation, BUP could possible to make reunite of significant number of survivors with the help of HELP, Mission Mukti Foundation. Beside of that BUP has been working with National level organizations like ARZ and Bachpan Bachao Andolan on several issues like as prevention of child trafficking and child labour.

National Level Campaign: Through the national level campaign survivors leaders addressed issues like as TIP Bill, CBR, VC and AHTU through ILFAT. Sunita Kar from Bongaon block was invited to represent ILFAT at Lokmat Women Summit 2022. Attending the summit Sunita shared various aspects of survivor leaders' journey in combat against trafficking. She also shared highlighting the importance of TIP Bill, CBR model, Victim Compensation and effective functioning of AHTU to ensure the rights of trafficked survivors.

Prevention: Community level awareness programme and introduce the Youth Led Safety net mechanism at field level. By adapting preventing approach, survivor leaders conducted awareness drive at community level to sensitize the community regarding various aspects of Early Marriage, Trafficking, and Child Rights etc. For the first time, trafficking survivors led Drama Team has formed to create significant impact on the society regarding impact of trafficking and early marriage. Besides that survivor leaders along with 36 youth groups and 2 vigilance groups have been doing community meeting and mothers meeting ato create awareness among the society.

TAFTEESH



LEADERSHIP NEXT



The Leadership Next Programme is an initiative to create a sustained environment for the survivors to lead a life with dignity and without any external interference. The initiative focuses on connecting the survivors with suitable and meaningful livelihood options through which they can start earning and survive of their own. Two survivors' collectives named UTTHAN and BIJOYINI have been formed.

Not only that, this program extended and explored new leadership journey of Organization. In this year Organization's leadership is also an important outlook from programmatic point of view.

Major Components

The initiative stands on the following components:

- i) Livelihood support by linking them with various services available under PRIs, Block and Govt. other stakeholders.
- ii) Build the various capacities with various training with the leaders for ensuring the leadership power.
- iii) Ensure their participation in anti-trafficking movement so that survivors of commercial sexual exploitation can fight themselves for their rights and justice and trafficker get punished.
- iv) Ensure visibility of leaders and organization in community and other platforms by using social media platform and to gather public opinion against any social issues.
- v) Ensure strong coordination among leaders and like-minded grass-root level organization for smooth coordination of social issues.

Population Coverage:

As of now, the initiative has been able to connect over 24 survivors and facilitated them with different types of livelihood opportunities both directly & indirectly.

LEADERSHIP NEXT



The initiative stands on the following components:

i) Livelihood support by linking them with various services available under PRIs, Block and Govt. other stakeholders.

ii) Build the various capacities with various training with the leaders for ensuring the leadership power.

iii) Ensure their participation in anti-trafficking movement so that survivors of commercial sexual exploitation can fight themselves for their rights and justice and trafficker get punished.

i) Ensure visibility of leaders and organization in community and other platforms by using social media platform and to gather public opinion against any social issues.

ii) Ensure strong coordination among leaders and like-minded grass-root level organization for smooth coordination of social issues.

Major Achievements:

- Survivors of Barasat Unnayan Prostuti have formed one collective in North 24 Parganas titled "Bijoyini".

- The Bijoyini members reviewed the situation on vulnerable children of their communities and advocated with the Panchayats, Blocks & District stakeholders to implement ICPS to reduce vulnerability among children.

- Bijoyini has strong presence in social media via Facebook, Twitter.

- Leaders are trained other trafficked survivors on varieties topic through their leadership skills, so that other organization's survivors can become leaders.

- Bijoyinis conducted awareness drive in community addressing the child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking.

- Leaders spooked a national level conference on human exploitation and trafficking for national awareness (CHETNA).

- Leaders held online meeting with MP, Odisha, about TIP Bill



LEADERSHIP NEXT

National Level presence of Bijoyini Group through Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking (ILFAT)

A national level platform by the survivors and for the survivors. The survivors have come together from different parts of the country to achieve a shared vision of having a nation free from all forms of human trafficking. Bijoyini is an integral part of the forum and the main focus of the forum is to unite and empower survivor leaders of trafficking. Through this forum Bijoyini is trying to transform public perceptions and to ensure that survivors' voices are central to any effort to control and reduce trafficking in person. Through this platform Bijoyini has got a national level exposure and enriched them with the learning. Bijoyini members are the Core Council members and decision maker in the forum and now started to capacitate them to work as Secretariat member of the platform.



Success Story: Sunita Kar, a member of ILFAT and Bijoyini. But her leadership journey was not easy for her as she became a victim at the age of 16 years. She struggled to overcome the challenge and started come up as a Survivor to regain her position in the society including family and neighbourhood. She gradually came up as a Survivor Leader.

In 2018, Sunita starting her journey as a Bijoyini leader and received multiple trainings, attended multiple workshops and got practical experiences on various subjects. She also took part in various advocacies, awareness programs, community works and tried to stop evil practices, etc. She was little shy at the initial stages of this leadership development programme.

Gradually she became a leader and started working in her community to stop the evil practices like child marriage, human trafficking, domestic violence, etc. She kept on sensitizing community people, youth and adolescent groups. She continued to empower the others through her knowledge. She builds capacity with new survivors through various training.

Sunita has raised her voice for the TIP Bill as an ILFAT member and has been advocating at various national levels platforms, MPs and DBs to get effective schemes against human trafficking.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY BASED SAFETY NET PROGRAMME

The programme has been framed based on the continuing increase in the cases of human trafficking particularly targeted towards the adolescent girls. This problem has been persisting across all the Development Blocks of North 24 Parganas. Out of those Blocks, the organization has identified Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks for this intervention. Out of these two blocks, two highly vulnerable Panchayats namely Beraberia and Sutia have been selected for the intervention. In this year the organisation has included two more Panchayat namely Bodai of Amdanga Block and Shimulpur of Gaighata Block.



The objectives of the interventions have been classified in two categories.

Preventive aspects:

- Strengthen community safety net with the greater involvement of the family members, larger community and stakeholders to understand the vulnerability of children and their role.
- Strengthen existing statutory platforms VLCPC, BLCPC to be proactive for addressing the vulnerable situation of the children and prevent them from being trafficked with the help of youth vigilance committee.
- Establish child rights that are capturing the incidents of early marriage linking with the Govt. Administrative Departments.
- Sensitize communities to combat vulnerable situations of the children and ways to address the issues which affect the lives of children

Curative aspects:

- Early identification of missing or trafficked cases with the help from statutory authorities and law enforcement agencies.
- Strengthen the process of rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation including legal support to the survivors.
- Strengthen coordination among the Youth vigilance committee, families, communities and statutory mechanism for early resolve of the cases.
- In case of migration, the Local Government that is Panchayat has to maintain a migration register as an informed migration.

Programme Coverage:

This intervention has been carried out in 36 revenue villages under Beraberia & Bodai Gram Panchayat of Amdanga Block and Sutia & Shimulpur Gram Panchayat of Gaighata Block. The wider coverage of the project has been able to reach out to more than 1,25,000 populations across the four Panchayats.

Target Population: At present project have cover 1536 people in direct mode. Indirectly cover more than 86,000 people.

Category	Age	Male	Female
Youth members	19-35	80	240
Adolescent	12-18	90	360
PRI	25-48	42	64
School Going Student	14-18	90	570
Total		302	1234

Major Activities:

Coordination with different Govt. Departments and other Stakeholders for project intervention:

One of the core programmatic parts of this project has focused on establishing meaningful rapport with the concerned line departments from Gram Panchayat level to the District level. As the project focused on creating preventive model in the communities to protect their children from vulnerabilities thus it was important to keep regular liaison with the line departments and other stakeholders that include:

- Pradhans and Members of four Gram Panchayats, namely Berabararia, Bodai, Sutia and Shimulpur of Amdanga and Gaighata Block.
- Sabhapati of the Panchayat Samiti- Amdanga and Gaighata Block
- Saha-Sabhapati of Amdanga and Gaighata Block
- Block Development Officer (BDO) - Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks
- Block Welfare Officer (BWO) - Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks
- Block Level Child Protection Officer (2nd Officer) of Amdanga and Gaighata Police Station.
- Nari-O-Shishu Karmadhakshya- Amdanga and Gaighata Block

- Anwesha Counsellor - Amdanga and Gaighata Development Blocks
- District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO)
- District Child Protection Officer (DCPO)
- Women Development Officer (WDO) of Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks
- Child line Team of the District
- Superintendent of Police of the District

In cooperation and wholehearted support by the Pradhans and Members of the Gram Panchayats, Block level officials and stakeholders the project-based activities have been executed in line with the set objectives:

Formation of Youth Group

The 36 nos. of Youth Groups have been formed at every village of four Gram panchayats i.e. Beraberia, Bodai, Shimulpur and Sutia of Amdanga & Gaighata Block of North 24 Parganas district respectively. These youth groups are actively involved in awareness generation of community people on child rights, early marriage & child trafficking.



Training of Trainers (TOT)

The project team has conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) for the Youth Group Leaders of four Gram Panchayats on issues covering Child Rights, Life Skills, Prevention of Early Marriage and Women & child trafficking. This training has enriched the Youth Group Leaders on said issues and later on, the trained leaders are organized Capacity Building for the other members of the Youth Group. Training programmes have been organized in both the locations along with presence of other stakeholders.

Community Meetings

During the year, 53 community level sensitization activities have been organized in every village of four intervention Gram Panchayats.

These meetings have focused on the issues of early marriage & child trafficking and adverse effect of such incidences. The discussions also put focus on continuing studies even during the pandemic and lock down. Each meeting has been attended by about 80 - 100 participants on an average and the project team has shared the details about the project.

Community Sensitization Meetings on Child Trafficking issue and their role in the prevention process

During the year, 53 community level sensitization activities have been organized in every village of four intervention Gram Panchayats. These meetings have focused on the issues of early marriage & child trafficking and adverse effect of such incidences. The discussions also put focus on continuing studies even during the pandemic and lock down. Each meeting has been attended by about 80 - 100 participants on an average and the project team has shared the details about the project.

Counselling Support & Treatment

It is an important part of this initiative to provide counselling support to the individual Trafficked survivors and youths for realising them from their mental restless ness in their daily life. Besides this we also provide group counselling support to youths and adolescent boys & girls.

Till date project has provided counselling support to 23 individual trafficked survivors and 4 sessions of group counselling were arranged for the Youth Group Members. Besides this clinical psychiatric support has provided to 16 individual trafficked survivors including medicine support.

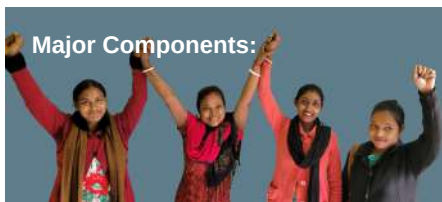


Community sensitization through theatre of the oppressed

Community sensitization events have been organised using theatre as the medium of information sharing. In this context one of the partner organisations – Jana Sanskriti has guided to form 3 (three) Theatre Groups at Beraberia & Sutia Gram Panchayat among the interested adolescent & Youths and another Theatre Group of Trafficked Survivors. These Theatre Groups were trained by experts of Jana Sanskriti and they were involved to perform by the newly formed Theatre Groups for creating awareness among the communities on issues of early marriage, human trafficking, domestic violence, violation of child rights & dowry and related effects of such incidences. The community response has been quite enthusiastic and as of now 7 such events have been organised during 2021-22 in 7 selected villages. There were about 500 participants on an average in each of the villages.



Campaign for Community Based Rehabilitation For the Survivors of Trafficking



Major Components:

- Rights Based Case Management: To capacitate the Survivors of Trafficking on their Rights & Entitlements and means to access the same.
- Survivor's Leadership: To encourage and strengthen leadership among the women for accelerating rehabilitation support.
- Use of Technology-based MIS System: To strengthen the existing technology enabled Information Hub for easier access to MIS.
- Sharing CBR model with other Districts two districts/organizations of West Bengal will adopt CBR practice
- Livelihood and Economic Empowerment: To ensure community based rehabilitation support for vulnerable women and adolescents girls including trafficked survivors with direct involvement of the Self Help Groups.

Community Based Rehabilitation Process

- Through this project the social workers have been able to transcend the knowledge and skills to the survivor. This includes being more aware and sensitized about the schemes and entitlement, knowing how to access and avail the schemes and entitlement, applying for the same escalating and following up for the same and how to work with the systems.
- The survivors have also been aware and sensitised about different schemes and entitlements, they have developed the capacity and skills of accessing and availing the schemes and also escalating and following it up.
- When the survivors adopted these skills within them, they were able to take it back to the community. Therefore, one of the key learning of this project is survivor are able to take up community issues (e.g. domestic violence or child marriage) address these issues and even solve them. As a result, their self-respect, confidence and self-worth has increased in front of the community. They are no longer stigmatized as before by the community. Slowly the traditional rigid mentality of the communities towards them is also changing.

- Shakti project has helped the social workers to initiate a process of Stigma counselling, this process led to stigma mitigation. The stigma counselling has been done at the family as well as the community level. The social workers have also made use of influential people viz Pradhan, school teachers etc. for stigma mitigations.
- Social Workers Mapping: This is a learning mapping process for the social workers, helped them to mirror their work and help them to review their limitation, their flow of work and initiate an ability to strengthen themselves.
- Crisis response team is made of few social workers with skill variations from different CBOS When a crisis come this team comes together to response to the crisis, they plan and take up responsibilities to mitigate it.
- Joint Advocacy team is also developed among the CBOs which ensure in doing joint campaigns with the survivors and the social workers with the use of social media. This advocacy team works on issues related to right violation, mass awareness and also trying to provide rights and entitlements by submitting demands and also escalating and following it up. The process of using social media made the service provider more responsive and accountable. It has also ensured a process of trust building between the survivors and the social worker.
- The Legal case management was further strengthened due to the Shakti project as the project helped in addressing the basic needs of the survivors and minimized their helped the survivors to sustained and continues their struggle for the legal case which is sometimes a very lengthy process. The leadership skill that they attained from the project also helped them to negotiate and voice their opinion in from of the legal system.

Community Based Rehabilitation Process

- For economic empowerment the initiation of survivor based SHGs by the CBOs was itself a great move .The process involved motivating the BDO and WTO to accept and appreciate survivor based economic group and also to facilitate the process of giving loan to these group.
- There has also been a process of modelling of survivor based SHG group with only 5 members, this model was also advocated and showcased and duplicated in other district.
- Continuous rapport building with BDO, WDO, BLDO for livelihood and the ability to convince and sensitize the duty berates of their demands helped them to avail many schemes which includes viz livestock schemes.

- SHG with group business and business plan was also initiated initially. They were only interested in individual business, but the CBOS have given them training on the success of group business, made them understand of the group capital, also the advantage of collectivism and collectiveness ownership and collective responsibilities, sharing of skills and division of work. Through such process the survivor learnt the skill of group planning and team building.

Survivor's Leadership

- Livelihood and economic empowerment has led to financial inclusion for the survivors, they are now able to contribute at the family level, this has strengthened their decision making position at the family.



- The process of survivors leadership was mostly through handholding and rapport building with the survivor, creating a safe space between the survivor and the social workers, awareness generation of their rights and entitlement, continuous follow up, talking with the about the trauma, identification of the trauma and addressing it, counselling the family and the community to show respect to survivor and stop stigmatizing them.
- In the process of being a leaders the survivors were given several training for their capacity building, they were also handhold by the social workers to go to the different duty bearers to access and avail their rights, to generate demand by using different advocacy and campaigns.
- When they starting achieving their demand, the survivors started working for the community, solving community issues, they started doing community survey, community level meeting and also talking with the duty bearers for solving community issues (e.g. domestic violence or child protection issues). When they were successful in doing such it, they gained more acceptance and respect at the community level. The survivors are also now in many decision making bodies at both local, regional and national level

- For collectivization the survivors have also formed economic groups like SHGS and also issue based groups like Bijoyini.
- The survivors are in the process of doing planning meeting at the beginning of the month. They have also initiated peer support process where they go as per requirement with the peers helping them on solving issues.

Coordination & Management

One of the key learning of the Shakti Project is formation of several committees viz PAT management committee, SHG management committees. The Shakti project covers several axis which are also interlinked with each other and having wide coverage, the management /coordination team felt that it was not possible to discuss all issues, challenges and escalate them in one committee nor it can be solved by a single stakeholder. The CBOS leaders of the Shakti project felt that there is a need to have multiple representations of various stakeholder viz director, social workers and even survivor leaders in different committees. This was mainly done to mitigate issues, solve challenges and escalate and do advocacy. These committees helped in bridging the gap, for better connectivity and very smooth flow of communication and information from the CBO to the field and backward. The committees also helped in monitoring and evidence-based reporting from the community to the CBOs, The recent KARYA event was a good example which reflected the best practises of such committees, helping smooth flow of information and communication related to SHGs.

Mental Health Management

Mental health was taken as a key aspect of the Shakti programme, the CBOs did a lot of advocacies for integrating mental health for the survivors and also for the community and also for the social workers. There was a series of awareness of given to the survivors for the need to access mental health. The service is still not available at all the blocks, psychiatrist are not available at the block hospital. Psychologist are available over phone for free online counselling. This needs to be continued in future, as the pandemic has further enhanced the cases of mental health. Shakti team has learnt that in spite of multiple advocacies there are rigidity in govt. system in regard to mental health services. Mental health is the primary right for all the survivors still govt is indifferent. In the coming phase Shakti team is predicting if deputation at district and state level can help.



SHAKTI

As PAT network and their CBOS are part of many convergence committees with Government Departments they are at privy to many schemes and information which they access for the survivors. They regularly attend meetings between NGOs and Govt and try to get information on any new schemes & programmes.



PAT Network has been doing advocacy for community-based rehabilitation for the survivors as an important advocacy initiative of the network. States already run institutional-based rehabilitation, and community-based rehabilitation is not a part of the government policy. The focus of the network is to incorporate community-based rehabilitation as a govt policy and system. When the survivors are rescued, they are kept at these state-run institutions for rehabilitation for almost two years.

They receive counseling, free medical aid, and training on livelihood. But when they come back after two years and start staying back in their own community, they face the severe stigma and depression and go back to the same state as when they were rescued. Even the skills or the livelihood training that they usually receive from these rehabilitation institutes are of no use or relevant for them as these training are mostly not demand or market-specific, so both socially and economically the survivor is not at all in a process of empowerment. The PAT Network thus continued to focus and strengthen the collective effort in ensuring. At such a juncture the network community-based rehabilitation for the survivors.

The survivor's source of Rights violation is the place where she lives in her community, her Panchayat, Block and thus ensuring her rights and entitlement including rehabilitation process starts at the source level. PAT has initiated PIL, media advocacy, and even appeal and letters for the community-based rehabilitation process and now the process of escalation is going on at the National level. PAT has also implemented a strategy of economic empowerment for financial inclusion by opening survivor-based SHG groups. The network strongly feels, that if the social and economic position of the survivor is strengthened in her community, her respect will also increase within her family and community.

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Good Practices

- Escalation from panchayat to BLOCK, to District to STATE and National level by letters and appeals,
- Ensuring legislatives, media, bureaucrats and Judicial level advocacy for system change
- Balancing between social, cultural, legal and economic needs
- Changing perspective of the survivors by continuous handholding, nurturing,
- Reallocating job roles, monitoring, consensus building
- Having a participatory way of facilitation and discussion between the survivor and social workers in addressing issues
- Ensuring upward and downward transparency and accountability by using an MIS system which is open for access to both social worker and survivors
- Involving external technical experts for training, capacity building and value additions.
- Developing business proposal, setting goal and objectives and transforming the ideas to action through piloting, scaling up, review monitoring and reflection.
- Systematic transformation towards technology enabled digital and paperless MIS.
- Strengthening leadership of the survivors by series of training, nurturing and transferring the roles of the social workers to the survivors for community level sustainability



Addressing Trafficking through Effective Prevention and Reintegration

Tdh Foundation is partnering with 35 organisations working across the trajectory from rescue to reintegration in the most trafficking prone districts of West Bengal and Jharkhand. With the support from Oak Foundation, Tdh Foundation is enhancing the capacities of partner organisations to better understand and respond to the needs of survivors of trafficking and exploitation. BUP is one of the partner organizations of TDH, implementing the project in 5 Gram Panchayats of Gaighata Block.

After the experience of being trafficked, the survivors go through an extremely challenging process of rehabilitation. Survivors suffer constant terror, guilt, shame, and hopelessness.

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Unaware of service providers and bereft of a social support system, survivors lack adequate occupational skills to begin anew, feel too weak to voice their concerns and consequently, find it impossible to reintegrate into their own society. The Project envisages bringing about positive changes in the lives of children who have experienced trafficking, abuse, and exploitation or who are living in vulnerable situations that threaten their protection and well-being.

Through this project BUP tries to develop a better ecosystem of livelihood, resettlement, rehabilitation, and reintegration of survivors and in this process how



to find meaningful involvement of different stakeholders like family, community, and government officials. The current phase of the project is aimed to develop institutionalized practice related to child protection and assist sustainable reintegration of survivors, mainstreaming learnings within and beyond the network, systems strengthening, establishing multi-stakeholder coordination to strengthen community level safety nets and building resilience of children and young people to challenge harmful social norms.

BUP is committed to build a Community level safety nets with around 125 Child and Young Leaders(CYPs) and 1000 Child and Young People(CYPs) to protect Children and Youth in Migration (CYiM) and support reintegration of the victims of unsafe migration/exploitation/ trafficking in 5 GPs of Gaighata Block, North 24 Parganas.

SUPPLEMENTARY COACHING PROGRAMME

Barasat Unnayan Prostuti (BUP) has implemented the supplementary education centre programme for 9 months reaching out to 300 children in Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks in North 24 Parganas, supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The schools were closed due to outbreak of corona virus and subsequent lock down in the country. Children in the communities did not have access to digital education facility for several reasons. The government schools had taken few steps to keep the children within the sphere of education but such facility was inadequate and did not reach majority of the children across the state. The programme was launched to cater to the learning gaps among the children which have caused due to closure of schools.

- The supplementary coaching support has become a window of opportunity for the children and the parents to revive the academic loss of the children. Long closure of schools had put the children into entire darkness and there was hardly any hope left with the parents about reopening of the schools.
- During the difficult time of COVID third wave, operating this coaching support was really a challenge as parents were not sure about sending their children to the coaching classes, but continuous effort and follow up by the coaching teachers have made it possible and 300 children across Amdanga and Gaighata Blocks have participated in the process.
- The overall situation shows that about 90 percent children have been able to revive their learning loss and has started attending schools after reopening. This is important to note that neither of these 300 children could access the online education facility owing to poor family economic condition and thus this coaching support has absolutely worked as great support for the children.
- Parents have also extended all the support including contributing little amount per month for the coaching programme and simultaneously the community stakeholders have also cooperated in the process of arranging space, electricity for the coaching classes.



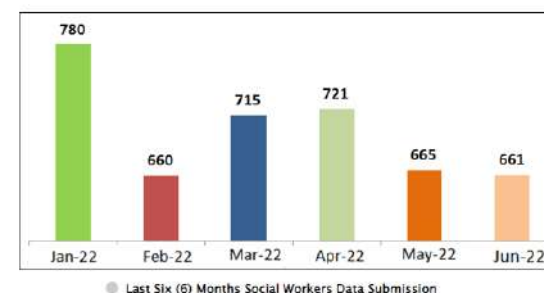
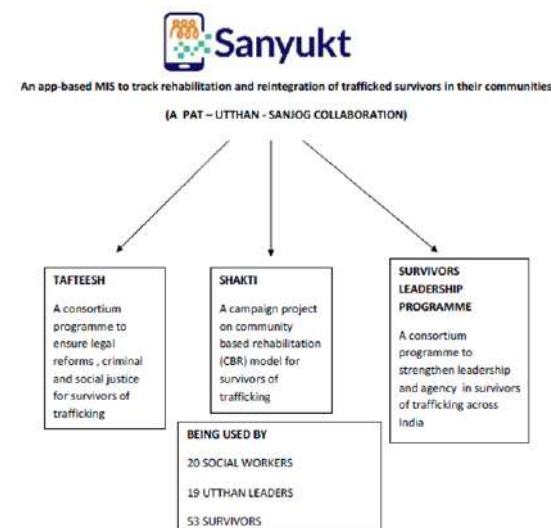
SUPPLEMENTARY COACHING PROGRAMME

- About 12 percent children in average could not perform as according to the inputs given at the coaching classes and they would require further guidance to overcome the poor learning status. There could be other factors other than economic condition that have created hindrances for them to move with same pace like others.
- The overall performance shows that children of Gaighata is comparatively better than the children of Amadnaga, however the reason for such difference in performance could not be retrieved.
- The parents and community stakeholders have expressed their satisfaction over the entire initiative and hard work of the coaching teachers. They have mentioned that teachers have taken adequate care and provided guidance to the children with appropriate attention.
- None of the parents have complained about any forms of punishment by the teachers, and this was probably the main reason for the children to continue at the coaching classes and excel in their academics.

In both the locations, communities have clearly mentioned that the coaching programme has certainly been beneficial for the children of their communities as schools remained close for over two years. The coaching teachers have been cordial and caring towards the children and helped them learn drawing, craft, dance and drama apart from regular studies. The inputs during last 7- 8 months have been really useful for the children to regain their learning loss and overcome the challenges of attending schools as it reopened after two years.



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM



At this time, 20 social workers in 16 blocks in the North 24 Parganas are using the Sanyukt app on smartphones provided to them to manage data relating to case management and rehabilitation of 164 survivors. This application is accessible through desktop / laptop over web browser.

Rights Holders have been rating the Duty bearers Using UTTAR APP; Govt. Officers / Departments are being evaluated- on a 1 to 10 scale by the Survivors based on their experience with the Govt. officials to whom they have approached during one intervention period known as the Rating Cycle. The rating is based on the nature of response and behaviour being received by the respective Survivors in course of their interaction with Govt. officials.

18 UTTAN LEADERS AND 110 BIJOYINI LEADERS HAVE BEEN USING UTTAR RATING APPLICATION (SERVICE SATISFACTORY RATING APPLICATION)

“Sanyukt” MIS system is based on Case Intake Tool, case management process and Legal Aid related activities is being measure by this system.

Various Training, Advocacy Meeting, Awareness Program and SHG Activities is being captured by this application.

Currently Social Welfare, Legal Aid Activities, Event and SHG Module related Graphs is visible in Sanyukt Website. www.sanyukt.org

Sanyukt MIS and app are designed to facilitate the data reporting that social workers do on survivors' case statuses, by taking this process to the web space.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM



Achievement

New SHG Module has been developed. Case Management Tool has now digitized and started happening via Sanyukt Application. Peer support system has been strengthened through this system. Regular monitoring visits have been carried out to trained and strengthen capacity of users. Also MIS Focal Persons also play their roles to support others. Sanyukt Promotion Video has been jointly done by PAT SWs, leaders supported by Sanjog and External Agency.



With Sanyukt Application and MIS, there is a robust data management system around human trafficking in West Bengal for our case load.

We have been able to break the myth that grassroots workers cannot use technology. Over time a lot of Social workers have moved to the excellent category in terms of apps usage and data accuracy.

COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITIES

Communication and Visibility

This year, a communication officer was appointed and a team was developed to improve the visibility of our organization's and survivor leaders' work. The communication team's objectives are as follows:

To raise awareness of our activities through traditional and social media

Utilize the power of social media in a methodical and planned manner.

Facilitate training to strengthen the social media team's content development capabilities.

Provide survivor leaders with social media training so they can use its power for their own objectives.

Achievements



Formation day of the communication team, team members are being trained on reporting system by communication officer Soumyadeb Basu

10 Member Communication/Social Media Team Formation

5 Successful social media campaigns that highlighted key subjects

40 Survivor leaders trained to operate Social Media

Technology Grants Received



We applied for the "Google for Nonprofits" programme and were accepted. We intend to use Google Workspace to boost collaboration in our communication team, which is spread across eight blocks.



We applied for and were accepted into the "Canva for Nonprofits" programme. This tool will be used by the communications team to develop high-impact social media graphics and marketing materials.



New reporting format launched for social media activities

PARTNERS IN SOLIDARITY

- Aditya Birla Jan Seva Trust (ABJST)
- Anandabazar Patrika-ABP
- Bangiya Grameen Bikash Bank
- BIJOYINI Survivors Collective
- CIFF (The Children's Investment Fund Foundation), UK
- Director of Child Rights and Trafficking-DCRT
- District Legal Service Authority, North 24 Parganas
- District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas
- District Police Administration, North 24 Parganas
- District Social Welfare Officer, North 24 Parganas
- Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of West Bengal
- Edlgeive Foundation, UK
- El SAMAY – Leading Bengali Daily Newspaper
- Freedom Fund-UK
- IJM-International Justice Mission
- ILFAT-Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking
- India Care Foundation
- IWG-Indian Working group
- Kamonohashi, Japan
- Kolkata SANJOG Initiative, India
- Love Without Boundaries (LWB)
- Mission Mukti Foundation-MMF
- OAK Foundation, UK
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation, UK
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Government of India
- Terre des Hommes (TdH)
- The Hindu
- The Telegraph
- UTTHAN Survivors Collective
- WBSCPCR
- West Bengal Voluntary Health Association (WBVHA)
- WVI-World Vision India
- Zilla Parishad, North 24 Parganas

WAY FORWARD

The last two years of severe pandemic and subsequent challenges across all sections of the society has put the entire world to rethink and rebuild in a fresh manner. The marginalized people have suffered extensively and lost their primary livelihood options. Barasat Unnayan Prostuti has extended all means of support to the communities with its own resources and support provided by several donors and well-wishers. This has further strengthened the bonding with the communities and helped BUP to revive the field activities with full pace.

In the next course of its functioning, the organization intends to strengthen its focus on community-based interventions with active participation of the communities. At the same time, the organisation intends to accelerate the involvement of the survivor led initiatives in the process of prevention of human trafficking cases and sensitization activities across the communities to create Community Safety Nets to ensure education of all children and prevention of child marriages from the rural intervention areas. Subsequent to this, the organisation would continue to supplement to the initiatives taken by the government and extend necessary cooperation as and where required.

The organization would continue to strengthen self-help groups comprised of the survivors for them to be self-sustained and also encourage other women from the communities to take part in the initiative. These women would be building up meaningful partnership with concerned government departments and ensure appropriate access to rights & entitlement for all the survivors.

The organization with the professional team members would like to reach out to more communities considering availability of resources and support for different other sources. The next course of interventions would be more challenging considering the socio-economic and political changes happening across the country and thus it is intended to work closely with the system and communities for their holistic development in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Annual Report

2021 - 22



Barasat Unnayan Prostuti

2, Shalbagan Lane, Noapara, Barasat; North 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700125, West Bengal
Phone: +91 - 94338 09012 || Email- reachbup@yahoo.co.in || Visit Us: www.bupkolkata.org