



Institute of social work

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From the desk of Secretary

With the presentation of this Annual Report, ISW turns 36. All these long years, ISW has been striving to successfully work for the downtrodden people of the society, especially women and children. Admittedly, we have had to face many hurdles, which we have been able to overcome with the sincerest efforts of all those who have relentlessly worked for the cause of ISW. Our motto is to work closely with the people in distress and in need of certain types of help, however small such population may be, and to deliver whatever support we can feasibly extend to transform their lives. We remain committed to our vision of transforming the society through our limited but ceaseless and honest endeavors. We do admit that there might have been some lapses and deficiencies on our part, nevertheless we take pride in the fact that our honorary workers selflessly work with us in our various initiatives in spite of the financial hardships all of us share in the current economic scenario.

True, in this difficult economic environment, we, being a community based NGO, do confront a great deal of challenges, but we have never lost sight of the opportunities of serving the disadvantaged sections of our society and have tried to do our best. We are indeed perturbed over the rising incidence of violence on women in recent times and do feel that we need to step up our efforts towards tackling this social menace. We hereby renew our pledge to overcoming all hurdles and take our mission of serving the downtrodden people forward with the support and cooperation of all those who matter.



Institute of Social Work on the Move:

The journey that started with a small group of promising social activists has attained many goals all these years. Institute of Social Work is at present a fully fledged organization with various affecting the lives of economically and socially disadvantaged women and children.

Whether at workplace or in the household, it is found that women contribute more to what they get back in return. Lack of awareness about their fundamental rights, legal protection and lack of education leads to social and economic discrimination of women specially the poor.

While working with disadvantaged women the Institute of Social Work realized that empowerment of women can happen through providing education both general and legal. A curriculum for voicing their revolt against mental and physical torture enhanced economic opportunities and proper access to basic health and civic facilities and services. There have been certain amendments in the national and international level for women's rights and interests. Institute of Social Work has been aware of the differential local needs and priorities and has always tried to earn confidence of its virtues. Institute of Social Work has concentrated more on selected slum areas, where women are at the receiving end due to certain defaulters. Institute of Social Work has always been keen on helping the slum children of Kolkata and also serves the backward communities in various districts to develop education, health and long term solution towards social equity and justice.

The Institute of Social Work demands to have changed 25,000 children and 35,000 women's lives for their betterment. We are proud of our success that cannot be measured in monetary terms within limited funds and resources Institute of Social Work has made the best use of it. This was possible due to the utmost dedication of the Institute of Social Work family.

Institute of Social Work – Activity Profile:

Institute of Social Work is engaged in a variety of activities all of which are contributed to the downtrodden people living in slums or outside. The activities are health, education, women empowerment, networking and SHGs and micro finance.

Project in hand:

The poor either have little scope for basic education or do not avail the facilities for a number of reasons. Institute of Social Work has taken over the task for spreading basic education to women directly or indirectly through different centers across the state. Basic education assists to purely human realization. Institute of Social Work is running the following programmes at different centers.

Primary and Secondary Education Programme at Barasat:

In the year 1981, with a group of school dropouts Institute of Social Work ventured its classes under a mango tree. Within a span of two years formal primary education was introduced by the name of Sishu Vikash Bharati. In another two decades Institute of Social Work was able to set up Kishore Vikash Bharati with expansion in the number of students by their parents.

Sishu Vikash Bharati :

Classes – Sishu Sreni to Class IV

Kishore Vikash Bharati:

Classes – Class V to Class VII

Description of school:

Number of Teachers – 9 (Sishu Vikash Bharati) and 3 (Kishore Vikash Bharati)

Number of Students – 150 (Sishu Vikash Bharati) and 50 (Kishore Vikash Bharati)

Number of Classes - Sishu Vikash Bharati – Sishu Sreni to Class IV

Kishore Vikash Bharati – Class V to Class VII

Working Days – 25 days in a month

School Timings – Nursery – 11 am to 2.10 pm & Class I to IV – 11 am to 3.30 pm

Extra Curricular Activities – Dance, Music, Recitation, Paper Cutting, Painting, Clay Handicrafts etc.

Home Visits – The teachers visit homes regularly to educate the community. The education and care they get here promotes the rest of their lives encouraging them to avoid poverty and overcome hurdles. The past decade has witnessed a rapid development towards universal primary education.

Recently more than 30% students of Barasat School have left Institute of Social Work due to recent Govt. Policy.

The Govt. has formed a new policy, according to which each student shall be admitted to school as per their age. This many students of Institute of Social Work school who were studying at a lower class at a higher age, left and joined the Govt. schools. But as they suddenly joined higher classes they could not follow the studies. So the Barasat Special Education Centre has been set up by Institute of Social Work, which is basically a coaching centre to get special training for such type of higher education.

Study Centre for Netaji Subhash Open University:

Institute of Social Work is working as a study centre for running a certificate course on women's studies and women empowerment for six months duration under NSOU. The women who attend this course have completed Class VIII or Class X. This year is the fifth batch. The main theme of the course is 'AMRA PARI', (We can do). Institute of Social Work felt the need for this course to create awareness among women for their self confidence and well being. At present this centre is closed because women cannot fulfill their own interests. They do not find any source of income from NSOU.

Lekha Para:

Institute of Social Work guides the economically backward students through various coaching classes. The children who attend these classes are between six to fourteen years. The classes start a 7 am in the morning and continue till 10 am. The classes are made interesting by fun and joy so that the children enjoy their studies. Institute of Social Work tries to communicate the privileged and unprivileged. A child living in a hut might become an important and successful person in life.

Pre School Education Centre (Roytolla):

We are running another centre situated 200 km from the city near Kakdeep where students hardly get chance to attend school. This would give an opportunity to the children to get educated from school.

Pre School Education Centre (Akra):

There are 90 children from fisherman and laborer's family attending this programme. The timings are from 11 am to 2 pm. Besides studies the children participate in extracurricular activities.

Regular medical health checkups are arranged for the weak students. Medicines are provided to students lacking every suffering from some disease.

Day Care Centre at Joynagar:

Institute of Social Work has arranged a crèche for the farmers, laborers and domestic worker's children are neglected and are of 10 victims of hostile environments. Like an angel Institute of Social Work started a Day Care Centre to assist their mothers so that they can keep their children secured. Along with studies the children also learn extracurricular activities. These joyful surroundings make them successful persons.

The timings of the centre are from 8 am to 5 pm. At present there are 50 children between the ages of 5 to 8. They are given breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. For this Rs. 50 per month is charged per child.

Kidderpore Centre:

The Kidderpore Centre, the oldest Centre of ISW, is situated at 5A, Binubasini Street, Kolkata – 700027. It runs three units: one tailoring class, one junior coaching class for local girls boys from pre primary and primary classes (as well as girls and young women) who are school drop outs and get non formal education and one senior coaching class for local girls attending Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The non-formal, pre primary and primary class (also known as the Junior Coaching Class):

This class runs six days a week from 11.30 am to 4 pm and on Saturday from 11.30 am to 2 pm. Two teachers teach all the subjects. There are 30 students, but the number and attendance varies. A painting class is held on Tuesday and a Mehendi class on Thursday. If necessary, the students are helped to do the stitching assignments of their schools. On Saturdays they participate in a PT class along with the students of the senior class. On 26th July a video of a children's movie was shown to them.

The Senior Coaching Class:

The aim of this class is to help needy local students attending secondary and higher secondary schools and colleges in the subjects which they find difficult. Regular coaching is provided for English, Maths, Commerce and Sciences subjects but if necessary help is given for other subjects too. The class runs 6 days a week, Monday to Friday from 12 pm to 3 pm and on Saturday from 12 pm to 2 pm. One teacher teaches English and other English and Bengali based subjects every day, one teacher teaches Maths twice a week and one of our sponsor's girl teaches Maths and Sciences subjects once a week, another sponsor's girl teaches Commerce once a week and a PT teacher takes a PT class every Saturday. There are 35 students at present, but because of various problems of their background (many being children of immigrant labourers) the number and attendance varies.

Besides studies, students are encouraged to develop social awareness and communal amity and to attend cultural functions. They have taken part in various rallies and programmes, including a programme arranged by Maitree on 8th March, attended a drama in Rabindra Sadan. Students were taken to oxford book store and a photography exhibition in Gaganendranath Exhibition Hall. In July there was a request from a school (Silver Point) to participate in their foundation day programme along with students from other schools and seven students and an ex student who was teaching dance at that time participated and staged two dances and music on 26th July. During the Durga puja 15 students were taken in small groups to visit some of the particularly beautiful pandals of South Kolkata and the significance of them was explained to them. On 1st and 6th December 13 students were taken in two groups to attend a lecture on the philosophy of selfless service as explained in Gita in Kalamandir. Both Hindu and Muslim students visited the pandals during the puja and heard the lectures in Kala Mandir and enjoyed them. Some students were also taken to see how small tele films are shot, which was done in the house of one of the teachers.

In the year 2013 four students of this class (Kanchan, Susmita, Neha, Reshma) have passed the Madhyamik and have got admitted in class Xi. Four other students (Mamta, Shova, Firdous, Shahar) have passed the H.S and are now studying in 1st year BA, two (Mamta, Firdous) with Hons. One has got promoted to BA second year with Hons.(Ritu Sharma) 4 girls to BA third year general(Boby, Kainath, Reba, Suriya) and one to B Com third year with Hons (Rinki Singh).

The sponsored students of Kidderpore trying to avail different extracurricular activities with their own initiatives. At present four students of the senior coaching class are attending NCC (Reba, Neha, Susmita, Reshma) of whom one (Reba Singh) has passed the B level examination and is preparing for the C level. Rinki Singh, who has already passed the C level examination, is working in Jawaharlal Nehru Girls High School as a part time PT teacher. She also works as a part time voluntary PT teacher for both the senior and the junior coaching class.

Training in Dance (Kidderpore): 2012-2013

Institute of Social Work encourages extracurricular activities for overall development of children. A dance class takes place once a week for two hours a day at Kidderpore centre. The class timings are 2 to 4 pm on Mondays. The dance classes are monitored by a senior student of the coaching class and at present include 40 students.

Special Education Centre for adolescent girls for Tribal and other Backward classes at Birbhum area:

Institute of Social Work's promising attitude has collected 50 girls of village Chella, Kamarpara at Illambajar block areas(Birbhum) to educate them at this centre. The class timings are from 7 am to 10 am and the girls are from Classes V to X. These people belong to a backward tribal group but have shown interest in studies considering its value. Institute of Social Work has extended its hands to reform their community by all ways. Awareness Camps organized to stop early marriage.

Institute of Social Work has also started a Education Centre for the children belongs to families of rickshaw puller, van puller and other casual day labourers at Purva Pally Santiniketan, at present 70 students are attending the Centre everyday.

The class timings are from 2 pm to 6 pm because most of the students come after attending their regular school. Their parents are also interested to get literate. Perhaps an adult literacy class will be held in future. A subscription of Rs. 10 is charged per student per month. As time goes by Institute of Social Work may also introduce extracurricular activities like singing, dancing, painting and games. This will encourage the students to perform cultural programmes in future.

Vocational Training Programme for Adolescent Girls:

Institute of Social Work gives importance for the skill development of girls to prevent trafficking and early marriage. Such types of skill shall support these girls to develop self confidence, earn their own livelihood and improve their financial background.

The Four Items of Skill Development:

- 1) Food Processing
- 2) Handicrafts
- 3) Computer Training
- 4) Spoken English

Tailoring Unit of Barasat, Joynagar and Kidderpore:

Barasat: Women's Cooperative carries out the tailoring unit. 8 classes are held in a month. The girls learn measuring, drawing, cutting and stitching. First paper is used. After a good deal of practice cloth is used on machines. Fridge covers, napkins, petticoats, night dresses and bags are made. This programme supports the girls to earn money and improve their economic status.

Joynagar: Stitching is learnt on a 6 months course by giving a small amount of subscription. Here also at first measuring, drawing, cutting and stitching is done on paper before using cloth. The sewing machines are lubricated before and after sewing.

Kidderpore: The tailoring unit is held in 2 shifts, one from 12 pm to 2 pm and the other from 2 pm to 4 pm. There are 20 students but the number varies. Churidars, frocks, embroidery and blouses are stitched in a similar process like Barasat and Joynagar.

Different Significant Activities of Institute of Social Work

Self Help Group:

Institute of Social Work formed a SHG groups 170 numbers at Barasat area and about 84 groups at Joynagar area and 50 groups of Baruipur area. These groups were formed with an aim to combat violence against women and economic self sufficiency for their development. The Institute adapts the approach where a women group elects their leader and builds common group savings for a month. The savings of the members are recorded in a register by a literate group leader. Once this fund grows the group's credit worthiness grants them bank loans. The SHG lends small loans to people within the community for doing business. This loan is repaid at easy installments.

The motive of Institute of Social Work is to collect 10 women together to form SHG. These women are gradually gaining self confidence and economic independence by the support of organizations. This is an important women empowerment programme.

Women Crisis Programme:

Institute of Social Work protects the women crisis programme through its counseling and legal aid to the victims of domestic violence. This programme is activated at Barasat, Joynagar and Chetla City Office. The mentally shattered women are supported by a counsellor who renders them patient wearing and guidance on the issue in question when the family is unable to provide love, shelter, security and safety. Institute of Social Work extends its comfort zone to them. Institute of Social Work has arranged a lawyer who attends the city office, Barasat and Joynagar for legal advice just like a genuine Institute of Social Work has discovered the violence which happens within the four walls of a room.

In our women crisis programme the cases appeared in 3 centres – Barasat, Chetla and Joynagar.

<u>Name of the Centre</u>	<u>No. of cases appeared</u>	<u>No. of cases solved</u>	<u>No. of cases under counseling</u>	<u>No. of subjudice case</u>	<u>No. of cases not continuing</u>
Barasat	20	6	10	4	-
Chetla	38	2	3	30	3
Joynagar	126	19	98	6	3

An orientation programme organized at Barasat on PWDV Act where our lawyer Sri Amalesh Kanti Ghosal attended as Resource person. This programmed was introduced by Institute of Social Work for the awareness of the counselor and the victims.

Project: End Violence against Women and Girl Children

During our past years of experience on dealing of women crisis for poor rural and urban slum women, we have observed that lots of women who are victims of domestic violence whose life ends by committing suicide or death by any other way. There are only alternative solutions to protect these victims of domestic violence by providing an alternative shelter.

By implementing the project we were able to motivate the community specially women to bring self confidence among them by legal aid and counseling. Women who are victims tolerated tortures trying to express their stucked up situation and few of them trying to protest against this oppression.

As a result in some cases in-laws and husband are trying to cautious and restrain from this torture against their wives or daughter in laws. Through the project it was possible to increase awareness process among the community regarding legal aid facilities and to protest against oppression and all sorts of discriminations against women. We believe through the process it will be possible to stop dowry, trafficking, school drop out of girls.

Activities dealt through the project:

- ✓ Counseling and Legal Aid Centre is running thrice a week at the Project Campus of South 24 parganas (Joynagar), North 24 parganas (Barasat) and Kolkata city office (Chetla). These three centers were attended by one Counselor, One Assistant and One Lawyer in each Centre. Any victim women or girl reported their problems and supported by legal advice as and when required.
- ✓ Counselor and Assistant visited the Home of victims or opponent according to the need and priority for counseling or subside the problems.
- ✓ Eight number of Legal Aid training camp organized during this period where thirty to forty personnel join at this camp. Women who are completely unaware about this subject interested to know these laws and prohibitions are there. Through these Camps rural women becoming aware regarding Legal implications which is beneficial to develop their self confidence. So that initially any woman while facing domestic violence she could combat herself before coming to the Centre.
- ✓ Six numbers of self esteem exercise organized in different rural areas and through these exercise a picture came out where the women actually stand and whether they are mentally prepared to combat against violence. If women themselves are not mentally prepare in really difficult to organize any strong protest.

Two number of Dialogue sessions organized with police, lawyer and judges along with other women organizations. In these sessions some victims were enable to present their situation which was beneficial for police and judiciary to realize situation.

Details of Camps during the period:

Health Care:

Institute of Social Work arranges for health check up programme in all its Centers. Health Care is provided to student in dire need. Institute of Social Work extended financial help to Suman Poddar, 18 years old girls of Class XII student who has successfully undergone heart surgery at B M Birla hospital, Institute of Social Work wishes her speedy recovery and resumption of normal life. Institute of Social Work is providing financial help to Mamta Sharma a sponsor girl of Kidderpore Centre for her medical treatment of T.B.

Nari O Samaj:

Institute of Social Work publishes a collection of paper clipping named Nari O Samaj twice a year. This journal based on different issues of women. Our day to day happenings are focused by journalists in newspapers. This collection is distributed to many educational Institutions like NGOs, Calcutta University, Jadavpur University and Women's department. This medium helps women to reach up to the news, specially those who can not avail newspapers or any media.

Purify Water with Solar Rays:

Institute of Social Work has become a partner of SODIS project run by women studies departments under Calcutta University. SODIS means 'Solar Water Disinfection programme'. A method of purifying water with solar rays, the cheapest method of water purification is carried out in EAWAG, Switzerland and 33 developing countries. Institute of Social Work implements this project in three areas of Barasat, Joynagar and Kidderpore with the support of SHG group leaders. It has proved to be fruitful and local people can purify water at zero cost.

Programme on Child Protection & Cross Border Trafficking with Sanlaap:

Institute of Social Work is working as a partner with Sanlaap for executing Sanjojan programme to combat trafficking of children for commercial purposes at Barasat area. Institute of Social Work took up the following activities under the project during the year.

- Worked closely with Police, BSF, Judiciary to ensure services to vulnerable and victims.
- Training sensitization, Capacity building of police, PRI, BSF, CBO and Community leaders on the issues of trafficking with focus on prevention, protection and prosecution.
- Extensive awareness generation initiative among vulnerable communities.
- Consultation at various levels to formulate works strategies for Child Protection and Trafficking.

Networking:

NAWO:

National Alliance of Women is a National platform of women's organization which was formed after Beijing Conference.

It is a women networking for peace, justice and development. The Secretariat of NAWO is based at New Delhi and its Focal Point members run its activities with core committee members at each province. At West Bengal, NAWO hold its activities at ISW office premises and ISW is involved in all activities of NAWO in West Bengal. During the period, NAWO held follow-up programme on State Policy for women in West Bengal based on the recommendations from two day consultation at Department of Women Studies (CU). NAWO organized three days workshop on "Human Rights" where few members from ISW activities participated.

AMAN Network:

Institute of Social Work is an active member of Aman network which protests against Women Violence. The staff members of Institute of Social Work participated in a training on PWDV Act organized by Network at different areas.

Aman encourages a non violent world where dignity and rights of individuals are recognized and everyone has access to equal opportunities irrespective of their gender.

Aman's Strategy:

- To build alliances and share resources at the regional, national and international levels to address domestic violence.
- To help increase choices and resources for survivors of domestic violence.
- To build public support against domestic violence.
- To advocate at the national and international levels to address Domestic Violence and related issues.

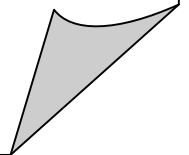
Future Projects:

Institute of Social Work is confident that the essential weapon for social reformation is education. Institute of Social Work, who has been working in this sphere for years, wishes to spread education programme to new areas in Kolkata. Institute of Social Work promises to form a literate society in future starting from the school children.

One more future project of Institute of Social Work is the 'Shelter Home' for women. For the past two years Institute of Social Work is trying to build up a shelter home for the women victims of domestic violence.

A project has been set for encouraging political knowledge and political participation for women, specially from slums or rural areas. This training will be done through workshops and has on with local Panchayet. Training on legal aid will be emphasized in different areas.

The tortured women will meet once in a week at Institute of Social Work Shelter Home. They will exchange their views and ideas with each other. Besides legal help they can also share their grief and sorrow. This sort of group discussions will enable them to forget their worries and gain self confidence. Extension of different vocational at Kidderpore and Barasat. Kidderpore Tailoring Unit is proposed to be converted into a Production Unit. The centre would also import training in tailoring.





Concluding Remarks:

Institute of Social Work through endless effort has been endeavoring to achieve its goal for improvement of the socially and economically disadvantaged people. It has taken great pains to find out the genuinely needy people and has given them the required support with limited capacity and with the help of the dedicated and committed resource persons, Institute of Social Work carries on its services for the downtrodden. Institute of Social Work proudly claims to have earned confidence and trust of the communities with which Institute of Social Work has worked. The greatest achievement of the institute has been found to be in analyzing the poor women and children towards revealing their own potential and generating demands amongst them for further services to be rendered by the institute.

ISW realizes that despite its different fruitful initiatives, there are still gaps between what needs to be done and what the institute has been able to deliver to women and children. Yet with limited resources, many women and children along with the families have reformed their lives and have been able to stand on a firm platform.

Last but not the least; Institute of Social Work would like to acknowledge the support received from agencies private institutions and individuals without which ISW could have done little. Institute of Social Work is confident of accepting such support in the future so as to continue its