



KATAKHALI SWAPNOPURON WELFARE SOCIETY

Strengthening Communities - Ensuring Rights of the Children

Registered Under:

Societies Registration Act 1961, Govt. of West Bengal No. S/IL/91212

NITI Aayog Registration: WB/2016/0099092



Background

Katakhal Swapnopuron Welfare Society (KSWWS) started its journey during 2012 in the islands of Sunderbans to serve the underprivileged children through Education and Child Protection. The organization has established the only English medium school in the islands of Sunderbans following CBSE Curriculum along with multi sectoral value addition inputs. More than 1000 children have received educational inputs and continuing their studies till date. The school was operational for up to Class IV till 2018-2019 academic sessions. In the 2019-20 academic sessions the organization has acquired a land for setting up a permanent structure for the school with addition of classes from V to VIII. The organization intends to scale up the school up to Class – XII level in next 5 years time.

The core areas of intervention for KSWWS involve – Child Rights, Education, prevention from Trafficking & Child Marriage, sensitization on Menstrual Hygiene along with some intervention for the adults on Literacy and Women Empowerment.

The organization strives to move ahead with the thematic areas of Education, Child Protection and Adolescent issues in spirit with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) and West Bengal State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC).

Mission

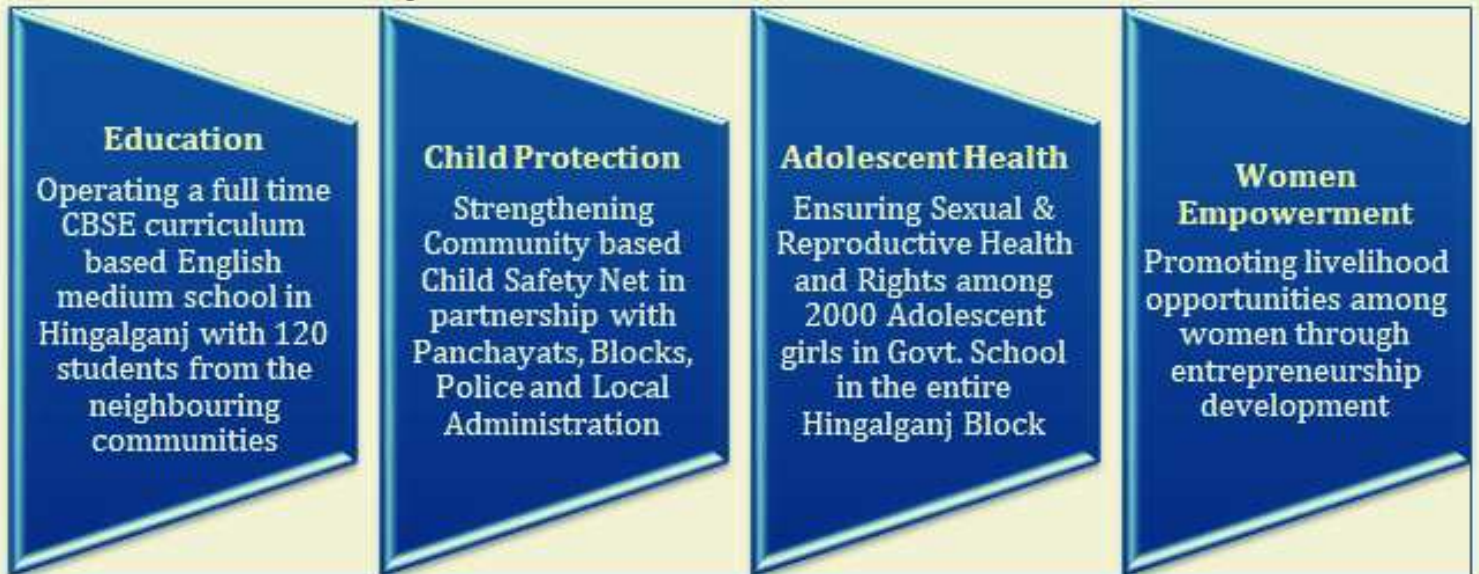
Creating a value based society for women, children, and adolescents towards ensuring their entitlements through Rights Based Approach by means of enhancing community participation and system strengthening.

Vision

Empowering communities and promoting gender equality aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.

The organisation looks at ensuring Rights and Entitlements for all children in spirit of the UNCRC and Sustainable Development Goals. While working in the remotest islands of Sunderbans, the organisation has revealed the reality of life situations of the children living in those islands. It has been observed the substantial numbers of children are vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitations. They are being deprived of their basic Rights by all means and are used for labour including being trafficked to other locations. Families of these children are left with no options when the traffickers lure them with several offers. The organisation has been able to collaborate with state and district administration for effective implementation of various Govt. schemes and programs including capacity building and monitoring support.

Thematic Areas of Programme Intervention



Swapnopuron Shiksha Niketan : The Core Programme

This school started its journey in 2012 with the aim to fulfill the needs of its immediate local community of Katakhali village and adjacent areas. The school located along the serene banks of river Ichhamoti. The journey began as an Anglo-Bengali medium school imparting education to the children from Pre-Primary to Class IV. Since January 2016 it is operating as an English medium school which is rare of its kind in a remote island where the project is undertaken. Now this school has 150 students, most of them are first generation learners or their parents have basic literacy.

The growth in number of students (presently 185 students) and involvement of the guardians has encouraged the organization to think beyond the current form of operation considering the development of the children and protecting them from different forms of abuse & exploitations. This school not only takes care of academics but also ensures that all children can grow with their full potential and excel in their lives. Through various activities Swapnopuron enables a child to unleash their potentialities and recognize their abilities.

Community based Programme Interventions



KSWS has been entrusted for field level orientation on the “Sankalpa” scheme; an initiative of District Administration, North 24 Parganas on prevention of Child Marriage & Trafficking. More than 12,000 children at Hingaljanj have been oriented through this initiative.



KSWS have been entrusted from Basirhat District Police to conduct school level sensitization events on ‘Swayangsiddha’ – a West Bengal Police initiative. As of now ,the organizations has been able to cover up four blocks – Haroa, Hasnabad, Hingaljanj and Swarupnagar with a coverage of over 20,000 school students.

Child Protection Committees (CPC) is a statutory structure under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for setting up a mechanism to provide protection services to the children. KSWS have been coordinating with District Child Protection Societies for necessary capacity building of the CPC members and formalize their operations at the grassroots level.

The organisation has also community level intervention for **Women Empowerment** on issues of health & nutrition, skill support and livelihood promotion. It is envisaged to expand these programmes with specific focus on women empowerment and creating child safety net. The organisation has been promoting women empowerment using '**Batik**' as one of the main means of livelihood promotion for women victims of domestic violence.



Special Bridge Learning programme has been initiated to support 300 children in the remote islands of Sunderbans. These children have been out of sphere of education since last 5 months. These three centers are providing academic inputs free of cost to the children to keep them on track of education. The centres are located at Pargumit, Kalitala and Bainara.



Tailoring Units have been started as a capacity building program for mothers to learn and earn as they can earn in small way by working as tailors and supplying to local markets. Till date 150 such women have been trained and they have started with small businesses working from their home.



The organisation has provided extensive relief support to the people in Sunderbans after the Amphan Super Cyclone. Over One lakh people have received relief support. The organisation has started with community rebuilding process by means of repairing 40 tube wells, cleaning up over 40 ponds sub-merged with saline water and building 20 houses for the affected people.

Way Forward

1. Construction of permanent school building to accommodate more than 1000 children.
2. Encourage learning opportunities for all children to the best possible ways through age appropriate teaching - learning inputs.
3. Operating the school for continued learning among children and enhance their abilities.
4. Initiate early childhood care and education program for children between 3 to 6 years.
5. Strengthening community based child protection mechanism to prevent child labour, child marriage and child trafficking.
6. Continuing with Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual health Rights issues both within the Govt. schools and in the communities.
7. Provide life skills and psycho social counseling inputs for adolescence and youth.
8. Promote women entrepreneurship to ensure socio-economic empowerment in the islands.



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