

Brief Project Description :

For nearly a decade Sabuj Sangha has been working in peri urban railway trackside squatter colonies sprouting up to accommodate growing exodus of migrants from the rural hinterland of South 24 paraganas district. It is working to uphold children's right to education in a social milieu where child's education stands low down in family priority. Sabuj Sangha took the initiative to bring these children, in general first generation learners, into educational mainstream with time bound multi donor support. The idea is to enrol such non school going children of 5-14 age group in NFE (Non Formal Education) centres, prepare them for admission to age specific classes in formal schools using child friendly joyful 'Bridge Course' method. Similar initiative has been taken up in Nandakumarpur Gram Panchayet by establishing two lower primary schools using similar innovative child friendly curriculum. To prevent dropping out from formal school a coaching support service is provided for mainstreamed children as per need.

The Goal of all such child education initiatives is to ensure child's right to education and prevent them from falling into the groove of street children and child labour to be exploited, ill treated or abused.

The end result of the project will be a better educational environment for disadvantaged children, more sensitised community with scaled up priority on education, lesser number of out of school children in the community, be it rural or peri urban. There are minimum or no dropouts from mainstreamed children receiving coaching support.

Project Analysis :

This proposal is aimed at supporting our ongoing 'Suas' sponsored project " Rehabilitation of Deprived Children Through Education" running in our peri urban operational areas of Ghutiarisharif, Taladi, Baruipur and Dakshin Barasat. This year, we have been specially requested by Chairman of Baruipur Municipality to start a new centre at a railway trackside squatter colony identified by the municipal body. This initiative is also being extended to two rural primary schools run by Sabuj Sangha to take care of the running costs. During our earlier initiatives 247 children were mainstreamed in formal schools, four community sensitisation programmes were organised and 15 Self Help Groups were formed from the mothers of centre children.

- In the present year we propose to start 5 coaching centres to provide needed support to 120 of mainstreamed 247 children to ensure their retention in schools. The parents of 120 odd children have been sensitised enough to take responsibility of providing private support to their wards.
- In our rural operational area we are running two primary schools where the running cost was being met with support from Sri Dorabji Tata Trust. Since the trust fund was time bound and will phase out in December 2005. We would very much like to get a SUAS sponsorship for the running cost of these two rural schools.

- To ensure quality and sustainability of the project and keeping in mind the future perspective and outreach of the organisation we propose to include two capacity building components in the project structure. One part will upgrade the capacity of project personnel namely Centre Social Animators and Sishu Sathi (Coaching Teacher) while the other part will be used to increase the knowledge base, perceptions and service delivery capacity of the chore staff of Aalor Disha Unit to a more professional level. This aspect does offer a positive niche to Suas volunteers coming to Sabuj Sangha to act as Resource Persons.

Goal	Objective	Indicators
<p>Ensure child's right to education and prevent them from dropping out of school</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacitate out of school children of 5-14 age group using innovative Bridge course curriculum 2. Ensure retention of 200 rural children in two KSSN schools at Nandakumarpur 3. To retain of 247 mainstreamed children providing need based coaching support 4. To make education child friendly through development of Child's finer sensibilities 5. Project personnel be provided with refresher training to improve quality of education 6. Chore project staff of Aalor Disha unit gain better professional Competence to handle future programmes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 400 children enrolled in 5 preparatory bridge course centres. 2. 2 KSSN schools running full term at Nandakumarpur. 3. 5 coaching centres in operational catering to 120 first generation learners 4. Training in art and craft made a curriculum part. 5. 2 capacity building refresher course for educators and coaching centre teachers organised 6. 2 OD (Organisational Development) training programme organised for Aalor Disha core staff with resource person support from SUAS volunteers

Management:

Sabuj Sangha is a non-government organisation with an unique development perspective of mix and match of development strategies of PRA & PPA (People's Participatory Planning). Coming on stream in 1975 as a registered body it had started functioning under guidance of a democratically elected Governing Body. Presently, the Secretary/Director is acting as chief functionary and contact person, also holding joint financial operation responsibility with the President and the Treasurer.

Sabuj Sangha's initiatives have twin focuses, namely, rural and urban. In the rural sector its interventions are in infrastructure development for bettering quality of life, offering livelihood options for geographically and economically marginalized community groups, running child friendly schools for children of marginalized communities, empowerment of rural women using micro finance tools, improving health care facility infrastructure for preventive, curative and referral service along with ancillary support services like Boat and vehicular ambulance facility. In the urban sector the programmes are focused on development and rehabilitation of street or squatter colony children ensuring their basic rights to education and protection.

The efforts of Sabuj Sangha are appreciated and supported by Donors like GOAL Ireland, Unicef, Railway Children U. K., Suas Ireland, Child Line Foundation under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, CARE West Bengal and Sundarban Development Board of West Bengal Government.

As a major implementation strategy we have formed firm linear linkage with local area stakeholders like self government bodies, community people, Railway Authorities, Police, Railway Police, Municipal Bodies and elected people's representatives and are receiving their support, assistance and cooperation to make our programmes successful.