

ANNUAL REPORT – 2016



Institute of social work

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Our journey with socially and economically disadvantaged women and children of our society has sustained 38 successful pillars of years. We started in 1978 with a small group of dedicated social activists. They have had to overcome many challenges and hurdles in the passing years. At present ISW is a vibrant organization engaged in wide ranging activities that have resulted in impressive impacts on the lives of people we have worked with, especially women. The means of such achievements have been the various schemes carried out by us.

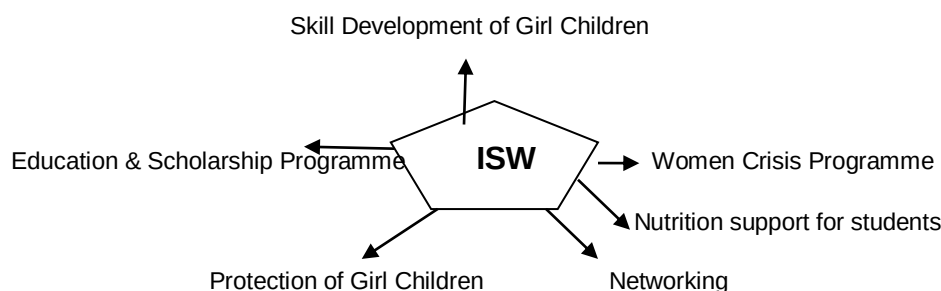
The factors like lack of awareness about fundamental rights, want of legal protection and lack of education lead to social discrimination of poor women. ISW has realized through experience that empowerment of women can take place by educating them both generally and legally and also by imparting vocational skills among them. ISW believes in empowering people, especially the women and children so that they can fight against increased vulnerability to various odds. This is done through innovative interventions at grassroots level. It has been further realized that it is generation of skills among underprivileged sections including women that create empowerment towards livelihood.

At the International and National Levels discourse on empowerment result in design of policy reforms, but to make the policies work on ground poses challenges. We at ISW put emphasis on context specific nitty-gritty through study of local profiles and enlist active participation of prospective beneficiaries. ISW has been very sensitive to the differential local needs and priorities and has always tried to earn the confidence of the potential beneficiaries in what ISW tries to do.

ISW has given maximum priority to slum areas where women are at the receiving and ISW has always stood by slum women and children and also backward communities in different districts involving delivery of education and social services.

ISW has been the key in transforming the lives 31000 children and 42,000 women. We are proud to have acquired the goodwill of women and children with our limited means and financial resources but definitely with utmost dedication rendered by the ISW volunteers. ISW is occupied with numerous activities – all addressed to the causes of downtrodden people living in slum and other areas of Kolkata and selected districts outside.

The diagram below shows the gamut of ISW activities



A number of projects have been taken up in backward areas of Kolkata and among backward communities in certain districts of West Bengal.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN BARASAT

In 1981, ISW started holding classes for school dropouts with the aim of bringing them back to mainstream. Within a span of 2 Years thereafter, a programme called Sishu Vikash Bharati (for primary level students upto class IV) was set up to groom children in primary education. Following its success, the scope of Kishore Vikash Bharati was extended to educate secondary students.

But at present, owing to the government policy of admitting students at higher classes corresponding to age, majority of the students left Barasat School and joined higher classes at Government schools. But they were not able to cope with academic pressure. ISW has fulfilled this gap by introducing special coaching centre for such students.

	No. of teachers	No. of students	No. of working day/month	Duration of classes
Nursery	4	60	25	4 am. to 4 p.m.
Coaching	7	90	25	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The students are also imparted lessons in extracurricular activities, like dance, music, recitation, paper cutting, painting, clay modeling and other handicrafts.

It may be pertinent to note that the Leka-Pora coaching classes, earlier organized by ISW, are not being held due to lack of funds.

Vocational Training programme for Adolescent girls (Barasat)

Skill development training by NSHM Udaan skill foundation

ISW promotes skill development of girls to avoid trafficking and child marriage. These skills in return would fetch them livelihood. This helps transform their economical and social background. The main aim of this project is enable girls to earn their living. Bodhipath, an NGO is helping these ISW trained girls earn their livelihood by selling their products. With this end in view, ISW implemented a project named "Empowerment of adolescent girls through skill development." Four different kinds of Training implemented through the project are: (i) Food preparation and serving (ii) Computer (iii) Caregivers for Home (iv) Handicrafts.

About 60 boys and girls have been trained by NSHM Udaan skill foundation on retail selling, hospitality and computer. Among these students some were to get job through campus interview.

Programme on girl child issues :-



- i) A consultation programme on protection of children was held on 04.12.2015 at Seminar hall of ISW project campus (Barasat). Members from different NGOs of North 24 Parganas, ICDS officials, teachers and personnel from police and judiciary attended the programme.
- ii) A self esteemed programme was organized at Barasat project centre for the students of special education centre under Barasat project on 18.12.15. The said programme was conducted by the Teachers of Barasat project. Main thrust of the programme was to identify the issue affecting the adolescent girls / boys and to search the solutions.
- iii) A seminar on "Save the Children" was organized at Barasat project campus in collaboration with Gana Unnayan Parshad, Kolkata on 14.07.16. The main focus of the discussions was saving the foetus of girl children before birth. CMOH of North 24 Parganas was present as

- the Chief Guest at the meeting. Participants were rural young mothers, SHG members, ICDS workers and teachers of local schools.
- iv) An awareness programme was held on 15th December 2015 on child protection and legal aid at Barasat project campus, where about 60 participants attended the programme including lawyers of Barasat Court.
- v) A three-day seminar on 'Child Protection' was held 03.12.2015 to 05.12.2015 at Barasat campus in collaboration with Sanlaap Kolkata. About 70 community people attended the said discussion.

Camps organized on Protection of girl child at different block of North 24 Pargans

Title	Protection of girls and their Security
Date	30.06.2015
Venue	Sakchura (ICDS Centre)
Block	Basirhat – 1
P.S.	Basirhat
District	North 24 Parganass

Venue	ICDS Centre
Vill.	Prasunkati
Block	Basirhat

Venue	Kalanchi Village
Block	Gaighata
Dist.	North 24 Parganas
Date	04.07.16
Time	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Venue	Gobindapur Junior High School
Block	Swarupnagar, Noth 24 Parganas
Date	16.06.2015

Special Programmes at Barasat

1. A programme was organized at Barasat project campus on July, 2016 to honour the successful candidates of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary who were students of special education centre of Barasat. About 12 students were honoured on that occasion. Parents and source members of community were invited on that occasion. Students were overwhelmed by this honour. We hope it will inspire the students for further education.
2. A project has been started to educate children at faraway places of Barasat district. One such place is Surya Sen Pally where children have stopped going to school. Teachers of Barasat project centre are going to Surya Sen Pally thrice a week by cycle van to educate and prepare 30 children so as to enable them to enter mainstream education. Here children have been victims of poverty. Hence, we are providing a minimum amount of nutrition support to these children.
3. An education programme has been started at brick field area of Barasat. Children are not staying here throughout the year. They come from different places with their parents and also assist their parents to carry bricks and so on. About 30 children are attending this education programme. Children are very enthusiastic as they have never been exposed to such primary lessons.
4. It is a unique process to educate underprivileged section of our society whereby Teachers are reaching communities to teach students, students are not having to come to teachers at designated schools.
5. 24th November 2016 was celebrated as Childrens' Day at Michael Nagar ICDS Centre which was organized by ICDS Barasat and implemented by Barasat centre of ISW. There were drawing competition, quiz contest and games. The programme was appreciated by District Administration officials.
6. A girl named as Rupali Das dropped out from her school due to poverty and family circumstances. She was admitted to ISW's special education centre and the teachers tried their best to help her continue her study. Finally, the teachers took initiative to admit Rupali at a Govt. Affiliated school and it was a great achievement of teachers in that Rupali is now studying at a Govt. affiliated school.
7. A student of Barasat education centre named as Afsana Khatoon (studying at class X) was misled by some mates and one day she escaped from her house with a boy. Her family came to teachers of ISW with the request to rescue their daughter. Teachers rescued the girl and with their great initiative, the girl has resumed her education. Now Afsana is continuing her education and she hopes to be self sufficient in future.

Education Programme at Roytala

It is far flung area of Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district where children have not experienced schooling. ISW has striven to render education to these children through its centre. At present only 1 teacher teaches about 60 students who have otherwise have no scope for undergoing education.

Pre School Education at Akra

Local resident families of fishermen and daily labourers do not have the opportunity to educate their children and these children are looked after by the ISW Centre. 90 children are attending pre-school from Monday to Saturday between 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Besides studies, the students are trained in music lessons by a teacher. About 20 students participate in singing lessons on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Kidderpore Project



This is the oldest project of ISW. It is located at 5A, Bindubasini Street, Kolkata. It works for integrated development of adolescent girls and children. Three classes are going on, of which one junior coaching class is conducted for the students of local primary schools and drop outs. A senior coaching class is held for local adolescent girls studying at Secondary, Higher Secondary and College levels. A vocational training on tailoring is going on for adolescent girls.

Education class of children: 40 students are studying in this section where both boys and girls are attending the classes. The class starts at 12 noon and continues upto 4 p.m. As the children are coming from slum areas and are suffering from malnutrition, we are giving nutrition support to these children.

Apart from studies, some extra-curricular activities like dance, music, drawing paper craft making are organized for these children.

Education for adolescent girls – 60 students from Class V to Undergraduate levels have enrolled for this class. The aim is to provide coaching in the subjects, which they find difficult to muster, like English, Mathematics and Science. Five teachers teach in this class, one class is held 3 days a week, two classes are held for two days a week and two once a week. Attempts are made to encourage extra-curricular activities and build up awareness about social problems. We are also giving nutritional support to these adolescent girls.

This year, 3 students have passed Madhyamik and two have passed Higher Secondary.

Skill Development Training at Kidderpore

A vocational training class is going on for imparting training on tailoring to local women. It functions from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students are taught to make ladies garments. After being trained here, 6 students are working in tailoring shops, in boutiques and 3 students are working from their homes. Six of them are doing Kantha stitches under the guidance of Bodhipath. They get paid for their work.

Project : Chetanalok – Bolpur, Santiniketan (an Education Centre for distressed children)



The project started by ISW with an objective to keep children in a pleasant atmosphere and to create interest in their studies. Children from ages of 5 to 14 are attending this centre. The students come from families of rickshaw / van pullers and casual labourers and vegetable vendors. Classes are held 6 days a

week between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., with 90 students attending. At present, 4 teachers are engaged in the centre.

To inspire a total development of children, the students are taken through activities like singing, dancing, painting and games. As the children come from very poor families, most of them suffer from malnutrition. Hence, we are giving nutrition support to this children.

Health check up camp at Chetanalok



On 6th December 2016, ISW organized a health check up camp for children of Chetanalok in collaboration with Swasthya Bitan (Peerless). A team of doctors and nurses of Swasthya Bitan attended this health check up camp. About 96 students received the benefits of health check up on this date. A number of critical diseases were identified by the doctors and the doctors of Swasthya Bitan assured us that they will check our children any time without any cost.

Special education centre for adolescent girls at Chella-Kamarpara (Bolpur)



The project started with an aim to stop drop out and early marriage of girl children. We have started the project with 30 adolescent girls coming from families of vegetable vendors, agricultural labourers and

other casual workers. At present, 85 girls are attending the centre. Students who are going to Secondary and High Schools are attending the ISW centre for proper guidance so that they can follow their formal academic lessons.

The centre runs 6 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and it functions from morning to afternoon on Sundays. Students stay here whole day. On Sundays, they study at first half (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and in the second half, they read study books. Every Sunday, there is an arrangement of lunch for the 85 students. The students also draw or play games. They enjoy on the Sundays, as they do other activities along with study.

- A computer training class has been started at Chella Kamarpara for senior students. About 20 girls are taking this Training.
- Occasionally, study circles are arranged for the girls to arouse their conscious about the society they live in and also about their surroundings.

A special programme had been organized at Chella to honour the successful candidates of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary Examinations, who were also students of special education centre of ISW during two years. About 17 students were honoured on that occasion. A colourful cultural programme was organized by the girls and teachers of Chella Kamarpara on that occasion. A number of people from local community attended this programme and it generated inspiration among the parents to educate their girl children.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME OF ISW

The Scholarship programme of ISW started in 2007 to help students, especially girl students, from socially and economically handicapped families to pursue higher studies post-Higher Secondary. The programme covered 37 girl students with support from the Friends of Kolkata, an Australia based social service organization. So far, that is between 2007 and 2016, about 300 girl students have received the benefit under this programme. These students, given their family background, would not have been able to continue their higher studies without the scholarship support under the programme. The impacts of this support has been enormous in terms of not only instilling self confidence among the girl students but also empowering them to earn their livelihood. Many of these girls have secured jobs and are supporting their families financially and otherwise.

Special mention may be made of Barasat area where the scholarship programme has covered about 150 students coming from economically backward families between 2009 and 2016. All these students are doing very well.

In this context, ISW would like to express its gratitude to Prof. Tapan Mitra whose generous support has enabled ISW to institute a special scholarship programme for extremely needy and meritorious students who enroll for higher studies post-HS. These special scholarships are funded by Tapan Mitra Fund for

Academic Support. The founder of the fund, Prof. Mitra himself, an academician by profession and an ex-faculty in Economics of Cornell University of USA, is committed to supporting higher education pursuits of underprivileged girl students back in his home state despite the fact that he is staying far away in the USA. ISW has extended special scholarships to 5 girl students this year.

WOMEN CRISIS PROGRAMME

Realising that women often become victims of domestic violence in different ways, ISW operates this centre at three places, viz Barasat, Joynagar and Chetla. The main object of running this centre is to extend legal help to the distressed women to fight out their problems in the courts of law. ISW also provides counselling services to women in need of love, security and safety.

No. of cases dealt during 2015-2016

Name of the centre	No of case reported	No. of sub-judice cases	No of cases under counselling	No of cases solved	No of cases discontinuing
Chetla	8	2	3	2	1
Joynagar	54	-	41	9	4
Barasat	26	5	16	1	4

The impact of legal counseling project of the ISW has been quite encouraging in that the incidence of domestic violence against women in settlements served by ISW has gone down. This project has created awareness about the communities served, where husband and in-laws have been observed to be reforming themselves in realization of the consequences of legal aid and counseling.

Counselling and legal aid are given thrice a week at the project campus at Joynagar in South 24 Parganas and at Barasat in North 24 Parganas and at ISW city office at Chetla, Kolkata. Each of these centres is manned by one counsellor, 1 assistant and a lawyer.

NARI O SAMAJ

From this year ISW is publishing Nari O Samaj quarterly. It is a document comprising collection of Newspaper clippings pertaining to issues affecting women and children and other vulnerable sections of society. This document contains relevant information for dissemination among the readers and the society at large.

Programme on child protection and cross border trafficking in association with SANLAAP

ISW is working as a partner of SANLAAP for implementing SANJOJAN programme to combat trafficking of children for commercial purposes in Barasat area. ISW activities during the year have been as follows:

- a) Worked closely with police, border security force, judiciary to ensure the needed services to vulnerable and victims.
- b) Training on sensitization and capacity building of police, BSF, CBO and community leaders.
- c) Extensive awareness generation among vulnerable communities.
- d) Consultation at various levels to formulate work strategies for child protection and to control trafficking.

ISW is helping parents to locate their missing children and register complaints through this crisis centre.

NETWORKING



NAWO :

It was formed after Beijing conference. The name being National Alliance of Women is a national platform for women. ISW members participate in the activities of NAWO. NAWO organized a programme involving discussion on gender difference as prevail in the present days. The programme was held at the Academy of Fine Arts. Members from Barasat, Kidderpore attended this programme.

AMAN NETWORK

Aman network, which protests against women violence, includes ISW as an active member. The staff members of ISW participated in training on PWDV Act organized by the Network at

different areas. AMAN encourages a non-violent world where self respect and human rights of individuals are recognized and everyone has access to equal opportunities irrespective of gender.

Aman's strategy:

- To build alliances and pool 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.

Internship at ISW

It has been our proud privilege to have offered internship at our various activity centres during the past year.

1. 2 students of 3rd year Psychology honours of Loreto College participated in the ongoing social service activities of ISW during October 2016.
2. Two students from Vidyasagar School of Social Work under Vidyasagar University, doing their Master's degree course in social work have undergone hands-on training at ISW centre.
3. Moreover, 3 students from Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad are undergoing training in Legal Aid Services imparted by ISW, during November-December 2016.

FUTURE PROJECTS

It has been realized by ISW that the most important tool for social reformation is education. Working in this field for years, ISW intends to spread its wings of education far and wide, specially to new areas. ISW aims to form an enlightened society in future, starting with elementary education.

One future project of ISW is setting up of an 'old age home' for aged people. For the past few years ISW is trying hard to build up old age home.

ISW aimed to protect girl children from risk, i.e. vulnerability of being trafficked for child prostitution and also for violence against girl child.

To bring up social change by building up an educated community, ISW plans to set up primary schools and coaching centre at remote villages in Birbhum and North 24 Parganas.

ISW plans to extend different types of vocational training at Kidderpore and Barasat. Kidderpore tailoring unit is proposed to be converted into a production unit. The centre would also impart training in tailoring.

Concluding Remarks

ISW has been enlightening the lives of the socially and economically handicapped people irrespective of caste creed or religion. ISW has the power to find out the people who are in genuine need and needs to acquire the support rendered by ISW.

Skill Development to facilitate occupational empowerment of boys and girls and thus leading to improved livelihood has been a new area of ISW's devotion. With limited fund and with the help of dedicated and committed resource persons, ISW has been regularly uplifting the under-privileged people. The unlimited hard work of ISW has earned the trust and confidence of the vulnerable communities. ISW is proud to have inspired the poor women and children in disclosing their own potential and generating demands amongst them for innumerable services rendered by ISW.

Promoted by success of selected interventions in remote village, ISW plans to work in more villages that are located far from cities and towns, towards empowerment of women and children.

Nevertheless, there are still gaps between the needs and what ISW could deliver on ground, specially pertaining to the needs of women and children.

It is essential to mention that – awareness camps had been successfully organized during the year. ISW has improved the lives of women, children and their families with limited resources.

These families are better off than yesterday. Women have gained self-confidence to protect themselves against social injustice and discrimination.

**NAME OF THE FUNDING AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED TO RUN
DIFFERENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES OF ISW**

The last but not the least, ISW would like to acknowledge the support received from different agencies including private institutions and individuals, without which ISW could have done little. ISW continues to discover new sources of funding that it can access for promoting and expanding its activities. ISW is confident of receiving such help and support in future so that ISW can stand as a pillar to guard the downtrodden people towards social and economic empowerment and development.

We acknowledge the donations received from the following individuals and agencies, without which our efforts would not have been as successful as these have been:

1. Asha San Francisco

340, S Lamon Ave. Ste 2742
Walnut CA 91789

2. Friends of Kolkata

144, Scotchma Sb.
North Fitzong VIC Australia

3. Project Kolkata

Australia

4. Dr. Dagmar Engels

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5. Dr. Tapan Mitra

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7. Damayanti Ganguly, Kolkata

8. Chhanda Sen, Kolkata

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