ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

Institute of social work

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FOREWARD

The year 2018 is something special for our organization, Institute of Social Work as it completes its 40 years of journey – the journey that began in the year 1978 – the journey that started with a small group of devoted social activists in the field of development work prioritizing the issues pertaining to women and child in particular. For the last 40 years ISW has remained to strive for socio economic development of the oppressed masses with special emphasis on education and health. We, working with disadvantaged people believe that empowerment of women can happen through education both general and legal and acquisition of vocational skill. Lack of awareness about their rights including legal protection, lack of education lead to social and economic discrimination of women.

Institute of Social Work has been working on the issues concerning women nearly four decades with a desire to rescue women from regular prey of domestic violence and torture. It has stood strong with its aims and objective which is to empower women and make them self-sufficient. Our organisation's mission is the alleviation of human suffering and we have a dream to uplift the weaker under privileged segment of the society.

The past four decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures, to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvement in nutrition, basic health and education.

Four important dimensions of women empowerment and opportunity concerning patterns of inequality between men and women are :

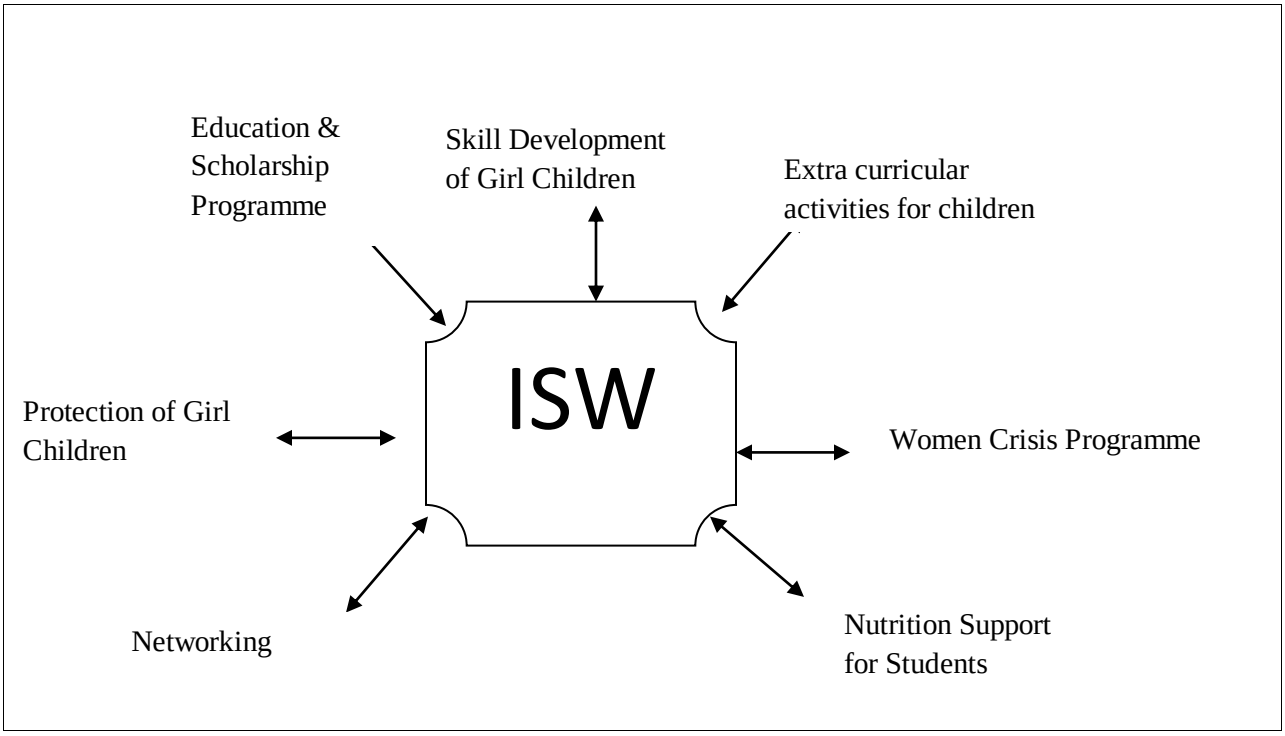
1. Economic participation.
2. Economic opportunity
3. Political empowerment
4. Educational attainment
5. Health and well-being

Every project that our organization manages has a vision towards the superior status of women and reduce the gendered and economic, present in our society.

We have a lot of financial stringency but in spite of limited resources and means ISW has done a lot in transforming the lives of 33,000 children and 45,000 women and all these have been possible due to the dedicated service of ISW volunteers.

PROGRAMME SECTORS : PROJECTS IN HAND

The Diagram below shows coverage of ISW activities.



PROJECT IN HAND

A number of project have been taken up, all addressed to the downtrodden, people living in slums and also for women and children belonging to backward communities in different districts of West Bengal.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN BARASAT

In the year 1981, with a group of 33 school dropouts, ISW ventured its classes under a mango tree. Within a span of few years the formal primary education under the banner of Shishu Vikas Bharati upto class IV began. After about two decades with the increasing number of students and demand from parents as well as villagers enabled ISW to start Kishore Vikas Bharati for secondary students upto class VIII.

A Glimpse of this Project

But West Bengal Government's decision for Government and aided government school only for those students who are continuing their studies in those schools from lower classes, a maximum number of students left ISW School, Barasat. But want of individual care in those schools again made ISW to come forward and

introduce special coaching centre for such students. Following chart shows the coverage

	No. of Teachers	No. of Students	No. of Working day / month	Duration of classes
Nursery	3	73	25	11 a.m – 4.00 p.m.
Coaching Class	6	130	25	2.00 p.m.-4.0 p.m./5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Nutrition support is regularly provided to children of Nursery Classes. The students also are groomed here in co-curricular activities like dance, music, acting, recitation, clay modeling etc.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT BARASAT

ISW thinks that skill development leading to livelihood opportunities can only help girl child and women folk to combat trafficking and prevent child marriage. Keeping this as a motto ISW has tried, sometimes in association with other organizations to impart basic computer training and English Communication Skill to the drop outs and other adolescent girls of the area. Arrangements also have been made to organize training for general Duty Assistant for hospitals and nursing homes, care givers for home.

The above endeavours of ISW have been bridged by organisations

1) Afflatus Foundation : 10 students have successfully completed computer training programme.
2) Under the able guidance of NSHM : 15 young girls have successfully completed the training for Home Nursing, Home Management (General Duty Assistant)

PROGRAMMES HELD IN BARASAT

1	10.01.18	School Foundation Day was held - cultural programme by students.
2	17.01.18	Health Camp for Children. (Child specialist Dr. Manjulika Ghosh had kindly conducted the Camp
3	01.04.18	Camp on "Child Marriage and Violence against Women – Remedies." Conducted by Advocate Subrata Chakraborty.
4	08.04.18	Camp on above subject in the village Babpur some 15 km away from Barasat. It was attended by a large number of villagers. The meeting was enriched with speech by DCPO, Advocate Subrata Chakraborty and Smt. Nupur Sanyal, Secretary, ISW
5	12.05.18	Mothers' Day Celebration. It was held in a village Maldwip. Actually it was an Awareness camp for mother and child health
6	14.07.18 & 15.07.18	To celebrate 93rd Birthday of renowned playwright Badal Sircar who was very much associated with the activities of ISW – a two days' Theater Festival Programme was held jointly by ISW and Badal Sircar Natya Charcha Kendra at Barasat Campus. Several

		Theater Groups performed in open air. ISW's junior Students of Barasat also played Tagore's "Juta Abiskar". It was an excellent Performance.
7	31.07.18	Seminar on "Protection of Senior Citizens". It was conducted by advocate Subrata Chakraborty. A good number of women attended the meeting. Mr. Chakrabortyhad explained the laws governing the interest of the old people. It was really an enriching programme.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME AT BARASAT

There are some brick kilns in interior and relatively inaccessible places around our Barasat Project Area. One such is Saibana. Here the children of the migrant workers of the brick kilns are deprived of getting even primary education. Here with lot of efforts on the part of ISW's teacher volunteers some 40 children have been enrolled in ISW's special coaching center. Most of the attending children belong to the age group of 6 to 10 years. Primary education is imparted here and awareness programmes on health and hygiene for mothers are often held.

ISW's dedicated teacher-volunteers have similarly ventured another interior place of Barasat – Surya Sen Pally. Here 50 children of domestic workers are regularly attending our special Education Centre. Nutrition support is regularly provided here.

ISW's teacher volunteers regularly visit the villagers' home and counsel them.

We are extremely grateful to Asha Sanfransisco as they sent their representative to visit our project. Sri Padnava Sen visited Barasat project and spent whole day with students and teachers. Padanava also visited the education centres of far away areas of Barasat project (Brickfield areas and Neighbourhood of domestic workers). He prepared a details report of education project of Barasat which is funded by Asha Sanfransisco

EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT RAYTALA

ISW is also trying to reach some remote areas of Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district. Here at Raytala, Kakdwip there is no formal school. ISW has started an education centre here for the neglected and unattended children of the area. At present, there are 60 students in this centre of ISW. There is only one teacher. We can afford only one. There is immense possibility of spreading education here but due to stringency of fund ISW is not allowing more children to come to this centre as it is not possible to manage single handedly.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AT AKRA

ISW is running a pre-school education centre with the children of daily labourers and fishermen of Akra, South 24 Parganas. There are 90 children who have no other opportunity but to attend ISW's education centre. The school is regularly held from Monday to Saturday between 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Here also runs a music class on Tuesdays and Sundays.

KHIDDERPORE PROJECT

The oldest centre of ISW, from where the journey of this organization started is – Khidderpore centre. Here runs three classes.

- Junior Coaching Class
- Senior Coaching Class
- Vocational Training Class

JUNIOR COACHING CLASS

This coaching class runs from 12 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. The students here are mostly school dropouts. There are 60 students at present. The children mostly belong to the Muslim community of Khidderpore slums. Here Bengali, Hindi and Urdu all mediums are followed.

The care and education children receive in their earliest years affect the rest of their lives. Effective childhood education can give children a better chance of escaping poverty and overcoming disadvantage. ISW is trying to help the children keeping this in mind.

After attending this centre ISW helps the children to return back to mainstream.

SENIOR COACHING CLASS

This class is meant for girl students from economically deprived background attending secondary, higher secondary school and colleges. Coaching is provided here in all the subjects with special stress in English, Bengali and Mathematics. The classes run from 12 noon to 4.00 pm. There are 60 students and 4 teachers. This year 4 students have passed the Madhyamik Examination and one has passed the Higher Secondary Examination. Those passed these examinations have enrolled in class XI and undergraduate class respectively.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASS, TAILORING UNIT

A Tailoring class is running here from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 2 shifts. There is one teacher. Nearly 20 students attend this class. Making of ladies wears is taught here. The produce made here are exhibited and sold in various melas like Nari Seva Sangha, Chetla Park, Mohor Kunja and Gitanjali.

Recently we have started computer training classes here. The classes for adolescent girls in computer training are held twice a week. About 15 students are attending the class.

Students here enjoy very much the dance class conducted by one teacher. There are 16 students here.

Nutrition support is provided to all attending different classes.

PROGRAMMES HELD AT KHIDDERPORE CENTRE ATTENDED BY GIRLS

08.01.2018	Phase 2 of the Global Link Programme at American Centre
02.02 to 04.02.2018	Exhibition attended by ISW held at Nari Sevan Sangha

17.02.2018	One Bilion Rising Campaign against exploitation and violence against women at Lake Mall, organized by Swayam.
08.03.18	Women's Day Celebration at Mohor Kunj organized by "Freshlook" a voluntary organization Dance group of Kidderpore performed Dance programme there.
09.03.18	ISW participated at the fair at Chetla (Gobinda Auddy Road) organized by the Organization "Life Project for Youth".
15.03.18	Group of Kidderpore project centre performed dance programme at Academy of Fine Arts on the occasion of 3rd Memorial programme of Late Indrani Sinha, Executive Director of SANLAAP
26.04.18	Exploring youth voices to combat Human Trafficking" 10 senior students attended the programme held at American Centre

EDUCATION CENTRE FOR DISTRESSED CHILDREN – CHETANALOK – SHANTINIKETAN

Now ISW has spread its wing to another district – Birbhum. It is not mainstream Santiniketan, not Kabiguru's Viswabharati. There are our pupils from families of rickshaw and vanpullers, casual daily labourers, vegetable vendors, gardeners. Some 110 students belonging to these class of people attend ISW's coaching centre. Classes are held 6 days a week between 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

We try to create a healthy and attractive atmosphere here organizing different types of activities like singing, painting, dancing for an overall development of children and adolescent girls. Students here celebrate Rabindra Jayanti, Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm.

ISW provides nutritional support to the students here

SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS AT CHELLA-KAMARPARA (BOLPUR)

About 90 adolescent girls of tribal areas of Ilambazar Block areas of Bolepur are attending the education centre of ISW. ISW has started this project to stop drop outs and early marriage. The classes start in the morning 7 a.m. and continues till 10 a.m. The girls are mainly from the classes V to X and come from a community which suffers from the problem of illiteracy. The Centre runs six days a week including Sundays. ISW's coaching centre has really brought a change in the community.

A handicraft Training Programme is recently going on for the girls at Chella-Kamarpara.

Often mothers' meeting and study circle are conducted at the centre premises. These are done to aware the woman folk conscious about their rights and help them to fight against discrimination.

SPONSORRSHIP PROGRAMME

ISW, in 2007, introduced a Scholarship Programme to help students, especially girl students from economically handicapped families to pursue higher studies. This programme was supported by an Australia based social service organization, Friends of Kolkata. Between 2007 and 2008, about 335 girl students from the Mominpur Centre of ISW have benefitted in terms of being financially supported for pursuing their higher studies. These students would not have been able to continue higher studies if this support were not there. The impacts of this scholarship programme have been enormous in not only instilling self-confidence among the girl students but also empowering them to earn their livelihood.

Under another ISW Centre at Barasat, this Scholarship Programme has been extended to about 60 students, between 2009 and 2018, all of whom belonged to socio-economically backward families.

It should be worthy of mention that one of the girl students who was able to complete successfully Air Hostess training at the Frankfin Institute, with support received under the scholarship programme, has bagged a job with an Airline company and is doing well. We see that her family would experience a huge socio-economic transformation for the better.

It is however unfortunate indeed to note that steady flow of financial support from the Friends of Kolkata has been virtually stopped in recent times owing to their internal organizational problems back in Australia and as such the much impactful Scholarship Programme of ISW has been facing an uncertain future. Although some members of Friends of India have been providing some funding in their individual capacities, to sustain the programme, but the same is found to be inadequate compared to needs. The girl students who are pursuing higher studies with support from the Scholarship Programme are at great difficulties faced with lack of certainty of scholarship funding.

Notwithstanding the above uncertainty, ISW would like to mention about another programme, called Special Scholarship Programme funded from Dr. Tapan Mitra Fund. Dr. Mitra's generous support, via this Fund, is meant for extremely needy but meritorious students enrolling for higher studies post-Higher Secondary. ISW takes this opportunity of expressing its deep gratitude to Dr. Tapan Mitra for his generous support for poor but meritorious students with positive impacts.

About the impacts of the support, it will be worthy of mention that of the five students supported by Dr. Tapan Mitra funded Special Scholarship Programme, two girl students have secured First Class in B. Sc. Part-II Examination and the other three have scored high Second Class marks.

WOMEN CRISIS PROGRAMME

In India and all over the world the women have been suppressed economically, suffering violence of different kinds and designated a status much inferior to their male counterparts. ISW runs a women crisis centre mainly to deal with the victims of domestic violence. Violence against women is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations denying women and girls' equality, security, dignity, self-worth and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms.

ISW governs its women crisis programme through its counseling and legal aid support extended to the victims of domestic violence. Counselling and legal aid are given twice a week at the project campus at Joynagar, South 24 Parganas; Barasat North 24 Parganas and ISW's city office at Chetla, Kolkata

Cases dealt with by ISW at the three centers are as noted in the table below. :

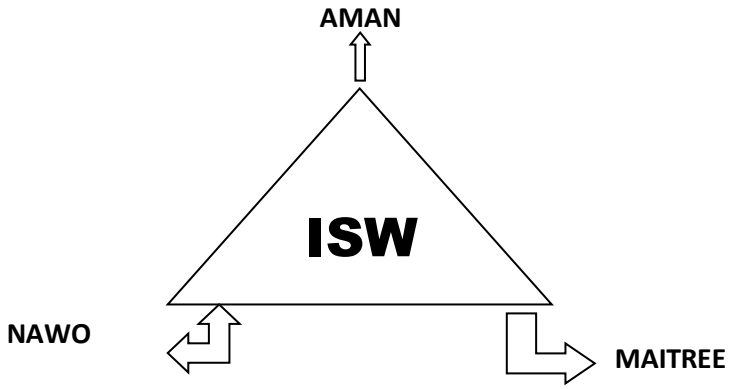
Name of the Centre	No. of Case Reported	No. of sub Judice Cases	No. of Case under Counselling	No. of Case solved	No. of case discontinued
Chetla	30	21	5		4
Joynagar	53	15	20	15	3
Barasat	16	3	4	6	3

The effect of legal counseling project of ISW is quite encouraging. It has created awareness among the tortured women and has supported them to fight injustice done against them.

NARI O SAMAJ – A PUBLICATION OF ISW

ISW publishes a collection of paper clippings named as "Nari O Samaj" thrice a year. The paper clippings are based on news of various women's issues, incidents that happening daily affecting women and children and other vulnerable sections of the society. The collection is circulated among the various educational institutions, Women's Studies departments of Jadavpur and Calcutta University.

NETWORKING



NAWO-

National Alliance of Women Organisation – it is a national platform of women. ISW members participate very actively in all the activities of NAWO. Secretary, ISW is a Core Committee member of NAWO, West Bengal. NAWO was formed after Beijing Conference and is networking for peace, justice and development. NAWO's West Bengal Focal Point uses ISW's premises for its activities.

AMAN NETWORK

ISW is an active member of Aman Network, which protests violence against women. This network works for gender equality and has conducted many seminars and campus on PWDV Act.

MAITREE

This is a platform where a collection of women organization works on women's rights and ISW is an active member of this network. ISW participates in various mass movement organized by Maitree.

FUTURE PROJECTS

ISW thinks that the most important weapon for social change is education. ISW is not a political party giving a call for revolution – peaceful or blooded. With limited capacity it strives to spread education, health for all and gender equality.

- It wishes to spread education programme to new areas in Kolkata with a dream to form a literate society in future.
- Aimed to protect girl children from risk of being trafficked and prostitution. ISW will be working in this field with more emphasis.
- Reviving and activising the cooperative part of the organization.
- Political empowerment of women through more and more seminars on Indian Constitution. This is to be conducted in slums and rural areas.
- Extension of different vocational training at Khidderpore and Barasat

- Most emphasized project that ISW is going to undertake is “OLD AGE HOME” for men and women. ISW is trying hard to build up an old age home at its Barasat Campus. Here inspite of all sincere efforts and good wishes fund has become the crucial problem. Anyway we are trying to overcome this hurdle.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

ISW continues its journey restlessly on the road to development concessing women for the last 4 decades and some more years to add on. For the past 40 long year ISW has remained devoted to the socio-economic development of the oppressed masses, giving particular emphasis on education and health and to build up consciousness among women to fight against gender discrimination and there by establishing gender equality. We like to liberate and equip women with ability to take control of her life, accomplish her dreams and enhance her status. With limited means and resources at the disposal of ISW it continuously endeavours to address with the help of some devoted and socially committed persons, the task of empowering women and children. ISW looks forward to widening its field of activities with more support and resources coming forward in favour of ISW.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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