

# SPAN ANNUAL REPORT

**2021 -2022**

**Society for Peoples' Awareness**

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## Secretary's Desk

Once again, it's time to reflect on what achievements we portray during the year, including those that posed challenges on different aspects. Situation of post-Covid aggravate the challenges even more. Subsequently to the covid and pandemic, life is slowly getting back to normal. However, this normal is no more of the same standard as pre-covid, which is more known as new normal, especially in the aspects of education, livelihood and climate change. This is, in particular, due to the fact that the stoppage and slow progress have impacted these sectors the most. The recovery needs an upright change in the perception, plan and action.

SPAN has been successful in designing a special curriculum, which connects the syllabus and the text using children's imagination, observation and perception, which gives them the joy of learning. This has the potential to bring back the children, who were about to be dropped out of the schools. Such innovative learning sessions are being conducted in the government run primary schools.

Disruptions in life and livelihood has been overwhelming, especially in the rural West Bengal, where SPAN works. Especially in the tea garden areas and tribal areas in the remote corners, have suffered profoundly, as they have lost jobs, or in the situation of reverse migration, people suffered unemployment in the local areas.

SPAN took the initiative to help people access the schemes and programs lying in the panchayats and try out micro livelihood projects, which emphasises women's participation in the workforce, avoid harming the local environment and ecology and in the spirit of cooperation and cohesion.

Capable youth leaders work on climate change and education to reduce the child and youth poverty. They are first to clear adequate training and capacity building towards taking self-motivating actions at the individual level. Then, they should go out to speak on the issues around. They need to work closely with the Panchayats and Block Development offices and also will be speaking in public of their experience and realisation.

Precisely, this is what SPAN, in brief, has captured the challenges and way forward in the post-covid situation.

However, all these would not have been possible, without the uninterrupted financial support from MISEREOR & Kindermissionwerk. I extend our sincerest thanks to our friends in these organisations. I also would like to extend thanks to all those organisations and personalities, who have been providing multiple supports towards capacity building, communication, publicity and disseminating all important tasks and information. Finally, last but not the least, the staff and volunteers, who have been continuously and consistently taking number of initiatives and efforts to probe in any situations that demand the planned intervention.

I wholeheartedly look forward to see these unprecedented challenges as opportunities and shall expect more cooperation and platform of joint initiatives.

With sincere wishes and best regards,

Prabir Basu

Secretary, SPAN

## Brief about SPAN

SPAN came into being in 1989 working with the issues of children of migrant and displaced population. It gradually expanded to STs, SCs and minority groups who due to insipid livelihood practices leaving their children in situation of gross violation of rights.

Recognising the prerogatives and concerns of such sections of population SPAN endeavoured to work on child rights holistically. Thus it also work to create an enabling situation where people will participate and organise initiatives to find an answer to their local problems by way of creating alternative model against the existing development process which apparently have failed to respond peoples' need and aspiration.

SPAN envisages a society that is economically productive and equitable, socially just, environmentally sound and genuinely democratic.

SPAN's mission is to work alongside the socially and economically excluded groups of people, starting with children. It works to enhance the rightful and equitable share of development for all who are disproportionately placed, by facilitating the process of empowerment and good governance.

SPAN's focused areas of engagement are (1) Child rights with special focus on the protection, education and participation of urban and rural children having their life and interest taken in consideration, (2) youth led development projecting their increased capacity to participate through education, skill and economic sustainability, (3) gender as a cross cutting aspect, women assume responsibility and accountability to become more and more visible in the social sector engagement, economic ventures and political participation having understood reproductive rights and define their new role, (4) child budget analysis, and (5) community managed livelihood resource support (CMLRS) impacting the way of life amongst the rural populace.

## Geographical Coverage

### Rural

District	Blocks	Number of Gram Panchayet
South 24 Parganas	Basanti, Gosaba, PatharPratima	15
Murshidabad	Sagardighi, Nabagram	10
Bankura	Khatra 1, Hirbandh	10
Purulia	Jhalda 1, Baghmundi	10
Birbhum	Rajnagar, Mohammad Bazar	10
Jalpaiguri	Mal, Mateli, Nagrakata	Tea Gardens in 10 GPs

### Urban

District	Ward no	Municipality / Corporation
Kolkata	3	Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Kolkata	29	Kolkata Municipal Corporation
North 24 Parganas	3,4,5	South DumDum Municipality
North 24 Parganas	1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7	KamarhatiMunicipality
North 24 Parganas	5, 7	TitagarhMunicipality
North 24 Parganas	16, 17	BarackporeMunicipality

## Education – JEEVAN PATH

While most of the children are disconnected from school education in this pandemic period and online education was reached to a handful of children, SPAN designed and introduced JEEVAN-PATH in five districts e.g. in Kolkata, North and South 24 Parganas, Purulia and Jalpaiguri. Jeevan path is a learning process, wherein children learn from their surrounding with help from youth mentor. 54 Members of Youth councils are trained to facilitate learning for the children at JEEVAN-PATH. The main objective of JEEVAN-PATH is to resume learning of all those children of 6-14 years age group in school, whose learning was jeopardized and disrupted due to pandemic and subsequent closure of schools. Thus Jeevan-Path is minimizing the risk of early marriages, trafficking and engaging child labour among the children during pandemic period. Jeevan Path ensuring learning for 719 marginal children from rural and urban West Bengal through 24 centre (in Purulia, South 24 Parganas, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata and North 24 Parganas districts) during pandemic and post pandemic period.

**Details of the coverage of JEEVAN PATH is given below:**

Name of the districts	Name of the Blocks/Urban Municipality	Number of Jeevan Path Centre	Number of Student	Number of Youth volunteer running Jeevan Path
Purulia	Jhalda – 1	2	59	10
	Baghmundi	3	87	4
South 24 Parganas	Basanti	6	107	17
	Patharpratima	2	75	13
North 24 Parganas	South Dum Dum Municipality	3	40	4
	Kamarhati	3	107	6
	Barackpore	3	94	3
Jalpaiguri	Matiali	4	120	8
	Nagrakata	1	30	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>67</b>

**JEEVAN PATH is ensuring learning for 719 marginal children from rural and urban West Bengal (in Jalpaiguri, Purulia, South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas districts) who are completely disconnected from school education in the pandemic period through JEEVAN PATH where 67 college going local youth and 18 school teachers are involved**

Drop out survey - this survey was done after the lockdown to see how many children is still continuing education and how many have left. So data was collected from the following areas -

- Jalpaiguri - 486 data were collected
- North 24 Pgs - 183 data were collected
- South 24 Pgs - 110 data were collected

Later these children were enrolled in school and they were also included in Jeevan Path centres run by SPAN team since lockdown days to ensure that no learning gap remains among these children.



- There are 8 Jeevan Path centres in Kamarhati, Barrackpore, Pramod Nagar and Belgachia. These centres are run by the youth volunteers who are trained by SPAN team. The curriculum which is followed in these centres is the state board curriculum only, but the process of teaching is different.
- The pattern which is followed for teaching the children is - workshop model on the topic which is found in the curriculum, post which they are engaged in individual projects for better understanding the theme and thereafter teacher takes the children to the chapter which after these two processes is easy for the children to understand.
  - Pramod nagar - 57 children
  - Barrackpore - 55 children
  - Kamarhati - 104 children
  - Belgachia - 30 children

## ANANDADHARA SHIKSHAYATAN



### **Regular Activities:-**

1. Regular formal academic class from Nursery to 4.
2. Many types of Co-curricular activities are conducted in the school.
3. Engagement of parents and others sakeholders.
4. Reaching out to communities and formal schools.
5. Special coverage of subjects like – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics for class 3 and 4.
6. Computer literacy for class 3 and 4.
7. Computer courses for alumni group and others.
8. Providing supplementary nutrition to all children covered by Anandadhara Shikshayatan.

9. Library and related services for students.
10. Remedial study centre for 5 to 10 standard students.
11. Other activities were also held during this reporting year.

### **The highlighting point on regular activities:-**

#### **Regular academic class: -**

These classes are from nursery to class 4. The main focus of Anandadhara is to create an opportunity of quality education for socially and economically marginalized section of population. Anandadhara follows the curriculum and syllabus developed by West Bengal Board of Primary Education. The teaching learning method is participatory, which creates a quality space for participation of children in teaching learning activities. Assessment or evaluation of learning performance of the children includes formative and summative assessment.

During this year, academic education covered the following numbers of children, as depicted in the table below –

Class	Age Group	No. of Children		Total
		Boys	Girls	
Preprimary	3 - 4 years	70	75	145
I	5 - 6 years	35	46	81
II	7 - 8 years	55	44	99
III	9 - 10 years	48	59	107
IV	11 - 12 years	30	36	66
<b>Total</b>		238	260	498

#### **Co-curricular Activities:-**

Co-curricular activities like drawing, music, dance, recitation, drama, creative writing, games, etc. were done in school. The days which have significance and also influence on academic life of children had been observed during this year too. The days observed includes Netaji Birthday, Republic Day, Saraswati Puja, Holi (festival of colours), Rabindra Jayanti, Kazi Nazrul Birthday, World Environment Day, Rakhi Bondhan ('Melbondhon Dibas'), Independence Day, Teachers Day, Childrens Day, Annual Cultural Program, etc.

#### **Engagement of parents and others stakeholders:-**

Engaging parents to let them informed about the status of classroom performance and learning progress is an integrated strategy followed by Anandadhara Shikshayatan. In this regard monthly parents meeting were held for each class.

Related Stakeholders like councillor, MIC education were connected with the various activities of the school held during this year.

### **Reaching out to communities and formal schools:-**

The objective of this type of engagement is widening the scope of education, particularly, for socially and economically marginalized section of population.

Community engagement is a strategy followed by Anandadhara to explore the educational situation in the community and also to sensitize the communities regarding the importance of continuity of education, so that children retain in educational institution where they are part of local formal government school. We are engaged in various public programme of Anandadhara, such as SCIENCE FAIR, NUTRITION AWARENESS CAMP, etc. Teachers used Anandadhara Shikshayatan as a resource centre on education.



### **STEM: - (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)**

The purpose of giving special attention on the subjects like – science, technology, engineering, mathematics is to generate scientific temperament among the children of class 3 and 4. A laboratory had been established with this purpose. Various materials for STEM were kept in the laboratory and used to ensure experiential learning of children. Classes were held twice in a week which covered the above subjects.

### **Computer literacy:-**

There is an adequate computer training education for the students of class 3 and 4 standard. Students attend practical and theory classes in specific computer labs.

**Computer Courses:-**

Alumni group of Anandadhara and other school – going and college going boys and girls of the area have arrangements for learning some computer courses like Computer Basic, Tally, etc.

**Supplementary nutrition distribution:-**

Anandadhara Shikshayatan has arranged special nutritious tiffin for the students of Nursery to class IV. This tiffin is given every week from Monday to Friday. The economic status of the children who are being served nutritious food is not good. Their mothers are mainly working as domestic worker and father in labour or shop workers. These families even suffered a lot during the lockdown with loss of jobs, reduction in income, etc. Thus basic food was also a subject of thinking for them; nutritious food was far off dream. This nutritious tiffin helped the families to deal with this crisis a lot. At least Anandadhara Shikshayatan could ensure that the children are getting proper nutrition once in a day.





**Library and related services: -**

Anandadhara Shikshayatan has a library for students. There are books on various topics like subject reference books, story books, science fiction books, quiz books etc. There is a specific library class for the students in the class routine, and many times they go to the library to read books even after class.

**Remedial study centre: -**

Remedial study centre for class 5 to 10 standard students, who were covered by Anandadhara at primary level. Remedial coaching is an integrated part of educational strategy adopted by Anandadhara. The focus of remedial study centre is to retain Anandadhara children at upper primary and secondary level.

**Others Activities:-**Others activities held during this reporting year like –

- **SCIENCE FAIR** (Students of Anandadhara School along with students of other schools also participated in this science fair.)



- **HEALTH CAMP** (A health check-up camp was organised for nursery to class 4 students by specialist doctors.)
- **NUTRITION AWARENESS CAMP** (A nutrition awareness camp was organised for the parents of Anandadhara. Parents wanted to learn many topics (Ex: - about balance diet, creating safe and nutritious food at affordable prices.) related to child nutrition in the camp.
- **CAMP ON SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITIONS** (Demonstration on various superstitions believed and practiced by community members.)
- **EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION** (Students of Anandadhara School who are in Class 3 and 4 are taken to an educational excursion every year.) These excursions have always been to places where they can witness hands on the different topics that they had been taught in their school curriculum. They were taken to visit Science

City in this year to see and learn more about the Solar System, different fishes, different scientific instruments and techniques learned in STEM lab, etc.)

## Child Protection

Village level Child Protection Committee (Grassroots level statutory bodies under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme) become defunct during the pandemic period in the Matiali Block of Jalpaiguri Districts which has been identified by the youth group members. The issue has been raised by SPAN in the meeting of Block Level Child Protection Committee. The Block level Child protection committee requested SPAN for facilitation of formation of Village level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) in Matiali Hut, Champaguri and Batabari Gram Panchayat. SPAN trained youth members on child protection and VLCPC and under the leadership of youth members 18 VLCPCs were formed and start functioning.

SPAN ensures child protection and leadership among children by facilitating children groups with their informed and willing participation. The children groups are facilitated as Child Parliament (Bal Sansad) in partnership with 'Nine is Mine' organisation. 20 Bal Sansad across three districts covering 400 children has been visible now which minimising their risk of being trafficked, get married or engage in labour.

### **The extent of child labour in the slums of North Kolkata is reduced**

The unprecedented attack of COVID 19 caused lock down and closure of all the educational institutions during the last two years (April 2019 to February 2022) heavily impacted all the activities towards achieving the project objectives related to reducing of child labour in north Kolkata slum areas. It has been changed the nature and extent of child labour as large number of children who were in school before pandemic have left studies during the closure of school and joined labour sectors. But they were not engaged in any regular work due to unavailability of work during the lock down situation. Therefore identification of child labourer becomes a real challenge. The closure of schools during last two years was the major hindrance in linking the identified child labourers with school education and thereby reducing the number of child labour.

All the government run Child Care Institutions and children homes restricted the admission of any new children and send back those children to their families who were already under the care of those institutions. Therefore linking identified child labour with the institutions that need institutional care for their rehabilitation was impossible.

The Child Welfare Committees (CWC) who is the statutory bodies for referring children for institutional care was defunct during pandemic period. The Ward Level Child Protection Committee (WLCPC), another statutory body at ward level in urban areas of Kolkata City become defunct during last two years because the election Kolkata Municipal Corporation was delayed for two years due to pandemic and the Ward councillor who supposed to be the chairperson of WLCPC were not in position. WLCPC is the grass root level system for identification of unprotected children and child labour for referring to the CWC.

During last two years due to lock down and other restrictions related to pandemic SPAN could not conducted any kind of regular educational activities with the identified child labourers or meeting with the parents. That is because any kind of group activities in public places were forbidden by the government particularly with the children during the different phases of Lockdown. This heavily

hampered any kind of preparatory educational session, counselling session or motivational sessions with child labourers.

In spite of the above mentioned challenges we could achieve the following outcomes,

1. 145 child labourers who mostly joined labour sector during pandemic and closure of school brought in the Jeevan Path centres operating in 7 slums of North Kolkata. They are linked with education and admitted in local schools.
2. 45 Youth members are trained on child labour and child rights issues. They have identified the child labourers, prepared their profile and many of them engaged as facilitators in jeevan-Path Education Centres.
3. The newly elected ward councillors of the ward no 3 and ward no 36 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation actively supporting SPAN's activities of reducing child labour in north Kolkata Slum areas by arranging space for education centre for child labour and helping in identifying child labourer in the area.
4. Two civil society forum, West Bengal Right to Education Forum and Campaign Against Child Labour jointly conducted A Rapid Assessment on the status of Child Rights in West Bengal During Lock down under the leadership of SPAN. The Report publicly released in the month of August 2020 which finds in the lockdown period number of child labour among the school going children has been increased by 105 percent. The Report had good media coverage and submitted to the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights, School Education Department and Labour Department of Government of West Bengal.



End child labour campaign - 25th August 2021 - For this campaign, a workshop for understanding of child labour and the issues related to children in labour was explained to the youth members who were interested to work for the issue. Then they did a small research to find out the problems of children in labour and why they have entered into labour. With the findings a plan of action was derived and groups of children were formed who were then engaged in various activities to bring them out of labour.



## Early Childhood Care & Protection

SPAN is successfully running the day care centre "FULJHURI" for last one year and provide services to altogether 33 children. FULJHURI is benefitting the children of the family of unorganized workers where fathers are mostly working as construction labour and vendor whereas mothers are working as domestic help for which children are left at home alone and uncared which leads to suffering from lack of nutrition and diseases.

The services that are provided to these children are:

- Providing supplementary nutrition in the form of 3 meals a day as morning breakfast, Mid-day Meals and Afternoon Refreshments, the quality and quantity of the food are of such a standard that can ensure the age appropriate physical and mental growth of children.
- Special diet like egg, banana, and cereal mixture provided to malnourished children on daily basis.
- General health checks by a qualified (M.B.B.S) Physician/ Paediatrician at least once in a month.
- Ensure 100 % age appropriate immunization of the children through linkages with Government Hospitals, PHCs and CHCs.
- Regular growth monitoring of the children at the centre.
- Age appropriate learning for all children attending the program. The children below three years are focused on early stimulation and holistic development. Children between three to five years are engaged to develop pre-reading and writing skills. The children above five years are prepared for mainstreaming and efforts will be made to mainstream them into government schools.
- Building awareness in the community through parents meeting, discussions, video shows on issues related to children and socio-cultural issues.
- Mothers are sensitized and aware on proper nutrition of their children and health and hygienic practices.





During Pandemic period when Anganwadi Centre were closed and daily supply of hot cooked meal has been stopped the women council members of Simaly village of Baghmundi Block of Purulia district identified 9 severely mal-nourished children. With the help of SPAN they have bring this issue in a meeting organised with local Gram-Panchayat, Anganwadi Workers, Nutritionist of local nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), ASHA worker and CDPO. The children immediately placed under the care of NRC. Along with this to prevent child mal-nutrition in the family 10 women council member has been started vegetable farming in an unused land in cooperative system. What they produce use in their family and rest the sale in the local market which increase their income.





SPAN has conducted Village Child Register data validation survey in Partnership with Sanchar under request from UNICEF and Education Department of Government of West Bengal for around 100- families in four villages of Baghmundi and Jhalda-1 blocks of Purulia Districts. Village child register is the list of all school going and non school going children (0-18 years age group) of every villages which conducted by School Education department of Government of West Bengal every year. The survey conducted during the lock down period has been observed erroneous. Therefore this validation survey is conducted under leadership of SPAN in these four villages. Survey conducted by the youth leaders with support of local Panchayats.



## Skill Training for Youth

During pandemic majority of sectors were in a shutdown resulting to job loss .The youth were desperately seeking for a livelihood. After a thorough survey our organization concluded that health sector was the only sector which remains operational no matter what situations are in the forefront. Thus we involved the youths in a kind of skill that would be long lasting and service oriented that would support their financial condition along a genuine support to the society.

### Domestic Data Entry Operator course (IT & ITE sector):



- The aim of the project was to train 240 youth in the age group of 18-30 years in Domestic Data Entry Operator course (IT & ITE sector) in 18 months. During the process of implementation of the project the situation was adverse due to the ongoing pandemic which resulted in loss of social connectivity. In spite of this SPAN could still reach a major number of students out of which 235 students were enrolled in this training course. The situation had thrown number of challenges of which the primary was to reach out to the students on a regular basis. There was a hindrance in the continuity and following up on regular basis was indeed a major problem. Providing a quality training and bringing them physically to the training centre in itself had become an issue. The process on the whole was majorly disrupted causing a serious barrier in maintaining a result-based monitoring and an outcome thereof and leading to a breakage in the connection between the trainer and the students. Keeping them motivated and energised in the entire period was quite challenging. Also the mobilization process was affected to a major extent due to lack of accessibility. The Tea Garden workers from the region of Mal, Mateli and

Nagrakata blocks of Jalpaiguri Districts of West Bengal are our primary beneficiaries out of which at least 70 % of the beneficiaries are women.

- The training centre is located at Mal Township area, which has a smooth connectivity by road to the garden areas and is easily accessible to our beneficiaries. The students are divided in 13 batches, where each batch has 20 students. But during the last phase of the first term, which was actually the concluding part - the lockdown had impacted the continuation. In spite of that we were able to connect the on-going 20 students through online and complete the training. Hence the total number of students reached and trained was altogether 235. In general, the duration of the course for each batch was for 100 days (4 hours per day), but the batch during the lockdown took 120 days for the completion because of the online method of training.
- Mobilization of the primary beneficiaries are mainly done from the labour community of Tea Garden areas through pre training survey, community meeting and meeting with local youth group on regular basis. One to one counselling is done before the final admission so that the number of drop outs is restricted. Regular follow up at community level with the families of the students are also done to maintain the regular attendance of student.
- In addition to this, soft skill and personality grooming classes were held with the students to be capable of developing a coping mechanism and face effectively the interview boards as well.
- Each student shall be provided job assistance and placement on successful completion of the training. The Project also provides post placement support in terms of regular follow up and counselling to the students who are placed in job.
- From the first day we prepare a list of company profile for student's placement. We met 15 company HR and discussed our objective for the deprived youth and their aspirations. Out of 15 company 7 company primary give opportunity to the trained youth.
- Till date we were able to place 175 students who faced the interviewing process.





Cumulative no. of trainees	As on 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021			July-Sept, 2022			Cumulative as on 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Enrolled	63	172	235	0	0	0	63	172	235
Trained	63	171	234	0	0	0	63	171	234
Placed	49	123	172	0	3	3	49	126	175

### General Duty Assistant:

General Duty Assistant /Patient Care is that kind of skill which would meet the objective of the aforesaid situation. It is a training that enhances the skill in providing health support and care to the patients in both health clinics and home. For this the basic level of education required is minimum 10<sup>th</sup> standard. The youths from the marginalized group are given the opportunity to enhance their skill in health sector which would help them raise their financial condition. In the year 2021-2022 we have trained 140 youths in General Duty Assistant out of which 80 youths are successfully engaged in health sectors and Home Health Aid.

Nabanita joined the 3month program and through the guidance and encouragement that she received from the organization and the teachers, she developed a lot more strength



and encouragement. This program aims to inculcate the right skills and attitude needed to survive and thrive in the highly arduous medical nursing industry and Nabanita was successfully able to complete the course with all the challenges and difficulties that came her way.

She was placed as a staff by Nabajibon hospital. Presently she is an OT staff. Nabanita is receiving a lot of guidance from the senior sisters and also learnt a lot of new skills. The senior staffs are also very impressed by her dedication and eagerness to learn. Apart from her regular work she has also taken the challenge to attend the Covid patient on regular basis, as the nursing home she is working turned out to be a Covid hospital. Presently she is earning a good amount of income and is able to support her family financially.

## **Youth from disadvantaged group have better prospects of qualifying school education and vocational training and therefore of a steady income**

*500 children and youth receive relevant information on training/education and job opportunities*

1. 235 youth from Jalpaiguri, 90 youth from Bankura and 15 girls from South 24 Parganas Districts have completed vocational training courses on Computer data entry operation and General Duty Assistant (Health). Among them 230 Youths are already placed in Jobs.
2. It is worthy of mentioning that SPAN could leverage government fund such as Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development (PBSSD) for Bankura and could mobilise CSR fund such as HSBC for Jalpaiguri and Smile Foundation for South 24 Parganas for skill development and job placement of Youth.



Youth skill alumni meet - 20th March 2022 - Alumni meeting with pass out students of vocational training of SPAN was organised. Agenda - understanding of their work experience, listening to their plan ahead and understanding together, how they can contribute for taking SPAN's VT ahead. A total of 40 alumni members turned up for the program. They all willingly promised to share SPAN's activities to everyone and contribute to larger youth program of SPAN too.



## Rural Livelihood Program

**The key elements SPAN organize at village level:**

### Climate Action

**At the level of Young men and women:**

Excessive use of ground water for irrigation through shallow pump in the villages of Jyotishpur and Mathgaran of Basanti block of South 24 Parganas district caused the fall of ground water level which made all the hand pumps of the villages non-functional. The hand pumps are the main sources of drinking water therefore women are forced walk miles for collecting drinking water. Many of the families were using local pond water for drinking and cooking which caused prevalence of water borne diseases. Local Youth councils and women councils identified this problem, collected data and placed a deputation with local panchayats and block administrations. As a result of this an inspection has been conducted by Block and panchayat offices. The old hand pumps are get repaired and new hand pumps installed. Along with this panchayat made norms for restricted uses of ground water for irrigation in the area.

The local panchayat at Basanti Gram Panchayat under Basanti block at South 24 Parganas districts have no waste management plan where waste management is an issue in the area. The presence of hospital as well as a big market place huge amount of waste including clinical waste regularly get produced and haphazardly get dumped in the area. Youth councils has identified the problem and consulted with Panchayat and Block Development office. There was a joint meeting of SPAN, Panchayat, Block office, market Committee and youth council's members on the issue. It has been decided that block office will arrange a waste disposal compactor machine for the area. Till than Panchayat will make a temporary plan for waste disposal and arrange a particular ground for waste disposal in the area. The local rag-pickers will be identified and employed by panchayat for collection and management of dry waste.

**At Indian Youth Federation Level:**

**I CARE campaign** sharing with other civil society organisations in Kolkata on 13th September, 2021 - I CARE is a campaign which is primary on climate change awareness and impact in the lives of youth through behavioural change and thought transformation. This campaign was shared with 20 civil society organisations and groups and permission was taken from them to interact with other groups of their organisation on the same concept.



- **Climate justice program - Chattisgarh - 8th November 2021-**

- Environment day - Himalayan day - 10th September 2021 - IYF chapter of Uttarakhand organised climate change awareness program online focusing on Himalayan climatic changes and concerns. As many as 100 youth members attended the same online. Main speaker of the program was Dr. Shekhar Pathak



Youth training on climate change - Uttarakhand - 17th march 2021 - This training was done online - based on I CARE campaign and as many as 100 youths attended this training and after that a core team of youth members were formed who then decided to take the words of the training to other

members also.



- Environment mela - UP - 13th March 2022 - IYF UP chapter also organised climate awareness before Holi festival so that everyone gets sensitive for using

colours not to harm or hurt any natural items, plants, animals etc. This was done in 4 phases engaging local NGOs and groups of youth from various colleges. The members designed posters and displayed with information.

### **'Environment Fair' in Sundarban**



On 10th December, an environmental fair was organized in Shibganj of Basanti block by the youth group "Renaissance of Sundarbans" of Basanti block and in collaboration with 'LokChetnaManche'. The main objectives of the fair were - 1) to raise awareness about how the environment around us (natural environment, social environment, economic environment and cultural environment) is being affected by climate change and relevant mitigation and adaptation strategies raise public awareness.2) To take various steps to protect the environment by organizing the people especially the youth at the village level.

The event was organized with the efforts of various youths from different villages like Jyotishpur, Joygopalpur, Purandar, Kalidanga. The fair was held at different stages from 10 am to 7.30 pm. The first was a procession on the environment, stalls were set up on various topics such as the natural diversity of the Sundarbans, culture, public life and how the Sundarbans is being harmed and how it can be preserved, how a model village .It is possible to run by unconventional energy without any pollution, on children's rights and human rights, nutrition and health, how climate is changing and how the human race is on the verge of extinction, the 17 goals of sustainable development, and the beauty of various items of the project were exhibited.Among the distinguished guests present on the occasion were Saugat Kumar Saha, Block Development Officer, Basanti Block, AmalNaik, Secretary, ChampaMohila Society, Shri Kanailal Sarkar and Animesh Sinha, Sundarbans Researcher and Writer, Haripada Vaidya , Teacher distinguished guests including Panchayat Representative and Secretary of LokChetnaManch, PrabirBasu and President Sujata Das Gupta.





Hon'ble Saugat Kumar Saha in his speech expressed how rapid climate change is taking place and its impact on the Sundarbans. "People need to be more aware to save the environment, to protect the river dams and mangroves in the Sundarbans," he said that the manner in which this environment fair has been organized by the young children and they have highlighted different aspects of the environment through different stalls is commendable. He spoke of the need for stalls, especially how to build a model village using unconventional energy. He said that Basanti Gram Panchayat Samiti has taken up a project to increase the use of solar lights.

The distinguished guests also shed light on the nature, people and culture of the Sundarbans. In the second phase, drawing competition on the subject of natural beauty of the Sundarbans by the students of class V to VIII, recycling competition for the children of class IX to XII, where a disposable item is made, quiz competitions and documentary exhibitions on the Sundarbans were organized. Also a play on plastic waste awareness was organized by little boys and girls. Finally, in order to preserve the folk culture of the Sundarbans, the "Boner Maa Bono Bibi" pala was organized.



Following are the steps we have taken before organizing the environment fair

1. After receiving training on how climate change is affecting our daily lives and the natural environment is being harmed day by day, the youth representatives of SPAN felt the need to create awareness among the people at the village level about the environment feel the urge to organize the people and protect the environment. For this purpose, the youth plan to organize an environment fair in the Basanti block in collaboration with SPAN.

2. Discussion with BDO to match the environment and get advice. In the discussion, he contacted a local person so that we could make the program a success.

3. We get in touch with that person and go to his office to have a discussion and discuss with him what the purpose of our program is and how we want to do it and there is a detailed discussion with him about where the fair will be and how. After that it was decided that the program will be organized on 10th December. 4. Then there is a discussion with all the village youth team members about how the program can be done to achieve the objectives of the program and how much budget will be required for it.

5. A team is formed in the discussion to successfully organize this program. The team consists of youth and women representatives from each village. And everyone shares their responsibility to organize the program.

. Invitations were then extended to various government departments in the block to participate in the event.

As per the decision of the team meeting, all the issues of the program were resolved by the SPAN delegates and the team members of Renaissance of Sundarbans went to the villages to assist the youth delegates in their work.

. In consultation with the local information and culture office, requests and suggestions for folk music and Jatrapala were organised.

9. Team members have been promoting the program through posters since 7 days ago and collecting donations.

10. Lastly, the program is conducted on the day of the program.



**'Environment Fair' to protect the local culture, environment and bio-diversity of Purulia, at Charida village on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 from 12 noon to 8pm**



This Fair included and provided space to those cultural, academic, and performing art bodies to express and exhibit their work at this Fair, who are well-known for their work and contributions. Thus the display of various forms of folk culture, traditional song, dance, drama, food and other cultural practices through different cultural programme, traditional handicraft and food stall, stall on various environment aspect by government departments , local youth forum and schools with ecological friendly way, was the main attractions of the local people and people, who take interest in these.



Our main focus behind this fair was to encourage young persons to take initiatives to sensible practices, feel proud and responsible to restore and promote their own rich cultural

heritage instead of being techno-savvy and live in virtual world. It was also an appeal not only the people of Purulia rather to different section of people in our state to restore, protect and promote ecology of Purulia encouraging traditional practices. We were only trying to facilitate their efforts through this programme. This would, if collectively be followed up sincerely, mitigate climate change adversaries, in the long run. The fair was organised by SPAN, local organisation ROSE and with the active cooperation of Baghmundi Yuba Jagaranmancha.



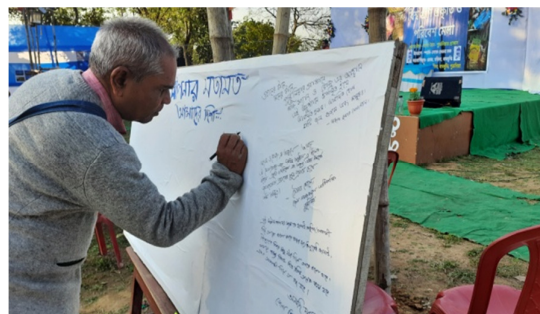
The fair was started with a rally in morning surrounding the Charidavillage with youth, children, eminent environment activist DukhuMajhi, different local organisations and local people with various types of poster and slogan. After that Environment Fair was inaugurated by District Social Welfare Officer, Forest Range officer, District Child protection officer, eminent writer Mr.DilipGoswami, writer and Researcher Mr.JaladharKarmakar, eminent flute artist Padmasree Mr Aklumachoyar and environment activist Dukhumajhi with our Secretary Mr.PrabirBasu.



Mr PrabirBasu explained nice the objective of the fair and reminded us about the vital role of youth to protect and restore cultural heritage and bio diversity of Purulia as well as all over the world on the preview of Sustainable Development Goal. Eminent writer and scholar DilipGoswami also echoed the same view and also added the glorious period of Purulia with a rich cultural heritage and natural resources which was gradually decreased.



He also supported the view of PrabirBasu to take major role of youth to restore and revive the cultural heritage, social and ecological balance. DSWO Saurav Kole highly encouraged our initiative and called for a social and cultural resurrection to save the earth with SPAN. DCPO emphasized on more active children participation in this effort with the guidance of youth leaders and women.



After the inaugural ceremony, it was started the various event mainly for youth and children like seat and draw, debate, song, recitation, poster making and different game on environment restoration for two days.



In the evening, First we facilitated those eminent personality of Purulia for their contribution in art, culture and literature of Purulia to discover its cultural heritage and the next we started various cultural group performed with great pomp and grangers which attracted most to the huge audience and they realise the importance of protect, restore

and revive natural and cultural diversity in their respective locality to save the earth collectively. Chhounach, Natuanach, RanpaNach, Jhumur song and dance, Tribal drama on child marriage, Ghoranach and all other artist and cultural event established the alarming situation of global warming, loss of forest and tribal habitation, rapid urbanization and ecological misbalance through their excellent jaw dropping performance through the evening.



## Governance

### Children in governance

SPAN Facilitates **children's participation** in governance through numerous children's councils (balsabhas), children's panchayats (Bal Panchayats), parliaments, assemblies, federations, which negotiate with the adult political and administrative agencies to get their entitlements.

*300 children and youth are committed to the environmental protection and protection of local resources*

- State child process - 19th and 20th March, 2021 - In this, the youth members who are interested to work with child participation concept were introduced with the idea of child parliament and need of children group. These youths then went back and did the same training with 30 children in each of these 9 districts where SPAN is present. This was done in collaboration with Nine is Mine, a group which pioneered in the process of making Children Parliament in many states of India.
- 13 female youth and 5 male youth participated in this training.

80 child children from 8 schools district and 100 youth has been capacitated on the issues of climate changes and sustainable development goals and become Green Mentors in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Purulia and South 24 Parganas.

### Youth in governance and Indian Youth Federation



Young people are part of the project team of SPAN (as researchers, fellows and co-ordinators and the project committee). Youth member becomes accountable in her/his neighbourhood while dealing with the issues/challenges those affect their life. In doing so they are gaining confidence to reach out to larger domain of their engagement and also



their leadership is accepted in the constituency i.e. the area and the issues they are engaged with. They are expected to be leading the constituency from the front and truly use the role in the representative democracy and in all democratic Institutions/processes.

7 youth councils has been formed in four districts namely Jalpaiguri, Purulia, South 24 Parganas and Kolkata which have altogether 255 youth members. Youth council's members are trained on the issues of child rights, Sustainable Development Goals, Right to work and social security related issues, Local self-governance, Participation in the planning process of panchayats and climate change related issues. All the Youth Councils has been linked with their National Federation "Indian Youth Federation" which took shape in the year of 2014 under the facilitation of SPAN. Indian Youth Federation active on the issue of Right to Education and climate changes not only in the state of West Bengal but also in 7 others states of India with the local youth councils and groups in those states.

Youth leaders are sensitise and capacitated on Sustainable development Goals, issues of climate changes, right to education and process of governance, who played pivotal role in districts to lead the project towards public awareness as well as influencing governance. Following are the few instances of youth and women leadership which brought results.

Youth leaders and women workers of the tea garden labour community of Jalpaiguri raise their voices on the demand of the rights of the labour families on the land of their living which right now is not their own. The land and dwellings where the labour families lives for years is actually belongs to the tea estates and the labour families can be evicted from their as per employers will. If that happened they do not have any place to go. Therefore the Youth leaders demanded ownership rights on the land of dwellings which they have submitted as deputation to the District Magistrate and other authorities.

Youth Councils members along with green mentors prepared Natural resource directory on the present conditions of plant forest land, water bodies', birds and insects in 20 villages of Patharpratima and Basanti block. These directories have been shared with local panchayat and block administration

### **National Consultation of IYF:**



25th, 26th and 27th November, 2021 - youth representatives from 6 states (Rajasthan, UP, Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa, and West Bengal) and civil society organisations for 7 states (Rajasthan, UP, Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar) were present. Agenda - (1) Understanding of climate change concept and deriving role of youth for the same and (2) Understanding of quality education and the gap in implementation and driving the role of youth for actions ahead. Two campaigns - (1) I CARE - which was primary focusing on climate change was further recognised and other state roles were planned for the same and (2) Hamara Shiksha Hamara Adhikar - a campaign to promote quality education and putting a stop on closure of government schools and campaign against the promotion of private school was planned and designed. Both the implementation plans of both the campaigns were done.

- Committing to SDG goals youth - 12th August 2021 - Online launching of the youth for SDG program was done. In the beginning of this program, sharing of what SDG is was done through a video presentation. Post which, IYF programs aligning with SDG goals were shared and after that youth from all over India shared which goals they wanted to align themselves and contribute for and why.



- Delhi core committee meeting - 24th March 2022 - representative youth from Uttarakhand, UP, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal were present and members had a small sharing of what activities are done till date in each state. Apart from this, a sharing of IYF plan ahead was shared with the team members.

- IYF's primary focus will be on - climate and education
- IYF will have many training with youth to bring everyone in same page of understanding



- Among the youths, some youths will be selected who will then develop note of sharing which they will be sharing in front of public when IYF will organise mass level public meetings on different issues, related to education and climate change.

## Women in governance – NARISHAKTI

**Nari-Shakti** is the federation of Women Council organized by SPAN both in Rural and urban areas of West Bengal. Women Councils are organizations primarily comprised of the working women across the state of West Bengal wants its members to be equal in terms of gender and participation and organise itself to be accountable from family, society to the state level and participate strongly in Governance.



11 local women councils catering total 217 women members from 5 districts of West Bengal namely Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Purulia and South 24 Parganas has been trained on gender based violence issues, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 100 days work guarantee schemes (MGNREGA), Participation in Panchayat planning (GPDP), etc. Women Councils has been federated at the state level under the banner of 'NARI-SHAKTI'.

**Total Members of Narishakti in uraban areas of Kolkata and suburbs: 592. Total Members of Narishakti in rural areas in Bengal: 843**

Excessive use of ground water for irrigation through shallow pump in the villages of Jyotishpur and Mathgaran of Basanti block of South 24 Parganas district caused the fall of ground water level which made all the hand pumps of the villages non-functional. The hand pumps are the main sources of drinking water therefore women are forced walk miles for collecting drinking water. Many of the families were using local pond water for drinking and cooking which caused prevalence of water borne diseases. Local Youth councils and women councils identified this problem, collected data and placed a deputation with local panchayats and block administrations. As a result of this an inspection has been conducted

by Block and panchayat offices. The old hand pumps are getting repaired and new hand pumps installed. Along with this panchayat made norms for restricted uses of ground water for irrigation in the area.



In post Amphan (super Cyclone came in 2020) period women councils at Patharpratima has been demanded to the panchayat to revive the mangrove forest on the river bank to arrest land erosion and protect the nadibadh (The earthen wall on the river bank to prevent the entry of the saline river water in the village at the time of cyclone or flood). The NadiBandh are regularly cut and the mangrove on the river bank destroyed is the local people to bringing in saline river water in low land of the village for prawn cultivation. Panchyat has been agreed to repair the nadibandh, plant mangrove on the river bank under the 100 days work scheme where the local women got employment.

Etor Naribahini – The women council in the Nabagram Block initiated and trained by SPAN presently working on women livelihood and gender based violence. They have linked with the local government and could arrange livelihood program related to agriculture and horticulture with the support from West Bengal Accelerated Development Minor Irrigation Project.

Youth and women have influenced for access the local government resources towards improvement of the local public life, health sanitation, social security and right to work. Youth Council members of put up all this messages on the walls of the panchayats of Pathar pratima block, South 24 Parganas Districts.





Youth and women councils members are invited to participate in the Social Audit by the Basanti and GopalnagarPanchayet of South 24 Parganas Districts.

### **WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION by Narishakti**



SPAN as an organization has always been keen in bringing forward issues related to the society.

It has been constantly involved in creating awareness amongst the community in matters related to Child, Women and Youth. Hence 8<sup>th</sup> March being the day recognized internationally for all the women, our organization did not forget to be a part of this celebration. We did it with 40 participants from South 24 Parganas ,Jalpaiguri , Barrackpore, Kamarhati ,Belgachia and Purulia at Seva Kendra, Tangra , Kolkata on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March, 22

Every woman deserves to be respected in this earth keeping all the discrimination aside. This day is considered to remind each of us that every Woman should take interest to come forward and break all kinds of barriers and inhibitions that has been carried year after year. It is the time to come out of all wrong perceptions and inhibitions imposed on us. We must

fight against all odds and start thinking as a logical benign the society. SPAN has been contributing and taking initiative in this move since the time of its inception. But it started celebrating and showing its visibility since last 13 years.

### **Program Initiative**

The attire theme was of colour white. It depicted peace to overcome violence all around no matter natural or manmade. It started with a lighting ceremony. The candle was lit by the secretary, President and the women representative of the district representatives. It was followed by a dance performance which depicted the thought of two generations.

### **Objective of the Program:-**

- To share the thoughts and barriers faced by women in different sectors.
- To have a proper analysis and understanding on the concept, these sessions were divided into four topics I,e.
  - Nutrition,
  - Parenting,
  - Work engagement /livelihood(**(MGNREGA)**)
  - Labour and employment.

### **Topic-1 NUTRITION**



The session on proper nutrition was started with an activity to relate the participants on what is the Importance of self-care.

### **Activity 1:-**

- Participants were instructed to keep their hand on chest and close their eyes for a couple of seconds and remember the face that comes to their thought.
- Asked each participant to share the person's face that flashed in their mind.
- Each one of them revealed either their mother's name or the name of their child.

The objective was to make them realize that none of us think about ourselves. The entire life is spent thinking about the wellbeing of others and do not take out a single moment to keep us healthy both physically and mentally.

**Activity 2:-**

- Five stories were shared in an audio drama form depicting different situations related to the everyday facts faced by every woman in both urban and rural areas.
- After completion of each story, a paint related to the story was displayed on the board.

The session started in an interactive mode. The participants were questioned about who was able to identify these situations to their everyday story.

**Objective:-**

- To give time to themselves no matter how big your responsibilities are.
- To link to the topics in the session about the involvement of women.

**Tips shared on how to take care of ourselves.**

- Develop a regular habit in proper intake of foods.
- Proper Sleep.
- Regular Exercise and walking
- Taking out time for own self by doing the work we love to do.
- Stop taking food that is having reverse effect on health.
- Intake of balanced diet that are found naturally that includes iron, protein, vitamin c, carbohydrates.
- Consume foods that are easily available to us to fill the gap in nutrition.
- To free ourselves from certain pre injected thoughts and inhibitions.
- Develop a strong will power that is the only tool to fight against the odd.

**Response from the participants.**

We should start taking initiatives from now onwards because if not raised voice it shall be a continuous process and women shall always be the victims.



- The session was ended taking an oath by rising their hands together that we shall start the change from today and the move shall begin from here.
- Task was given to the participants and create a road map on how to take initiative to bring this change.

## Topic -2 PARENTING



The session was started with a two way interaction by the participants and the moderator. A question was thrown to the participants on what we dream about our child. Is it about their future or wellbeing?

Q. What are the kinds of inputs required to bring up our child?

Response from the Participants:

- Environment.
- Nutritious Food.
- Adequate time.
- Games and activities.
- Finance
- Health
- Mental fitness.
- Giving importance to child's desire.
- Participation.
- Shelter.
- Love

Based on the sharing of the participants it was found that in a child's upbringing a woman plays the major role. Where as in a decision making the father has the major role.

Do the women take initiatives or share their opinion in the process?'

- The participants were asked to share their life experience in the forum.
- Did they take any initiative in raising their voice in terms of differential opinion.

Response from a participant :-

According to a participant though she was not directly involved in the family but was able to change the perception of a couple.

She heard a father instructing his child to beat up another child . Her teaching to the couple was not directly hitting the parents but by relating to a similar experience which they would face in future.

Encouraging these kind of practices will lead him to a habit which would later bounce back to them aswell. This is how she had left the decision on them to think about their child's upbringing.

Initializing with women's involvement in opinion making to financial decision were the kind of interaction carried out for next few minutes. This process lead to a discussion on another topic on family budget.

### **Topic 3:- BUDGETING.**

#### **Activity :-**

The topic was started by sharing a sketch where the image of the father had a part of brain projected and a mother where the heart is projected and a child carrying the projected part of her parents in her arms which is signifying that father is for using his brains and mother is only for love and caring.

The moderator started the conversation by stating that this image in itself is injecting a specific kind of thought and perception which should be stopped. There should not be any differentiation or task allotted as per gender. All have their equal participation and involvement no matter he belongs to any category .These kind of barriers should be stopped.

**Activity :-**

A set of cards were distributed randomly within the participants. The content written on the card was the name of items. Participants were instructed to categorize the items under Important, Necessity, Less important.

**Objective :**

The activity was done to make them understand that we must prioritize our needs and have a tendency to curtail unnecessary items and focus more on savings for our future benefit.

**Topic 4:- LIVELIHOOD (MGNREGA)**

- This session's focus area was about the information and procedures related to government schemes
- The participants had interacted about the kind of work they were involved like agriculture, brick, mill etc.
- Discussion on the policies of 100 days work implemented by the Government.
- The various kinds of rights mentioned in the policy.

**Activity :**

Types of methods in approaching the government related works were written randomly on different piece of papers. The participants were asked to arrange them in order to help them understand the various steps involved in approaching government related schemes for the labourers.



**Responses from the participants.**

- Lack of knowledge on the process of registration in job cards for which they are dependent on the supervisors and are exploited.
- They have no idea that these kind of registration can also be done without being dependent on others.
- Wage differences based on gender. The men raises issues related to payment. As per them the toughest kind of work is done by them hence they should be paid more.
- In villages the kind of work is also bifurcated based on the job type. For instance they believe that men are only capable of digging and thus women are restrained from these kind of work.

**Sharing of Information.**

- In a budget there is an allotment of nearly 33 crores.
- Every gram panchayat is allotted 1 crore ever year.
- Each one from the village must be aware of the distribution of fund and if it is being spent for their benefit.

**Topic 5 :- LABOUR AND WAGES.**

The moderator started the session in a question and answer mode to get each involved throughout the session.

Questions :

- Who does their work?
- What kind of thought made you to raise your hands?
- Who is a labourer?
- If a person does household work then are we a labourer?

### **Responses :-**

Those who does work and get money in return are called laborers. For instance a father taking his son to school is also a task which involves no monetary transaction where as a person appointed for the same work will charge money. Hence where there is monetary transaction involved it is termed as labourer.

#### ➤ Types of labourer.

- A teacher or a doctor is also paid for their work but are not identified as labour.
- The kind of involvement required defines weather he is a labor or not.
- There are two kinds of labor involved I,e,physical and mental. That which is in physical form is termed as labor.

Kind of work that has recognition or respect

- The participants were instructed to name the kind of work that they do and if it has recognition or respect.
- The list of work like tailoring, housemaid, goldsmith, bidi making, tea garden workers, jute mill were listed.
- From the list the participants were asked to identify the work that has respect.
- Kind of work that is good for women?.

### **Response :-**

- The work that has proper pay.
- The work that can be done after maintaining the household work.

The session was ended by finding solutions to the questions raised on the

Previous issues as well as related to the safety of their work.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Day.( 9<sup>th</sup> March)**

### **SESSION -1**



The schedule was started with an opening song performed by two of the participants. This was followed by their sharing of road map on the issues that was discussed the previous day.

➤ Existing Problem

- In spite of sufficient cultivation, there is a lack of nutrition.
- The pregnant ladies are mostly seen suffering from anemia.



- Do not follow balanced diet.
- Mentally not prepared to take steps.
- The menstruating female is not aware of the basic hygiene.
- Responsibility is most on the mother.
- Decisions taken by father.
- Unable to differentiate between demand and necessity.
- Lack of proper budget knowledge.
- The problem of farmers and labors are ignored.
- Domestic violence.
- Increase in number of red child.
- Health issues are not prioritized.
- Corruptions related to job cards.
- The workers receive only 50% wages.
- The needy family does not know the process of registration.
- The labourers lose their work if they fall sick for more than three days.
- The PF payment is also not paid accordingly. The government officials take away 50% of their payment.
- Though the government provides medical facilities, the amount for treatment is deducted in the name of medical facility.
- Fear of losing their shelter. A single member of the family is bound to be engaged as tea garden worker in spite of having other better options.
- PF claim settlement is kept on hold for 3-4 years.
- Pregnant women are deprived of getting a leave.
- Nursing mothers are compelled to leave their babies and go out for work.
- Job card is taken away by the supervisor so as to have a hold on the payment.
- Certain workers are only given 40 days work instead of a 100 day work.

### **Planning/ Initiatives.**

- By Visualizing the color of the flag the diet for proper nutrition can be addressed.
- Awareness on health and nutrition.
- Representation of different vegetables and its benefits.
- Thoughts and changes should begin from within every youth and then spread within the family and community.
- Women should be made to think about themselves.
- Regarding proper parenting, the parents shall be invited in school meeting and discuss on the issue.
- Awareness program.
- Participate in panchayat and gram sabha meeting.
- Performing various role play related to the steps involved in government work registration which help them inject the process.
- Uses of barren lands and create a kitchen garden.
- To stop intake of left-over food especially by women to avoid wastage.
- To approach the political leaders and discuss the issue.
- To develop a chart on family budget and help the people understand its benefits.
- Approach councilors by conducting different kinds of training.

- To discuss on issues related to respect for women in the household.
- Sharing kinds of portals to help them get registered in various jobs.
- Emphasize on logical thinking rather than believing what is blindly imposed.
- To develop an urge or will to take a role in matters of any kind of development.
- Shall share the learning and input from the session within the community.
- Cultivate in their own garden to reduce the dependency on market.
- Women team members will approach the government officials and address the issue.
- Collect the documents and approach the PF official.
- To create a group by Narishakti and help to solve their own issues.

## **SESSION -2**



This session was the main attraction for the entire program as an eminent personality **Ms. Swati Bhattacharyya, Senior Assistant Editor** from a popular newspaper named "**Ananda Bazar Patrika**" and representing as general secretary from India in "**South Asian women in Media (SWAM)**" was invited to be a part of the session and most importantly share her valuable inputs with the participants. She made herself involved with the participants by breaking the rigidity sitting amid them.

The participants felt comfortable to share their struggle and the existing situations. The experience shared was mainly based on their wages and exploitation.

### **Views shared by participants**

- The brick making labourers are paid Rs 5/- per day.
- Increase in child labour during lock down.
- Around 150 women in Purulia district are willing to be engaged in NREGA but are deprived off it.
- The wage settled in NREGA is around 250/- but there are instances where payment is just for Rs 80/- only.

- The women are more exploited than men in terms of wage. Men are paid more than women.
- Those registered under NREGA sometimes do not get work. They are told to surrender the card to the manager and in return are given a onetime payment of Rs. 500 instead of work. The managers take this card and misuse them.
- Under pension scheme the workers are given only one time payment.

### **Suggestions/Inputs**

- To be aware of the law pertaining to their work.
- Women should not accept the difference in wages and fight for their rights.
- Make people aware that the Supreme Court has an order for minimum wages.
- To approach the government and urge for running crèche.
- To enforce a system where there shall be one designated officer who can address the government related policies.
- Ration provided by Government should not only stick to rice and pulses . It should include certain nutritious diet including protein like egg.
- To build a relation with the journalist who can be a medium to the problem and solution.
- Proper usage of social media.
- Consistently demand for rights in writing and keep documented.
- Constantly keep on pushing until the work is done.

### **Summary**

The session was closed by an overall brief of the two day sessions.

- To emphasize more on achievable targets.
- Speak on the issues in every public places like market, bus stop, in front of BDO.
- Display banners on the issue for more visibility.
- Identify a speaker who can speak on the issue.
- Have a "no one can stop us" attitude.
- Raise the needs and issues in a social platform.
- Demand from Purosobha on unavailability of jobs.
- Planning may need time, hence start taking immediate actions.
- Minimum wage is decided by the government, no local authority has the ownership in deciding the wage.
- To attend meetings that is arranged on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays by the panchayat where every health workers are present could be a platform to discuss on these issues.



## Networking and Advocacy on Right to Education and eradication of child labour

SPAN is the State Convenor of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) West Bengal Chapter jointly with Caritas India (Eastern Zone). CACL is initiated in the year 1992 and over the years it spread in 18 states of India and among 3000 member organizations. CACL aims for Total Eradication of Child Labour upto their 18 years of age. Many Trade unions, student forums, women organizations and eminent citizens are the part of CACL across the country.

### Governing Body Members of SPAN

Name	Occupation	Designation
Ms. Sujata Dasgupta	Social Worker	President
Mr. Prabir Kumar Basu	Service	Secretary
Mr. Anjan Saha	Service	Treasurer
Ms. Suvra Banerjee Paul	Child Counselor	Member
Ms. Pallabi Sengupta	Social Worker	Member
Ms. Rita Sen	Social Worker	Member
Ms. Basudeb Banerjee	Social Worker	Member

### SPAN's Partners in development

- Child Line Kolkata
- Child Line, North 24 Parganas
- Child Line Jalpaiguri
- Child Welfare Committee, Jalpaiguri
- Child Welfare Committee, Birbhum
- Child Welfare Committee, North 24 Parganas
- District Child Protection Society, Birbhum
- District Child Protection Society, North 24 Parganas
- District Child Protection Society, Jalpaiguri
- District Social Welfare Department, Birbhum
- State Child Protection Society
- Block Development offices of Matiali, Mal, Nagrakata, Jhalda 1 & 2, Baghmundi, Gosaba, Patharpratima, Basanti
- Kamarhati Municipality
- Barrackpore Municipality
- South Dum Dum Municipality
- SimaSuraksha Bal, Jalpaiguri
- Terre Des Hommes (Suisse)
- Misereor, Germany
- Kindermissionswerk, Germany
- AjimPremji Philanthropic Initiative
- Smile Foundation
- CARITAS India
- Save The Children, Kolkata
- Terre Des Hommes, Germany
- Terre Des Hommes Foundation
- Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL)

- National Right to Education Forum
- West Bengal Right to Education Forum
- National Action Coordination Group (NACG) under SAIVAC
- Global Action Against Poverty
- Haq – Centre for Child Rights
- Center for Budget Governance and Accountability (CBGA)
- Accountability Initiative – Centre for Policy Research