

COMMUNITY ACTION SOCIETY

"History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children."

-Nelson Mandela

Annual Report

2018-2019





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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It is indeed a great pleasure to announce that Community Action Society (CAS) has completed its tenth year in 2018-19 successfully. I present the Annual Report 2018-19, in an attempt to review the year-long activities of the organization and also as a way to direct the organization to charter new dimensions and accept new challenges. The last year was extremely eventful as we embarked on a journey with big responsibilities. CAS collaborated with Sarva Shiksha Mission, Kolkata to manage two residential schools' facilities for underprivileged boys and girls. Both the hostels are operational and have the potential to accommodate 100 children each.

Apart from this, we are continuing with our mid-day meal programme, but additionally also happen to serve the students of Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith & Shibrapur Madhyamik High School for Girls; the schools within the premise of which we have started our Vivek Bitan hostel for boys and Bhagini Nivedita hostel for girls.

The rest of the year saw us getting involved in a variety of activities such as conducting training and awareness sessions on various social issues, providing sponsorship to girl child education, conducting survey on tracking and monitoring out of school children in three districts of West Bengal, providing supplementary education and vocational training on tailoring and fish net weaving to adolescent girls at Katrakhali village in Sunderban, providing preschool education support to the underprivileged children in Kolkata and its adjoining areas, book donation for library campaign for schools. In this year, we run a project titled "Mapping and Mainstreaming of out of School Children" in four blocks of Malda, West Bengal. In the coming year, we hope to expand activities in the areas of preschool education, supplementary education and adolescent empowerment. In addition, we would work for more efficient functioning of our residential units. Apart from these, our work towards spreading awareness on RTE Act as well as ensuring its maximum implementation will be of prime importance to us.

Hope to have a successful year ahead!

Partha Roy
Secretary



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ABSTRACT

This Annual Report contains all the details of the work that Community Action Society does in the field. The year 2018-19 has been a year of experimentation, learning and evolving. CAS is committed to work towards the upliftment of the community, working relentlessly for improving the living conditions of the under privileged marginalized community in and around Kolkata. CAS works extensively on education and protection for children. Under educational actives, CAS runs two residential schools to support the underprivileged children who are deprived of basic elementary education CAS ensures that these children receives proper education and are regularly attending schools. Other initiatives taken by CAS include - running a pre-primary school, sponsoring girl child education, CAS has also provided supplementary education to 80 adolescent underprivileged girls to enrich their life skills in Katrakhali village of Sunderban. Community Action Society also monitored, tracked and arranged for special Training for Out of School Children in different districts of West Bengal. It also runs mid-day meal programme in Chowbhaga Primary school and High school, Shibrampur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith. Community Action Society has run a project titled "Mapping and Mainstreaming of out of School Children" in four blocks of Malda, West Bengal in 2018-19. There are many more activities of CAS which are given below and will come subsequently with the progress of this report.



ABOUT



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ABOUT CAS

Community Action Society (CAS) is a non-profit making registered non-government organization established for the upliftment of the community in the state of West Bengal in the year 2008. Since then the organization has been working relentlessly for improving the living conditions of the under privileged and marginalized community in and around Kolkata. The organization is committed to bring about holistic development through working in the spheres of education, health and livelihood of the under privileged section of the community, with a special focus on children. A beginning has been made with several developmental initiatives – Education and Child Protection being the main thematic areas of intervention. Networking, advocacy and capacity building are the core strengths of the organization, and these have been applied to the programmes and causes that the organization espouses. Today, Community Action Society is working extensively on effective implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009, Providing Mid-Day Meal, running state supported residential schools for boys and girls, Child Protection issues and Positive Parenting and Non Violent Discipline across West Bengal, partnering majorly with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Sarva Shiksha Mission, Save the Children, UNICEF, Terre des hommes and also working with few others NGOs and Civil Societies across West Bengal.



COMMUNITY ACTION SOCIETY

VISION

To create an enabling environment which will lead to a socio-economically empowered community through holistic development.

MISSION

To protect Children from exploitation and abuse through education, health and community empowerment.



OBJECTIVES



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CORE OBJECTIVES AND TARGET GROUP

Core Objectives

- To empower women and children through education, health and vocational training
- To facilitate NGOs and other like-minded organizations
- To develop research studies and documentations reflecting development of the society
- To create awareness within the community members so that they can be an integral part of governance
- To ensure a better and safe environment
- To ensure proper advocacy related to development of women and children

Target Group

- Teachers, Parents and children of government aided schools
- Stakeholders of Education Departments
- Civil Society Organizations
- Underprivileged children and women
- Adolescents
- Children and Staffs of JJ Homes



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ACHIEVEMENT IN LAST 5 YEARS

In the last 5 years, CAS has achieved the following:

- Provided support for girl child education to enhance their knowledge and skills leading to overall development.
- Provided support for supplementary education and vocational training on Tailoring and Fish Net Weaving to the deprived and underprivileged adolescent girls of Katrakhali village in Sunderban.
- Preschool education support was provided to the underprivileged children residing in Kolkata and its adjoining areas.
- Training sessions were organized for the NGO heads to conduct a survey on Tracking and Monitoring out Of School Children in three districts of West Bengal.
- Set up library in Chowbagha primary school in collaboration with Smile Foundation.
- Set up hanging library in Residential Units.
- Residential school programme for 200 underprivileged children under Samagra Siksha Mission (SSM).
- Organized a workshop supported by Save the Children to sensitize parents of 7 Government schools on RTE Act, emphasizing the role of parents in better implementation of the Act.
- Sensitization of 1400 School Management Committee members of Government Aided Schools of Kolkata on RTE Act 2009 and School Development Plan, in collaboration with the Sarva Shiksha Mission, Kolkata. CAS covered educational circles X, XI, XIII, IV, VI, Tollygunge and Behala.
- Organized Public Hearing on the Violation of Right to Education Act, 2009 and Child Trafficking under the leadership of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

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ACHIEVEMENT IN LAST 5 YEARS

- State Consultations on Positive Parenting and Non Violent Discipline in Schools and Homes Situations with the government officials and members of the civil society organizations of 14 districts of West Bengal are arranged.
- Developed a State Resource Group on RTE Act 2009 funded by UNICEF.
- Assisted and trained members of 12 NGOs across West Bengal on Child Protection Risk Assessment and Development of Child Protection Policy.
- Funded by International Development agency, GOAL Ireland.
- Provided Mid-Day Meal to 1800 children of one upper primary and eight primary schools in Kolkata District every day funded by Government of West Bengal.
- Provided remedial educational support provided to 7 schools of Kolkata for three years and special coaching to 100 girl children.
- Conducted Risk and Need Assessment in Eight Government Managed.
- Child Care Institution in West Bengal.
- Conducted Teachers Orientation programme on positive parenting in 4 schools of Kolkata with participation of nearly 120 teachers.
- Implemented a comprehensive WASH project in close coordination with Government of West Bengal. The aim of the project is to provide clean and safe drinking water among the children staying in Sukanya Home.
- Training of Narayantala Mass Communication Society members on strengthening Child Rights of disadvantaged children in brick kilns in India was arranged.
- Implemented a project titled "Mapping and Mainstreaming of out of School Children" in four blocks of Malda, West Bengal. Aim of the project is mapping of out of school children 6-18 years of age in 4 blocks and ensuring enrolment through motivation and mobilization with the help of CSOs/ SHGs/ PRIs/ Stakeholders.



ACTIVITIES



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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

1. Educational Activities

A. Residential School Programme

Community Action Society always worked in the area of children and education. Community Action Society, in collaboration with Sarva Shiksha Mission Kolkata opened two Residential Units Bhagini Nibedita Bhawan inside the premise of Shibrampur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Vivek Bitan Chatrabas inside the premise of Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith to Support under privileged Boys and Girls who are deprived of basic elementary education and were dwelling in vulnerable conditions in the suburbs, slums and streets of Kolkata. CAS ensures that these children receive proper education and are regularly attending schools. It safeguards its children through protective factors to prevent early leaving from school. CAS regularly monitors and evaluates the performances of children in school and accordingly it guides their children.

Thus, the two homes at Shibrampur and Parui (near Behala Chowrasta) facilitates a healthy living for all its children. Each hostel, one for girls and the other for boys is meant for 100 children. CAS ensures that these children are also engaged with extra-curricular activities along with studies like dance, drawing, football etc. children participate in different cultural programmes as well.

B. Pre-School Education Programme

A pre-school education centre is run by Community Action Society for the underprivileged children living in the outskirts of Kolkata within the age



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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

group 2.5 to 5 years. Sixty-three children are provided preschool education in this centre. Community Action Society feels the need of pre-school education as it will stimulate a child in shaping the future. The parents of these children are mostly maid servants and daily wage earners. The children are mainstreamed to Government Primary Schools at the age of six. The prime objective is the cognitive skills and overall development of children thereby enhancing a child friendly atmosphere and helping them to cope up with their studies in the nearest future.

C. Sponsorship-Girl Education Programme

CAS with financial support from Drisha Sarkar and Piu Mondal residing in New Jersey, USA is providing educational sponsorship to the underprivileged girl children residing in Kolkata and its adjoining areas so that they could continue their education without a glitch. Underprivileged girl children often do not get a chance to continue their education in the future due to financial crunch in their family as one of the prime reasons. By providing little support they will get a chance to sustain education for better living. These girls with sheer determination in their lives and little support would become successful in all the spheres of life.

D. UNICEF Project

Despite Right to Education being declared as the fundamental right and implemented for six years of out of school children (OOSC) continues to be a significant concern in the country. It appears from the report of the SSA West Bengal that a good number of children are still out of school in the district of Malda, Purulia and South 24 Parganas. After RTE mainstreaming

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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

of out of school children is done with special training, which also does not offer very flexible strategy. The challenge before the state and the local bodies is to ensure enrolment of all out of school children and conducting special training and mainstream them in the age appropriate classes.

Community Action Society implemented a project titled "Mapping and Mainstreaming of out of School Children" in four blocks of Malda, West Bengal. Aim of the project is mapping of out of school children 6-18 years of age in 4 blocks and ensuring enrolment through motivation and mobilization with the help of CSOs/ SHGs/ PRIs/ Stakeholders. Out of School Children are defined here in five aspects: Never Enrolled; Long absenteeism (more than 20 days); Migrated; CWSN (Child with Special Need); Dropped out children.



PROGRAM CYCLE

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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

Category and number of the identified and enrolled children in the 4 blocks :

- 1638 out of school children have been identified in the 4 blocks so far. However the community volunteers continue to identify more out of school children in each of the blocks until they are operational within the community.

- The analysis of the data received until now reveals that only 14% (228) of the children have never been enrolled to school, 21% (339) have been absent from the school for more than 20 days at a stretch, 14% (234) children have migrated from their location, 4% (71) because they are children with special needs and 47% (766) indicates the lions share of the out of school children who are actually drop out of the school system at various point of time. Out of 1638 Out of School Children 747 are enrolled.

State Level Consortium "On mapping and mainstreaming of out of school children"

As a part of the project a State Level Workshop "On mapping and mainstreaming of out of school children" was organised by community Action Society in association with RtE Forum Representative of various NGOs of Kolkata and also of some districts participated in this meeting along with other networks who are working in the field of education.

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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

2. Mid-day Meal Programme

The Mid-day Meal Scheme is a school meal programme of the Government of India designed to improve the nutritional status of school-age children nationwide. The Mid Day Meal is the world's largest school feeding programme reaching out to of 6-14 years across the country. With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the programme was initiated by the Indian Government.

Community Action Society is serving Mid-day Meal to 1800 students of Chowbhaga Primary school and High school. They also serve mid-day meal to the school students of Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith and Shibrapur Madhyamik High School for Girls which started in collaboration with Primary School Council, Kolkata.





3. Other Activities

In the last one year, in both of our Homes, many programmes were celebrated.

Handful of which are listed below with details.

Hostel Foundation day

This is a special day when the entire school family has a chance to reflect on not only the beginning of the hostel and its founders, but also on the significant development since the hostel's inception. It is a day set aside to celebrate and revisit and reconnect with the continuing journey of the hostel. On that day, Community Action Society celebrates the joy of learning as it helps in developing mind, body and spirit.

Medical Health Check-up

A health check-up was organised for both the hostels. This check-up was organised with a purpose to create awareness not only among students but among the parents as well. Every student participated in this campaign and were trained about First-Aid. It gave parents access to their child's medical records on a real-time basis. It helps in reminding parents of immunization schedule and other health check-ups of children. The health check-up inculcates the habit of health monitoring in children and helps them take charge of their health.

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ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-19

Independence Day Celebration –

Every year both the students of Shibrampur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith (Residential Unit) celebrate Independence Day in quite a big manner. Children sang and danced to Vande Mataram and Tagore songs. Various cultural programmes were conducted with the aim of developing the leadership qualities among children. The event concluded with the rendition of the national anthem.

Rath Yatra Celebration

On this special day, two hostels celebrate this occasion. All the children performed dance, singing, recitation, enacted drama. The whole day was filled with ecstasy.

Teacher's Day Celebration

Teacher's day is a great occasion for celebrating and enjoying the relationship between teachers and students. Teacher's day is celebrated in every school so, our residential children also thought to do different activities to impress their teachers. All the children performed, they showed their talents through dancing, singing, dramas etc. the teachers and the residential staff arranged for refreshments which everyone happily enjoyed.

Saraswati Puja –

Children enjoy Saraswati Puja as they get a chance to wear saree. On this day, the children started their day with the puja. They arranged everything on their own. The girls who participated in the puja wore yellow sarees. Later in the day, they had bhog which all of them enjoyed.



INTERNSHIP



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INTERNSHIP

There are many ways to get involved with Community Action Society. Community Action Society offers internships to various school and college students. Those who have wish and a strong will to support the under privileged and are motivated to work for them, your contribution can help Community Action Society to advance our efforts towards building a better world.

Community Action Society facilitates experiential learning and professional-development opportunities for self-motivated passionate young people in the work areas of related to development. This is an opportunity for young people to step in, lead and make a difference in their own lives, while making a positive development impact in the communities they work with.

Volunteer-interns are supposed to be self-motivated, self-led, self-organised with a passion to learn in the field of work.

In the recent years, some of the Institutions like IIFT, NMIMS were associated with Community Action Society and they had sent quite a few of their students who completed their internships from here.

We encourage students and professionals, who have a passion for working for the deprived ones, to apply for internship with us.

For applying Internships, you may write to us at sendtocas@gmail.com or may dial **9831107383 / 03324416453**.



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AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

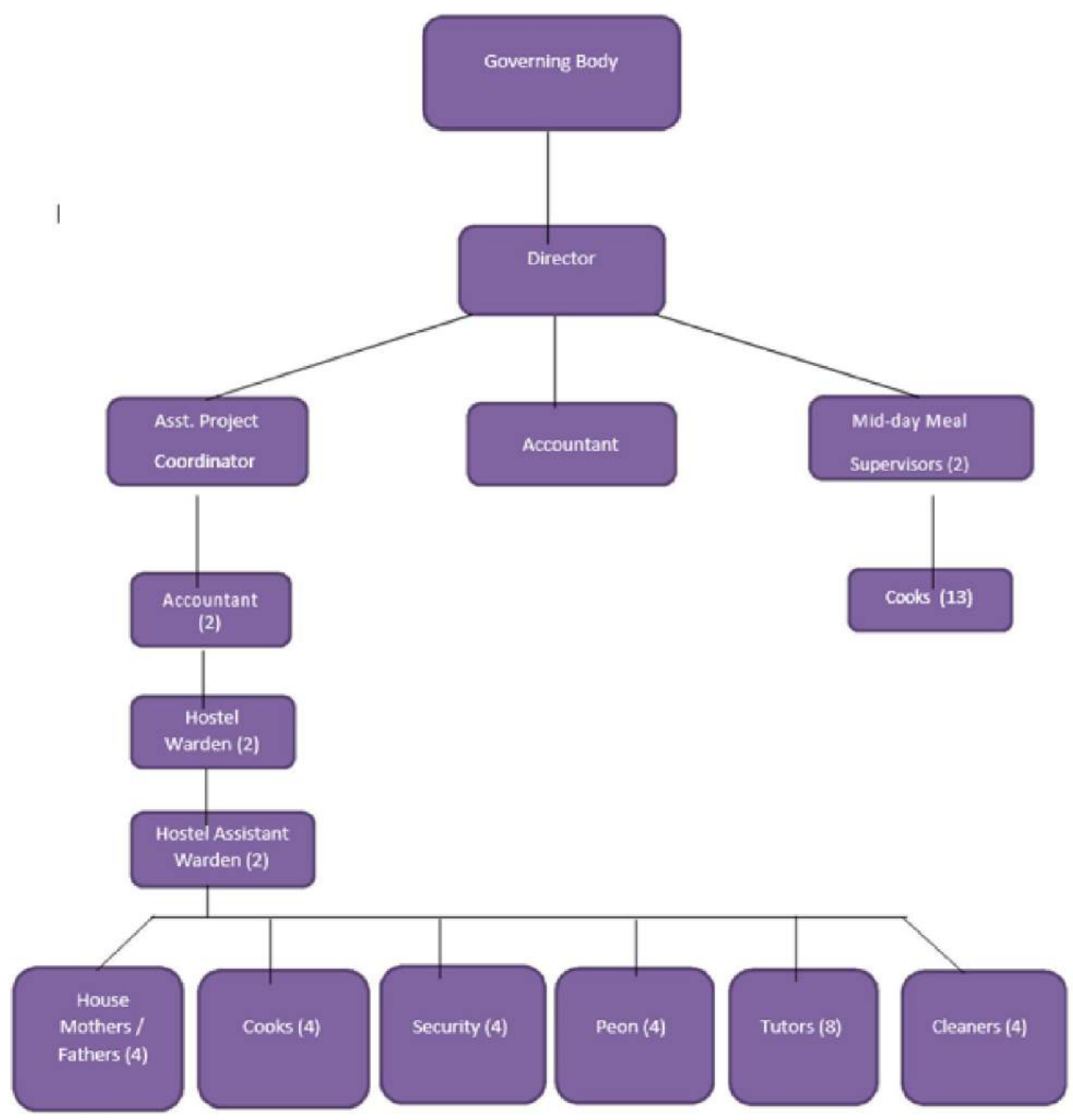
Community Action Society was recently recognised at an event for its committed and devoted work in the social work sector. In an Award Ceremony held in Kolkata, Community Action Society received Kolkata NGO'S Leadership Awards 2018. It was indeed a moment of pride for all its staff and this will encourage as well as motive all of us to work harder and bring a meaningful impact in our society.





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ORGANOGRAM





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CASE STUDY

“Winners don’t wait for chances, they make them”

Living up to the much famous saying, three young girls – Sayanika Dhar, Rishika Shaw and Sulata Thandar – of Shibrampore Madhyamik Girl’s High School, recently secured the top three positions at a quiz conducted by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas).

Appearing for Madhyamik this year, Sulata, brimmed with confidence and was really excited to share the certificate with us. Greeting us with big smiles on their faces, Rishika, currently studying in the 9th standard, and Sayanika, in 10th standard, further elaborated on how they prepared for the quizzes and their depth of knowledge on the topic.

What was truly appreciable was their understanding of the present environmental scenario and how they agreed that there is a much required shift from usage of non-renewable sources to lesser polluting renewable ones. All of them highlighted how electric vehicles are soon going to take over the market.

When asked about their winning mantra, all of them agreed to the fact that anything can be achieved with sheer will and determination.

While Rishika and Sayanika's favorite subject at school is Bengali, Sulata loves solving challenging Math problems. They want to grow up to become teachers and doctors to serve the needy and make this world a better place.

Narrating her experience, Sayanika further stated they would love to take part in such competitions in future as well.

Inspiring as they already are, we wish the girls all the very best!

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CASE STUDY





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GOVERNING BODY

- Mr Dibyendu Narayan Biswas – President
- Mr Sunny Kollannur – Vice President
- Mr Partha Kumar Roy – Secretary
- Mrs Anjana Basu – Treasurer
- Mr Mrinal Chatterjee – Member
- Mr Narayan Chandra Mondal – Member
- Smt Shampa Das – Member



REGISTRATION DETAILS

Society Registration No.: S0155864 of 2008-2009

The society is registered under section 12AA of Income Tax Act, 1961

FCRA Registration No: 147120998

All Donations are Exempted under Section 80G (5) (vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961

Our Auditor : R. N. Roy & Co Kolkata

Our Banker Bank of India, Ruby Park Branch, Kolkata

Our Bank Account Numbers are – 403010210000010 (for Indian contribution) and 403010110004451 (for Foreign contribution)



 SUPPORT



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SUPPORT

National Commission For Protection of Child Rights, Govt. of India

Hope Foundation

Pratham

Individual Donors and others

Amitava Majumdar, Interim Division Director, San Diego Computer Center, CA, USA

Mrinal Chatterjee, Bangur Avenue

Primary School Council, Kolkata

Sudipto Saha & Gopa Saha, New Jersey, USA



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SUPPORT

