



*COMMUNITY ACTION SOCIETY PRESENTS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017*



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## FROM SECRETARY'S DESK

It is indeed a great pleasure to announce that Community Action Society (CAS) has completed its ninth year in 2016-17 successfully. I present the Annual Report 2016-17, in an attempt to review the yearlong 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 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

## ABOUT COMMUNITY ACTION SOCIETY

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 sponsored 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 INGOs and number of Civil Society across West Bengal.

## **Our Vision**

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

## **Our Mission**

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

## **Core Objectives**

- To empower women and children through education, health and vocational training.
- To facilitate NGOs and other likeminded 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

## Achievement in Last Five Years

- Provided support for girl child education to enhance their knowledge and skills leading to overall development.
- Provided 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 Sarva 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.

- Organized 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.
- 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 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.

# Activities during year 2016-17

## I. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 1. Residential School Programme

In 2015, in the spirit of the RTE Act, Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM) Kolkata began the residential schools programme which would allow the out of school, underprivileged section of the society to stay in a residential hostel and go to school.



Community Action Society collaborated with SSM Kolkata to run two such hostels; Bhagini Nibedita Bhawan inside the premise of Shibrampur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Vivek Bitan Chatrabas inside the premise of Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith. Each hostel, one for girls and the other for boys is meant for 100 children.



Supported by Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM), Kolkata, these residential units are the homes of underprivileged and deprived children without parental care and support. The children get educational, nutritional and other additional support for healthy living. These budding minds get a chance to showcase their talents in the forms of co-curricular activities. Situated in Behala Chowrasta area, these residential units help the children to continue their formal schooling without any hindrance. Apart from this, special days are observed in a different manner by the residential children. The children take active involvements in various competitive and cultural programmes to build their self-confidence and inherent strength.

## **2. Setting up of Library**

Right to Education Act 2009 says it is mandatory to have a library in every school. CAS in collaboration with Smile foundation has set up a library in Chowbhaga Primary School for the benefit of the children. The library has 140 different types of books which will enhance the reading habit of children.



### **3. Preschool Education Programme**

A pre-school education centre is run by Community Action Society supported by Mr. Amitava Majumdar for the underprivileged children living in the outskirts of Kolkata within



the age 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.

### **4. Sponsorship- Girl Child Education**

CAS with financial support from Sudipto Saha and Gopa Saha 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.

## 5. Supplementary Education and Vocational Training to Adolescent Girls

With the support of Irish Aid- Embassy of Ireland, we are running a project titled



‘Securing and Ensuring the Rights of Adolescent Girls’ (SERA) in Katrakhali village Basanti Block, under Chunakhali Gram Panchayat Sundarban, South 24

Parganas. The flood prone area Katrakhali is located on the banks of river Ichamati and is a deserted place away from other facilities available in township. It takes more than 1 hour to reach the destination by auto from Canning railway station over topsy turvy mud road. We are providing supplementary education to 80 adolescent underprivileged girls residing in the village to enrich their life skills thus improving their overall development. In addition to this, these girls are sensitized about child rights, consequences of child marriage and child labour. We are providing vocational training to 40 adolescent girls on tailoring and





## **II. MID DAY MEAL PROGRAMME**

Arresting classroom hunger is one of the challenges that educationists running schools in poorer sections of society face – the children of daily wage earners, slum dwellers and such others rarely have one square meal a day –let alone a nutritious meal before attending school. 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 enrollment, 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.

Recently, we have started serving 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.

### **III. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

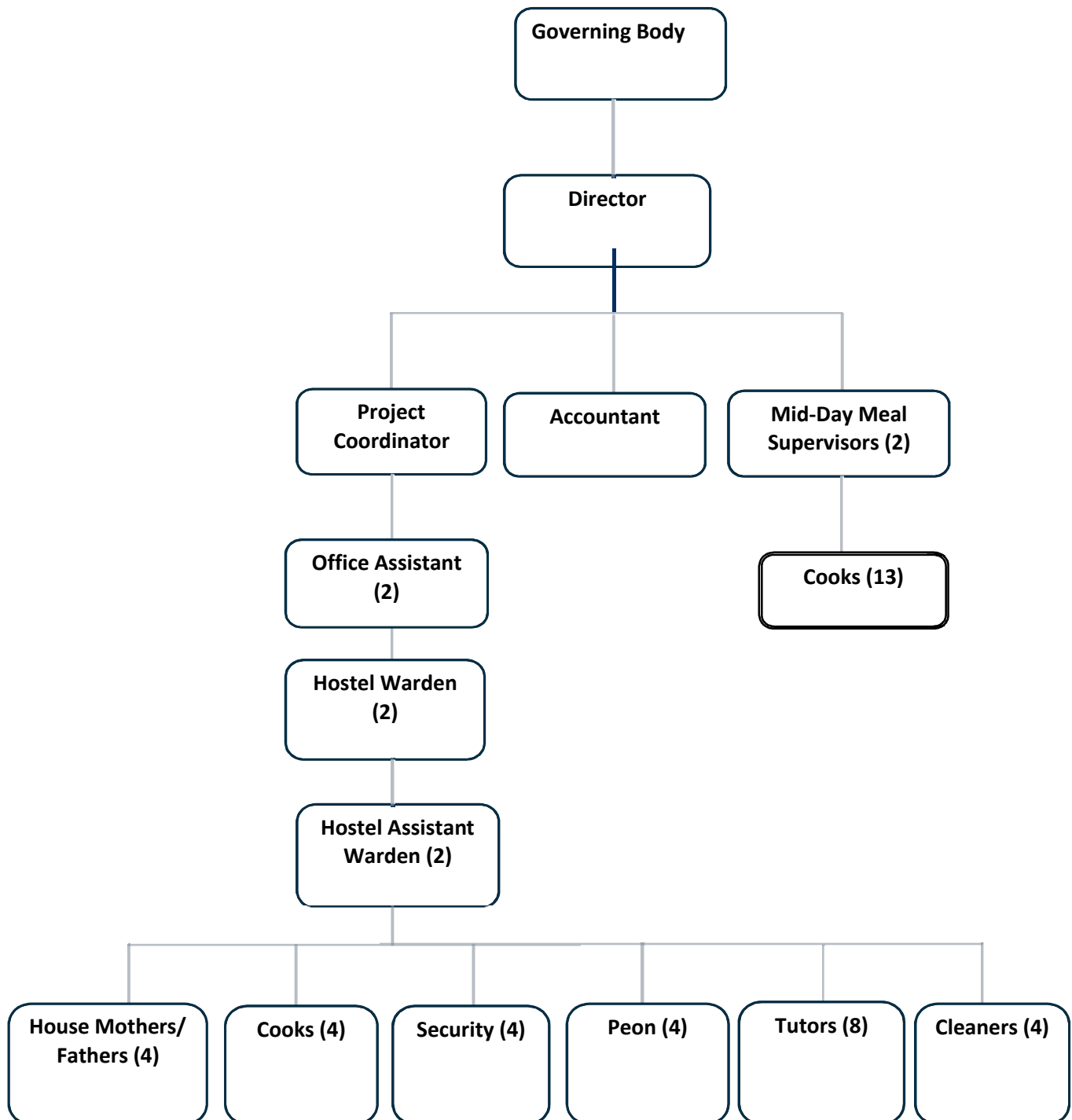
Regular training sessions on various social issues, child rights, child marriage, various laws have been provided to community members, children, youth and others to raise an awareness among themselves while living in the community and to mitigate any problems if arise in a smooth manner.

CAS in collaboration with UNICEF has conducted capacity building training on Tracking and Monitoring out of School Children in three districts of West Bengal- Kolkata, Malda and South 24 Parganas.





# ORGANOGRAM



## **FOR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT WE THANK**

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

**Sarva Shiksha Mission, Kolkata**

**UNICEF**

**Irish Aid- Embassy of Ireland**

**PRATHAM**

**Hope Foundation**

**Save the Children**

**SPLASH**

**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**

Society Registration No.:  
S/1L/55864 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

## **Governing Body 2016-17**

### **President**

Mr. Dibyendu Narayan  
Biswas

### **Vice President**

Mr. Sunny Kollannur

### **Secretary**

Mr. Partha Kumar Roy

### **Treasurer**

Mrs. Anjana Basu

### **Member**

Mr. Mainak Chaki  
Mr. Mrinal Chatterjee  
Mr. Sanjay Biswas