



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



ABSTRACT

This Annual Report contains all the details of the work that Community Action Society does in the field. The year 2017-18 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 activities, CAS runs two residential schools to support the underprivileged children who are deprived of basic elementary education. CAS ensures that these children receive 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, Shibrapur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith. There are many more activities of CAS which are given below and will come subsequently with the progress of this report.

**Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world –
Nelson Mandela**

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FROM SECRETARY'S DESK

It is indeed a great pleasure to announce that Community Action Society (CAS) has completed its tenth year in 2017-18 successfully. I present the Annual Report 2017-18, 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 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 nongovernment 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.

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 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

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 2017-18:

I. Educational Activities:

1. 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 Shibrapur 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 receives 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 Shibrapur 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.

2. 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 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.



3. 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.



4. Supplementary Education and Vocational Training to Adolescent Girls

With the support of Irish Aid-Embassy of Ireland, Community Action Society had driven 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. CAS has provided 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 were sensitized about child rights, consequences of child

marriage and child labour. Vocational training were given to 40 adolescent girls on tailoring and fishnet weaving so that they could become economically strengthened in their near future. It was presumed that not only the adolescent girls but also their community members have to be sensitized regarding child rights and marriage. In order to address this, CAS conducted sensitization sessions regularly with community stakeholders like parents, panchayat, local government officers, ICDS staff, teachers and others.



5. UNICEF Projects:

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 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.

In order to work towards mainstreaming of out of school children, it is important to spread awareness through campaigns, workshops, seminars etc.

a. Monitoring and Tracking of out of school children –

Many years after implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, a survey has found that implementing it still poses a challenge in rural West Bengal. While doing an intensive field survey in several districts in West Bengal, it has been observed with concern that though the Act is in place, underprivileged children are often being denied of their rights.



It has been evident from various other surveys and experiential learning that a large number of children are still out of the schooling system in the districts like Kolkata, Malda and South 24 Parganas of West Bengal. The trend of irregularity, absenteeism and dropping out of children enrolled in school is quite high in these districts.



The data shows that all is not well in West Bengal as far as the implementation of the Right to Education is concerned. The purpose is to generate awareness among the common people on several aspects of the

Right to Education Act, so that the community can have close vigil on the implementation process.

This project helped to assess the status of OOSC in 3 districts of West Bengal. The study itself generated interest among the concerned authorities to estimate the difference between government and study figures. Mass awareness was created on this pertinent issue.

b. Monitoring on Special Training and Community Mobilization in the Districts –

It appears from the report of the SSA West Bengal that a good number of children are still out of school in the districts of Malda, Purulia and South 24 Pgs. After RTE mainstreaming 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 to enhance their competency level of education at per the class where they are admitted.

In order to work towards mainstreaming of out of schools it is also important to work closely with the SMC/PTA/SHG/VEC, it is necessary to make them aware about their roles and responsibilities by organizing different campaign programmes namely; workshop, seminar, mothers meeting and trainings and continuous monitoring on the activities.

This project helped to generate interest among the parents particularly on special training and how beneficial it could be for their children. They also realized that special training could be a potent tool to prevent dropping from school. In the final analysis, parents have become conscious and there has been an increase in the attendance of the students. Students benefitted immensely from the special trainings arranged for them.

6. Library Campaign-Donation of Books

Community Action Society in support of PRATHAM has started library campaign donation of books in schools helping to add values and ethos of a child's upbringing. Story books are provided to the underprivileged children according to their educational levels in order to enhance their reading and learning skills. Story books are the constant companion of a child enabling them to upgrade their knowledge and skills.



II. 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.





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.

IV. Other Programmes:

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.

First Aid Training –

First Aid Training programme was organized by Community Action Society for the students of Shibrampur Madhyamik High School for Girls and Parui Radhakrishna Vidyapith in association with St. John Ambulance Association. 109 children and 8 staff members participated in this 5 hour Demonstration Training on First Aid. In order to cater to the needs of these children a Demonstration Class on First Aid was arranged where children could understand and have a preliminary knowledge regarding this subject. Shri Arun Kumar Das conducted the training programme on behalf of St. John Ambulance Association.



Independence Day Celebration –

Every year both the students of Shibrapur 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.



Eid Celebration –

On this special day, two hostels came together to celebrate this occasion. All the children performed together, they danced, sang, recited, enacted drama (Adrishya Sikkhika, Lights Camera Action). 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 enjoys 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.

Eye Check-up –

Community Action Society organised an eye check-up camp for all its students. The project aims to increase awareness and improve access to eye/health care services. The objective of this event was to create awareness on eye disorders, their early



detection and to detect refractive errors and eye ailments among school children. The camp witnessed experienced doctors providing the best of check-up sessions and expert advices to the children who either had some vision problem or were suffering from an eye-related ailment.

Other than this, these children also celebrated **World Cancer Day**. World Cancer Day is celebrated across the globe on February 4. It is celebrated internationally to raise awareness of Cancer and its prevention, detection, treatment. World Cancer Day targets misinformation, reducing stigma. On this day through a campaign, an awareness programme was initiated by all the children of both the homes. People across the world have ever since come together on this day to ensure optimal awareness and significantly reduce illness and deaths caused by cancer by 2020. People can render emotional support to the ones battling cancer by sharing their own stories of surviving the life-threatening condition.

Internships:

There are many scopes 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.

Awards and Achievements:

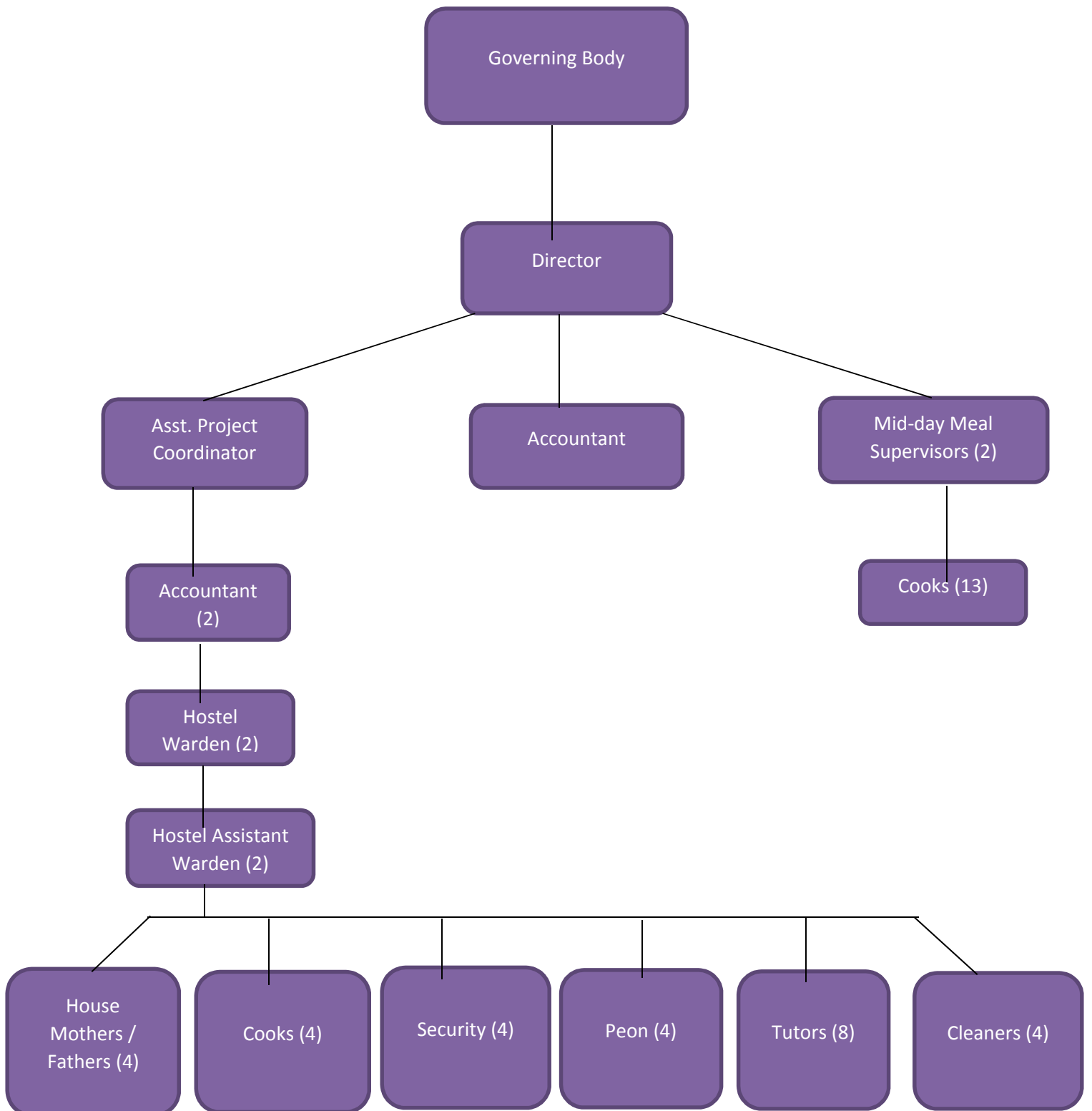


Community Action Society was recently recognised at an event for its committed and devoted work in the social work sector. In an Award Ceremony held in Kolkata, Community Action Society received **Kolkata NGO'S Leadership Awards 2017**. It was indeed a moment of pride for all its staff and this will encourage as well as motive all of us to work harder and bring a meaningful impact in our society.

Workshops Attended –

There are different workshops attended by our staff in the last one year. One such workshop is story weaving. This workshop was organised by PRATHAM. The main focus of this workshop was to teach the wardens or the person who is responsible for looking after the children how to tell to or weave stories for the children. This special training will assist the person to form stories easily and hence it will improve the technique.

ORGANOGRAM



FOR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT WE THANK

- 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



Registration Details:

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

Governing Body 2017-18

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ➤ Mr. Dibyendu Narayan Biswas | - | President |
| ➤ Mr. Sunny Kollannur | - | Vice President |
| ➤ Mr. Partha Kumar Roy | - | Secretary |
| ➤ Mrs. Anjana Basu | - | Treasurer |
| ➤ Mr. MrinalChatterjee | - | Member |
| ➤ Mr. Narayan Chandra Mondal | - | Member |
| ➤ Smt. Shampa Das | - | Member |