



ANDREWSPALLI CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

Andrewspalli (West), Santiniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal, India, PIN – 731 235



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INTRODUCTION

Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development is a registered Non-Government Organization incorporated in 1998 with its Headquarter at Andrewspalli (West), Santiniketan, District Birbhum, West Bengal. ACID also has a field office at Jogeshganj in Hingalganj Block of North 24 Parganas, District of West Bengal.

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

A few professionally qualified social workers while working in the surrounding rural areas of Bolpur town, West Bengal observed that although quite a few numbers of NGOs were functioning, their command area could not cover the downtrodden people living in the interior villages, especially those belonging to underprivileged, backward and tribal communities, to whom even the minimum amenities required for their survival were not available. The aforesaid situation prompted to form a forum to address their burning issues. This led to the formation of Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development (ACID). Over the years, ACID has established itself as the leading development organization dedicated to the upliftment of marginalized, tribal and other downtrodden in the adjoining regions of Bolpur and Illambazar block.

Later the organization had extended its interventions in the poverty stricken and vulnerable region of Sundarbans, as result the organization had stated working in the AILA affected area of Hingalganj Block in North 24 Paraganas district on “Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Climate Change Adaptation” “Humanitarian Response”, “Strengthening Livelihoods”, “Child Education” and “WASH”.

The goal of Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development is to cater to the needs of the socially and economically weaker sections of rural and urban families deprived of minimum basic needs of food, clothes and shelter and removed by social system to marginal living. ACID believes in participatory approaches for sustainability of each initiative.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision: Our vision is to nourish and empower people by making them self-reliant and self-respectful. The organization has been working marginalized to bring sustainable changes through its various interventions especially in West Bengal, more specifically in Five Gram Panchayats of Hingalganj Block in North 24 Parganas and in Birbhum.

Mission: The mission of the organization is to create a self-reliant rural community through participatory approach, work with marginalized communities with a special focus on women and children and conduct various programs for marginalized communities on social economic and political influences, which kept them deprived by identifying their own abilities.

INTERVENSSION

The organization is intervening in the fields like Social Mobilization, Child Education, Health and Hygiene promotion, Environment Protection, Livelihood, Humanitarian Response and Preparedness.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

ACID believes that Social Mobilization is a process that raises awareness and motivates people to act, participate and demand for change or initiate a particular development initiative. As a part of its Social Mobilization initiative, ACID organized community meetings, child club meetings and trainings, Annual Sports for Children and Youth, Women Foot Ball tournament, Cultural activities, Awareness Rally, Exhibition etc.

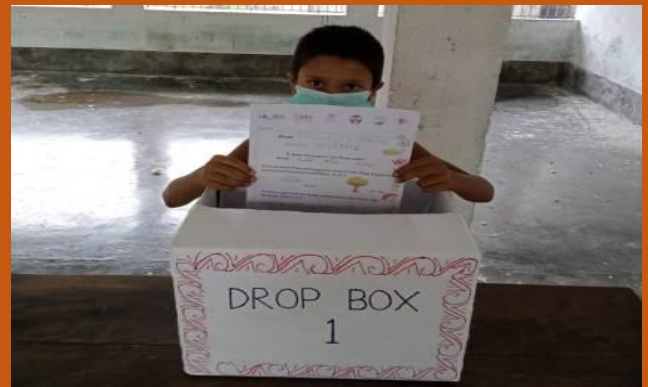
SI No.	Name of Event	No.	Issues
1	Community Meeting	21	Health and Hygiene promotion, Child protection, Environment Protection, Awareness building on Various Government Schemes and entitlements
2	Child Club Meeting	24	Child Protection, Environmental Education, Climate Change Adaptation, Social Action
3	Child Cabinet Meeting	60	Education, Health, Environment Protection, Climate Change Adaptation, Discussion on Local issues and Social action
4	Awareness Rally	4	Child Protection, Environment Protection, Health and Hygiene especially on COVID 19
5	Sports and Games for Youth and Child	2	Climate Change, Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation
6	Cultural Activities	12	Celebration of Various Important Days and for Awareness generation , Protection of traditional folk culture



CHILD EDUCATION

All the educational institutes including schools were closed due to COVID - 19 pandemic situations during the year 2021-22. However, ACID had extended Educational Support for the more than 350 Marginalized Children in Hingalganj Block of Sundarbans through 8 Activity Centers. In the lockdown situation, ACID supported the children through small group study in different convenient locations near the houses of the children and provided worksheets, lessons, etc and applied Drop Box methodology as to engage the children in joyful educational activities.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Regular Tuition support to the children	5 days in a week	350	All necessary stationaries being supplied to the centers from the project
2	Providing worksheet for study	8-10 sheet per subject	350	Use drop box methodology for providing and collection of worksheet.
3	Providing Educational Materials	4 (once in every quarter)	315	Exercise Books, Pens, pencils, drawing books, colour pencils, Eraser, Sharpener, Scale, Geometry Box etc.
4	Lesion Plans and use of TLM	Every week	350	Various types of TLM made by the teachers and children /Provided many TLMs to the learning centres.
5	Taking Regular Mock Test	Every Month	350	On each subject taught in the Centers
6	Providing Uniform Kit	1 (Once in a Year)	315	School uniform, School Bags, Shoes and Socks
7	Celebration of Important Days	Important days	350 Students, 25 Teachers, 5 Project staff, Parents of the children	Netaji's Birth day, Republic Day, Rabindra Jayanti, Independent Day, Teachers' day, Gandhi Jayanti, Swami Vivekanada's Birth day, Christmas day, etc



HEALTH & HYGIENE PROMOTION

The organization carried out Health and Hygiene Awareness campaign and supported the Marginalized Communities in Hingalganj and Bolpur Blocks in a Community Based Approach. Major activities during the year were quarterly health check up for the children by a qualified Doctor, Community health Camp, Health and hygiene promotion workshop, promotion hand wash and safe water chain along with distribution of Hygiene kits, Masks, Soaps, etc.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Distribution of Hygiene Kit	4 (once in every quarter)	315	Detergent powder, bathing soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, hand wash, shampoo sachet.
2	Distributed Sanitary napkin	4 (once in every quarter)	75	Provided 3 packets of Sanitary Napkin per adolescence girls per quarter.
3	Providing Nutrition Support	Every Month	315	Done Direct Beneficiaries Transfer @ INR 1050 per family per quarter.
4	Health Check-up for the Children and Distribution of Medicine	4 (once in every quarter)	315	Referral of serious patients to Govt Hospitals after primary checkup and Medicines distributed to the children as per the prescription of the Doctor
5	Community Health Camp and Distribution of Medicine	7	2200	Referral of serious patients to Govt Hospitals after primary checkup and Medicines distributed to the patients as per the prescription of the Doctor
6	Awareness on Hygiene Promotion	42 workshop	1350	Awareness on Personal Hygiene, general hygiene promotion, Superstition, etc
7	Counseling and Psycho-social services for children and their family members	30	120	Jointly done with specialist from Donor Agency and ACID staff to the needy children and their families
8	Distribution of Masks and Hygiene kits	2	2000	Vulnerable families in Hingalganj and Bolpur blocks during COVID 19 and YAAS



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

ACID is doing a lot on the issues of Environment Protection. Through Child Clubs the organization conducted various awareness events, rallies and door to door campaigns, drawing competition, football tournament and distribution of fruit saplings among the children and households. Protection of mangrove which was planted in the previous year was under taken by ACID during this year. Initiative of Collection of plastic carry bags and other plastic particles in the plastic bottles by the children was undertaken in this year.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Protection of Mangrove in Sundarbans	2	250 family	Fencing and nursing 2 no of site of mangrove plantation
2	Fruit Sapling Distribution	1	315	Distribution of fruit saplings to all sponsored children's family and Child Club Members.
3	Community meeting on Environmental awareness	7	800	Meetings conducted in 7 villages in Hingalganj Block of Sundarbans
4	Awareness campaign on climate change (Rally, door to door drive)	12	2000	Community Awareness activities conducted in 22 villages on less use of electricity and plastic and wastage of water.
5	Collection of plastic, promotion of safe waste management	1	350	Achieved a target of collecting 212 plastic bottle with full of plastic bags and particles.



LIVELIHOOD

Poverty reduction and intervention for improving lives and Livelihood have been another core area of working of the organization. ACID supports the extremely poor and vulnerable households through its various livelihood activities including convergence of government schemes and entitlements.

In Sundarbans, ACID supports the 21 SHGs and 7 farmers groups and in Bolpur block the organization supports 30 women from underprivileged and economically backward families for skill building and entrepreneurship development on promotion of handicraft items.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Follow up activity of 21 SHG	274	Provided technical support for kitchen gardening, poultry farming, small business. Also provide support for accessing government scheme
2	Follow up activity of 7 farmers group	77	Provided technical Support for production of Vermi compost, Crab cultivation
3	Nutrition Gardening	295	Provided technical support and inputs for kitchen gardening
4	Empowering women through Skill training and entrepreneurship development	30	Enabling women from underprivileged and economically backward families from rural landscape of Ruppur Gram Panchayat of Birbhum district into economic mainstream by imparting training, workshop, orientation, demonstration, exposure, guidance and mentoring in producing home based handicraft items such as Kantha Stitch, Batik and handmade kurta, panjabi, Sarees, Hand bags, other dress and decorative items as well as linking them with the market places for selling their market in fair prices.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS

The 2nd wave of COVID -19 pandemic had badly affected the normal life of the population. It had heavily affected the livelihoods of the local population of rural landscape of the Hingalganj and Bolpur blocks of West Bengal. On the other hand, cyclone YAAS affected the area very badly in Sundarbans. ACID had responded to both the situations i.e. COVID and YAAS in small ways for the most vulnerable families in Hingalganj and Bolpur blocks.

ACID opened its Farmers Information and Service Centre (FISC) at Gobindokati as shelter place for the most vulnerable families of the adjacent communities during YAAS where 15 families took shelter including two pregnant women. Along with the shelter, ACID arranged food, safe drinking water and hygiene kit for all the families took shelter at FISC.

ACID distributed 119 packs of baby food for the babies from 0 – 1 year and 1 – 3 years of age group in Mamoodpur, Kantakhali and Narkeltala areas of Hingalgang Gram Panchayat under Hingalganj Block as the needs assessment revealed to priorities for the Baby Food as the areas were badly affected by cyclone YAAS and as need for this group was not addressed by others.

The Sundarbans is very much prone to natural disasters i.e., cyclone and flooding where sizable families including children live in vulnerable situations and require immediate support during the event of any disaster. Keeping this situation in mind, ACID has kept little contingency stocks such as Tarpaulins, Bleaching Powder and water containers for immediate response to the communities.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Distribution of Mask	1000 family	During the 2 nd wave of COVID distributed washable cotton mask.
2	Distribution of soap	1000 family	During the 2 nd wave of COVID distributed soap
3	Providing safe drinking water	50 family	Regular provided RO water to the families.
4	Coordination with Local Authorities and Gram Panchayats	-----	Done meeting with Gram Panchayats for early warning and various response for cyclone YAAS
5	YAAS cyclone response and Disaster preparedness	15 families 119 children 250 families	FISC act as Cyclone shelter for the adjacent communities. FISC opened for the vulnerable families during YAAS where 14 families including two pregnant women took shelter. Organization provided 119 packs of Baby Food to the children for the age group 01 yrs and 1-3 yrs in Mamoodpur, Kantakhali and Narkeltala villages of Hingalganj block as part of YAAS response. ACID has a stock of 50 pieces Tarpaulin measuring 15 ft X 18 ft 200 GSM, 200 packets of Bleaching powder weighing 500 gm each and 20 Water container of 20 ltr capacity with lid as part of preparedness for immediate response to any future emergency situations
6	Donation of Oxygen cylinders to Bolpur Sub-divisional Red Cross Society	Entire population of Bolpur Sub-division	The organization has been active in responding to the COVID 19 pandemic situation since 2020. Besides, distribution of nutrition pack and hygiene kits to the vulnerable families in Birbhum and North 24 Parganas, ACID had provided two Oxygen Cylinders to Indian Red Cross Society, Bolpur Sub-Divisional Branch for catering the demand of the local population of Bolpur Sub-Division as well as to prepare for the future wave of pandemic



Stories from field

1

Small effort, many benefits from Homestead Nutrition Garden



As garden fresh organic vegetables have lots of nutritional values with micronutrients, which help boosting immunity in human body and increase body's defence against viruses and germs, Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development (ACID) promoted nutritional garden among the families of sponsored children in Hingaljanj. ACID had provided five types of vegetable seeds in the first quarter of 2021 along with nutrition food pack to 295 sponsored children's families in Hingaljanj for growing homestead nutrition garden. Few selected families from each area were also given technical orientation on the Nutrition gardening by the Nutrition Garden Resource person. The majority of the sponsorship project beneficiaries belong to

underprivileged and economically backward communities, hence the purpose of promoting nutrition garden among these families were to provide them access to consume fresh organic vegetables from their homestead garden and to reduce the expenditure for purchasing vegetable from market. Alongside, this initiative also allowed them to sale the excessive production of the vegetables to the local market to earn bit money for the family to increase expenditure on others essentials commodities for the children.

The families of sponsorship children could start harvesting the vegetables in the summer during month of April/May/June and started consuming those along with their daily meals as well as started earning money by selling excess vegetables in the local market. Our constant monitoring has revealed that among the total families of 295, around 60% of families have done excellent in growing vegetables in their homestead land, 30% done good and rest 10% of the families could not grow the vegetable due to not having enough space in homestead land and lack of water for irrigation.



Here we have tried to put some data from the various locations of sponsorship project area for presenting status of the initiatives.....

Child Name	Child Code	Production (kg)				Total Production (kg)	Consumption (kg)				Total Consumption (kg)	Market Value (per kg)				Total Market Value (INR)	Total Production (kg)	Consumption (kg)				Total Consumption (kg)	Total Market Value (INR)	Total Earning (INR)	
		Family	Sale	Market	Total		Family	Sale	Market	Total		Family	Sale	Market	Total			Family	Sale	Market	Total				
Shushama Bhumij	W0601/180	15	15	20	600	5	5	25	125	3	3	20	60												785
Tithi Mandal	W0601/72	15	5	20	400	10	10	25	250																650
Purabi Gayen	W0601/186	20	15	20	700	15	10	5	375	4	3	1	80	2	2	30	60								1215
Milan Mandal	W0601/30	5	10	20	300	23	8	15	690	1	1	30	30	4	4	30	120								1140
Ayan Mandal	W0601/26					19	4	15	570	28	8	20	840	2	2	30	60	1	1	30	30				1500
Gouranga Mandal	W0601/42	4	4	20	80	9	3	6	270					2	2	30	60	1	1	30	30				440
Soumi Mandal	W0601/28	8	2	6	160	5	5	30	150	8	3	5	240												550
Dipannita Mandal	W0601/881	17	5	12	340	5	5	30	150	5	5	25	125					3	3	30	90				705
Swapna Mandal	W0601/402	20	10	20	400	10	5	5	300					2	2	30	60								760
Subhasree Mandal	W0601/384	10	5	20	200	5	5	30	150	17	7	10	510												860
Sayan Mandal	W0601/369	20	8	12	400	20	5	15	400									10	4	6	30	300			1100
Payel Sing	W0601/368	10	3	7	200	15	5	10	300									7	2	5	30	210			710
Trisha Mandal	W0601348	5	5	20	100	15	10	5	300	5	2	3	100												500

The initiative has established the fact that small effort by the families for nutrition garden with technical help in the homestead land can benefit the poor families in many ways especially in improving immunity and health status with financial gain.



A NEW WAY OF CONTINUING STUDIES

When the education system in the entire country got stuck during the COVID 19 pandemic, it goes without saying that it affected the normal rhythm of studies of the small school goes in the villages of a small rural Island of Hingalganj Block.

Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development intervened in new ways of continuing studies. Lessons are delivered to the students through Drop Box as a form of work sheet and activity task. The work sheets are containing various colours and colourful pictures, so the students are attracted and get very enthusiastic about the worksheets.



A Drop Box is made for 7- 8 students according to the number of students living a specific area or surrounding an area. The teachers are keeping it in one place and keep the work sheets inside the drop box and the student collect those worksheets from there and again submit it after completing the exercise and tasks to the Drop Box on a specific day. After submitting the filed-in worksheets by the students, the teachers collect those worksheets from there for checking and also keep more new work sheets.

This is how study is going on in a different way in the island of Hingalganj. Students and their parents are very satisfied and happy to continue study in such

interesting way.

Story of Rita



Rita is a sponsored child attends Madhabkati Activity center. She is a student of ninth standard at Jogeshganj High School. Rita belongs to an economically backward family; her father Amal Mandal is a daily wage earner and earns very little. He occasionally goes to the other state for work as a migrant worker.

Rita is good in studies and was regular in the Activity centre from 2015. After lockdown period it was being noticed that she was very irregular in attending the Activity centre. In the month of January 2022 Rita attended the centre only for 10 days out of 22 days.

The matter was being discussed in the meeting of Child cabinet of the Activity centre and the members of the Child cabinet tried to find out the reasons. The finding revealed that she was having a love affair with a boy and she and her boyfriend wanted to get married sooner. After discovering such news, members of Child cabinet visited Rita's house and talked with her and her mother. Explained to them that getting married at an early age was wrongdoing and an offence in the eyes of law. At the same time, they explained to them the pros and cons of getting married at an early age.



After that Rita and her family realized and promised to cancel the wedding. Rita said that she would go to the Activity center regularly and would complete her higher studies.

Now Rita became regular in the Activity center as well as in school and very happy with her friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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