



ANDREWSPALI CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

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



ANNUAL
REPORT

2022 - 2023

INTRODUCTION

Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development (ACID) 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 under Hingalganj Block of North 24 Parganas district, 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 number of NGOs are 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 Humanitarian and Development organization dedicated to the upliftment of marginalized, tribal and other backward communities in the adjoining regions of Bolpur and Ilambazar blocks.

Later the organization had extended its interventions in the less privileged and vulnerable region of Sundarbans, as result the organization had started working in AILA affected area of Hingalganj Block under North 24 Paragana District on “Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Humanitarian Response”, “Livelihood Promotion, “Child Education” and “Health Promotional aspects”.

The goal of Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development is to cater to the needs of the economically/socially weaker section of rural and urban masses deprived of minimum basic needs of food, clothes, shelter, health and education 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 with marginalized, backward and vulnerable communities to bring sustainable changes through its various interventions especially in West Bengal.

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 children, women, youth and farmers and conduct various program for marginalized communities on social, economic, health, education, environment and political influences, which kept them deprived by identifying their own abilities.

INTERVENTION

The organization has been working with underprivileged and marginalized communities to bring sustainable changes through its various interventions especially in West Bengal to create a self-reliant rural community through participatory approach with a special focus on women, children, youth, backward and vulnerable communities and conduct various programs.

The organization has been intervening in the fields like Social Mobilization, Child Education, Health and Hygiene promotion, Climate Change and Environment Protection, Livelihood, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Humanitarian Response and Preparedness.



SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

In the reporting year ACID organized community meetings, child cabinet meetings and trainings, Annual Sports for Children and Youth, Cultural activities, Awareness Rally, etc in Hingalganj Block of North 24 Parganas, Bolpur - Sriniketan and Illambazar Blocks of Birbhum District as part of its Social Mobilization initiative.

SI No.	Name of Event	No.	Issues/ Events/ Topics
1	Community Meeting	84	Health and Hygiene promotion, Child protection, Environment Protection, Entitlement of various Govt. Schemes
2	Child Cabinet Meeting	90	Child Protection, Climate Change and Environment Protection, Child education, Child labour, Child tracking, and health, Social Action
3	Awareness Rally	12	Child Protection, Climate Change, Environment Protection, Health and Hygiene promotion
4	Sports and Games for Youth and Child	1	Climate Change, Global Warming
5	Cultural Activities	16	Various Important Days and Annual cultural event



CHILD EDUCATION

325 Children from Marginalized communities in Hingalganj block provided with Educational Support in a Community Based Approach through 7 Learning Centres through 22 qualified and well trained teachers. These children come are from seven villages of four Gram Panchayats under Hingalganj Block of Sundarbans. The Learning centers functions from Monday through Friday every week for 3 hours in each day. All 325 children provided with quarterly educational materials during the year.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Regular Tuition support to the children	5 days in a week	325	All necessary stationaries being supplied to the centers from the project
2	Providing Educational Materials	4 (once in every quarter)	325	Exercise Books, Pens, pencils, drawing books, colour pencils, Eraser, Sharpener, Measuring scale, Geometry Box, etc. were provided to each children as Educational materials
3	Lesson Plans and use of TLM	Every week	325	TLM were provided to the centres
4	Celebration of Important Days	Important days	325 Students, 22 Teachers, 4 Project staff, Parents of the children	Birthday of Indian thinker, Teachers' day, Happiness day, Environment Day, woman Day, Children Day, Christmas day, etc celebrated in centres by the children
5	Taking Regular Mock Test	Every Month	377	On each subject taught in the Centers



HEALTH & HYGIENE PROMOTION

The organization conducted Health and Hygiene Awareness sessions and extended support for the Marginalized Communities in Hingalganj Block in a Community Based Approach. Major activities during the year were quarterly health check up camps for the Learning Centre children by a qualified doctor, Community health Camps, Health and hygiene promotion workshop, regular demonstration of hand washing , supplementary nutrition inputs, etc.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks / Items given
1	Distribution of Hygiene Kit	4 (quarterly)	325	Detergent powder, bathing soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, hand wash , shampoo sachet, Sanitary napkins for adolescent girls.
2	Providing Supplementary Nutrition Support	4 (quarterly)	301 family	Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) @ 1050/- per quarter as supplementary nutrition inputs
3	Health Cheek-up for the Children and Distribution of Medicine	4 (quarterly)	325	Referral of serious patients to Govt Hospitals after primary checkup and Medicines distributed to the children as per the advice and prescriptions of the Doctor
4	Community Health Camp and Distribution of Medicine	7	2800	Referral of serious patients to Govt Hospitals after primary checkup and Medicines distributed to the patients as per the prescription of the Doctor
5	Awareness on Hygiene Promotion	28 workshop	750	Awareness on Personal Hygiene, WASH, general hygiene promotion, Superstition, etc
6	Counseling and Psycho-social services for children and their family members	55	140	Jointly done with specialist from support Agency and ACID staff to the needy children and their families



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

ACID worked a lot on climate change issue through various rally, awareness meeting, door to door campaign, wall painting/writing, plantation of trees, use of organic fertilizers. The child cabinet members and parents group along with Learning Centre Management Committee have been oriented and trained on these issues through participatory approach. The children continue the drive of collection of plastic articles in plastic bottle.

Sl No.	Activity	No. of Activity	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks
1	Plantation of tree	7	325	All of our sponsored children planted one tree each.
2	Environmental awareness, training on Climate Change for the children and community	7	500	All child cabinet members and parents were covered under awareness sessions and trained on Climate Change
3	Awareness on climate change	7	700	Community awareness sessions were conducted on less use of electricity, plastic and wastage of water.
4	Collection of plastic, promotion of safe waste management	7	325	Use of plastic waste and bottles in various construction and decorative work as part of recycling.



LIVELIHOOD, SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Livelihood intervention is another core area of the organization. ACID supports the extremely poor and vulnerable households through its various livelihood activities including convergence of government schemes and entitlements. In the year 2022 – 2023, Andrewspalli Centre for Integrated Development had tried to strengthen the existing 21 SHGs consisting of 274 women members and 7 Farmers' groups consisting of 77 marginal farmers in Kalitala, Gobindokati and Jogeshganj Gram Panchayats of Hingalganj block of North 24 Parganas. Those SHGs and Farmers groups were formed and supported through its previous Livelihood interventions called Water for Food in the Coastal areas of India. All the SHGs were linked with cluster and they could access financial benefit through Anadadhara programme of Government of West Bengal.

Alongside, the organization provided 7 types of vegetable seeds to 294 extremely poor families during summer, rainy and winter to grow nutrition gardens in their homestead land . Apart from seeds, they were provided organic manure and gardening equipment for nutrition gardening. In addition, the organization had imparted training through trained Horticulturist on improved kitchen gardening using compost and organic manure. Most of the families grew good nutrition garden and used the vegetables for their family consumption and 168 families sold the excess products in the local "Haat" and earned bit money which they spent for family expenses and for their children's education.



30 women from underprivileged and economically backward families from Ruppur Gram Panchayat were given training for 120 days on making Handicraft items using the skills of Kantha stitch (hand embroidery work), Batik and Tailoring. The training was imparted by certified and qualified Trainers from Santiniketan areas. The training venue was set up in a rented space in Ballavpur villages and women used to come between 01 and 05 PM for training and learning.

A. The Tailoring unit had imparted training on making following dressed including designing, cutting, stitching and finally producing quality products -

(1) Mask (2) Petticoat (3) Top (4) Kurti (5) Patiala trouser (6) Blouse (7) Wrapper skirt (8) Plazo trouser (9) Panjabi (10) Men Pyjama

B. The trainees of Batik unit acquired skills producing the following items by the end of training –

(1) Mask (2) Handkerchief (3) Uttoriyo (4) Stole / Chador (5) Head Scarf (6) Blouse piece (7) Wrapper skirt (8) Kurti piece (9) Panjabi piece (10) Saree

C. The trainees of Kantha stitch acquire skills producing the following items by the end of training –

(1)Top (2) Handkerchief (3) Cushion cover (4) Stole / Chador (5) Panjabi (6) Blouse and (7) Saree

During the training course, the women were trained how to fix the prices of the product, making business plan and start up, market survey on the products and demand, accessibility of raw materials, buyers, etc.

Since the Santiniketan areas are visited by many visitors and buy the handicraft items, a TOTO (Electric Rickshaw) was bought in December 2022 for the women to use the TOTO as Mobile Stall. Besides sailing their handmade products, women are also working privately from their homes and earning bit money from their handiworks.

On the first day of the its operation, the mobile stall could sale the dresses of INR3200. The trained women were mostly housewife with having children and elderly members in the family, so they do the work at their free time to supplement their family income. However, the women need to be more organized and focussed to do the business by investing more time.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS

The activities in regard to Humanitarian Response and Preparedness, ACID had undertaken the following initiative in the year 2022-2023 in the operational areas especially in Hingalganj Block of North 24 Parganas District-

- Capacity building of children on the concepts and terminology of DRR
- Orientation and activation of Taskforces for Emergency Response, kits distribution
- Coordination with Local Authorities and Gram Panchayats
- Coordination with Govt Multipurpose Shelter Management teams
- Mapping of vulnerable pockets and households in the project areas
- Dissemination of Early Warning messages in the communities
- Preparedness of ACID Team for Humanitarian Response in the event of Disasters such as Cyclone, Floods, Fire,
- Assist Multipurpose Shelter Management Teams, Local Authorities, Gram Panchayats and CBOs in running shelters
- Maintaining stock of Tarpaulin, Belching powders, Water purification agents, water containers, etc as part of the preparedness.
- ACID maintaining the register for Trained Volunteers for deployment during the event of disaster
- ACID kept its RO Water Treatment Plant ready for water Tankering in the area in the event of flooding



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON COVID 19 AND DANGUE

The additional Awareness campaign on COVID 19 and Dangué conducted in 21 villages in three Gram Panchayats of Hingalganj block. These awareness campaign activities conducted in two phases in the areas between 19th September and 30th September and 1st November and 10th November through a decorated Tableau, Rallies and door to door campaign by the sponsored children, volunteers and staff of ACID.

Through this campaign, ACID Team reached to 6608 Household and 25666 population and distributed 2049 pieces of Cotton Washable Masks and 4399 soaps during the course of awareness activities. The major thrust of the additional Health Awareness Campaign were given on the wider acceptance of booster doses of COVID 19 vaccination by the general masses of rural population, obedience of norms for prevention and protection from COVID 19, promotion of Hand wash, taking proper care of the affected cases, use of hospital facilities for the treatment, preventive measures and precautions for Dengue and other vector borne diseases and general Health – Hygiene promotion.

A. Awareness Generation by Children

Several awareness campaign rallies were organised in all seven Activity Centres located in the area on 19th and 20th September 2022 by the children. The children and teachers had prepared posters for campaign. The main Issues of the awareness were-

1. Awareness on spreading of COVID.
2. Usage of Masks
3. COVID vaccination including booster doses.
4. Hand Washing
5. Awareness on Dengue

The children went door to door and had put best of their efforts to aware the people in the above-mentioned issues in the villages in 7 activity centre locations and also distributed washable Cotton Masks along with soaps for promoting hand washing.

SI No.	Name of village cover	Total HH Cover	Total Population Cover	No. of Mask Distributed	No. of Soap distributed
1	Madhabkati	145	593	145	145
2	Sardarpara	132	551	132	132
3	Hemnagar	153	615	153	153
4	Dakshin Gobindakati	137	534	137	137
5	Uttar Gobindakati	161	633	161	161
6	Kanthalberia	120	450	120	120
7	Sansernagar	151	644	151	151
TOTAL		999	4020	999	999



B. Awareness through Tableau-

During the month of September (from 10th to 30th) awareness campaign activities carried over with a well decorated Tableau which went around 21 villages of 3 Gram Panchayats (Jogeshganj, Gobindakati and Kalitala) of Hingalgaon project areas. The Tableau was decorated with various banners and vaccination model. One audio message was developed for the additional Health Awareness campaign and played through the tableau using Public Address Sound System. The main issues of the awareness campaign were the same of rally done by the children.

During awareness campaign 1050 mask and 3400 also distributed in various locations as furnished in the below table

Sl No.	Name of GP	Name of village cover	Total HH Cover	Total Population Cover	No. of Mask Distributed	No. of Soap distributed
1	Jogeshganj	Madhabkati	260	956	50	160
2		Patghara	315	1246	50	160
3		Notobor	220	847	50	160
4		Sardarpara	198	806	50	160
5		Tiplighari	226	848	50	160
6		Jogeshganj	340	1290	50	160
7		Hemnagar	379	1445	50	160
8	Gobindakati	Uttar Gobindakati	288	1202	50	160
9		Dakshin Gobindakati	331	1345	50	170
10		Purba Sridharkati	320	1194	50	170
11		Pashim Sridharkati	338	1350	50	170
12		Kanthalberia	197	810	50	160
13		Malakanghumi	227	879	50	160
14		Kanaikati	255	1045	50	160
15	Kalitala	Parghumi	375	1450	50	170
16		Purba Kalitala	264	943	50	160
17		Pashim Kalitala	217	810	50	160
18		Uttar Samsernagar	218	756	50	160
19		Dakshin Samsernagar	196	716	50	160
20		Kamlakhali	187	730	50	160
21		Harodaskati	258	978	50	160
TOTAL			5609	21646	1050	3400



INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWER SYSTEM IN SCHOOLS

The initiative provides opportunity to install Solar Power System in 25 Government Primary Schools and Sishu Siksha Kendra (SSKs) that enable children to access quality education, both at primary/ secondary and higher secondary level.

The power supply in the Sundarbans Island where Solar Power Systems are installed not very stable, it gets interrupted whenever there is rain or cyclone or any natural disaster like flood, water surge, high tide in the river, etc. Considering the difficulties in continuing educational activities for the children in the Schools, one donor had extended helping hands to bring a long-term solution of the power cuts for the children of the Sundarbans areas by supporting installation of Solar Power Systems.

In the reporting year, ACID has installed 25 units of Solar Power systems. From the 25 units of solar power system, 3930 persons (Children-1774, Parents-1696, VEC Member-315 and Teacher-84) got directly benefited.



STORIES OF CHANGES

(1)

Bhaswati Mondal was a beneficiary of the evening Activity Centre of ACID located at Uttar Gobindokati which renders free educational services for the higher-class school students especially for those whose parents are not able to effort providing private tuition for their children. She lives with her mother, father and one younger brother. She belongs to a family from Economically Weaker Section. Her father Prasanta Mandal migrated to a different state for better income as migration worker. Her mother has been a house wife and her brother studies in class X.



Bhaswati was in class VIII when she joined the evening Activity Centre, as

her family could not afford for her a home tutor regularly. Bhaswati was a regular student in the Evening Activity centre and she continually got ACID's support in her studies from class VIII to Class XII.

She appeared in West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Examination in the year 2022 from Jogeshganj High School (HS) getting an excellent mark with 90.80% which was the 4th highest marks of her school. Now she wants of study with Honors in History and she got admission at Taki College, Taki.

For her great success she and her family are very grateful to ACID and FADV. We wish her great success in every step of her life.

(2)

Biplab is a sponsored child enrolled at Madhabkati Activity centre. He studies in class IX and regular in school as well as in the Activity centre. Besides studies Biplab is good in drawing and craft works.

This year during Puja vacation, Biplab spent his free time with his uncle in making idol as his uncle is an idol artist. Biplab does this kind of earthen idol making work with lots of passion and care. He helped his uncle to make idols for coming festivals.

In future Biplab wants to be an idol artist.



(3)

Sayan Mandal is a sponsored child, attending Hemnagar Activity Centre since 2015. He belongs to a marginalized and economically disadvantaged family. His father is a rickshaw puller and earns very little a day, poverty is daily life companion for his family. Sayan is being supported by the sponsorship project from 2015 when he was studying in class-I. As support continued, he was able to carry out his studies and now studying in class- IX.

As nutrition garden inputs ACID had provided several types of vegetable seeds to his family for growing vegetables in their homestead land. Besides seeds, ACID provided technical support and organic fertilizers for getting better growth of the vegetables in their home stead. Sayan's family also prepared composed manure from organic waste at home for use in their nutrition garden.



Like all the other sponsored child's family, Sayan and his family taken care of the homestead nutrition garden seriously and carefully as a result they produced many vegetables which they have consume daily for preparing meals as well as started earning money by selling excess vegetables.

Details of production of vegetables that were consumed and sold till 31 January 2022:

Name of vegetable	Total Production	Sale (In kg)	Consume (In kg)	Market price (INR)	Total amount (INR)
Spinach	5		5	30.00	150.00
Radish	20	15	5	10.00	200.00
Bit	7	3	4	30.00	210.00
Beans	2	1	1	60.00	120.00
Red spinach	10	5	5	30.00	300.00
Carrots	6	3	3	40.00	240.00
Coriander leaf	1.5	1	0.5	50.00	75.00
Cabbage	20	5	15	25.00	500.00
Tomato	20	5	15	40.00	800.00
Total	36 kg	11 kg	25 kg		2595.00

Still there are vegetables in their homestead nutrition garden which they continue to harvest for their daily use.....

(4)

Empowering Lives through Katha Stitch Handcraft: A Transformative Journey

Nestled amidst the enchanting landscapes of Bolpur Santiniketan, the artistry of Katha stitch has not only woven threads but also dreams and aspirations. This case story delves into the journey of Mandira Majhi, illuminating how this centuries-old handicraft has breathed new life into her existence.

In the heart of the village, Mandira Majhi's story unfolds. In a family of four, her husband's livelihood as a van rickshaw puller barely met ends, compounded by the weight of their children's education expenses. Seeking to reshape their destiny, Mandira embarked on a transformative journey in 2022, engaging in a 6 month handcrafted training camp orchestrated by ACID.

Under the guidance of skilled artisans, Mandira delved into the world of Katha stitch, Batik, and Tailoring. Among these, Katha stitch resonated profoundly, becoming her vessel for self-expression. With newfound skills and a renewed spirit, she collaborated with a local Kantha stitch trader. Mandira's nimble fingers adorned Ornas (long scarves), Kurtis (long tops), Wrapping skirts, and Blouses, infusing each piece with her dreams.



Her labour bore fruit in tangible earnings of Rs 600 to 700 per month. These funds weren't just financial transactions; they embodied Mandira's aspirations. With them, she eased her husband's burdens and nurtured her children's ambitions through tuition fees.

Mandira's story continues to inspire—a testament to resilience nurtured by ACID's training camp. Each stitch she crafts symbolizes an unbreakable bond between determination and success. Bolpur Santiniketan finds in her journey a microcosm of its enduring spirit, where tradition intertwines with innovation and art weaves the fabric of dreams. The embroidery of Mandira's narrative is etched not just in cloth, but in hearts, sparking change far beyond borders. Her journey mirrors the indomitable spirit of countless individuals

uplifted by the art of Katha stitch, forging paths from darkness to prosperity.

(5)

Empowering Entrepreneurship through Tailoring

In the tranquil embrace of Ballavpur village, where aspirations bloom amidst rustic charm, the story of Sumitra Das paints a vivid canvas of empowerment through entrepreneurship. This case story, woven with threads of determination, showcases how Sumitra's journey from a humble household to self-reliance unfurled through the art of tailoring.

Within the confines of her home, Sumitra's dreams thrived even as she shouldered familial responsibilities. In a community where stepping outside for laborious tasks posed challenges, she sought a path to financial independence that harmonized with her domestic duties. Tailoring emerged as a beacon of hope, an artistry she could nurture within the comforting walls of her abode.

Sumitra's voyage commenced when she joined a transformative handicraft training camp orchestrated by ACID in 2022. Her innate talent and unwavering ambition caught the organization's attention, leading to the gift of a sewing machine—an instrument that would metamorphose her life.

With nimble fingers and the hum of the sewing machine, Sumitra began crafting Punjabis, Churidars, and even breathed new life into torn fabrics. Her creations found a market through her mother-in-law's shop at Karmatirtha Haat, generating a steady income that echoed her dedication.



Earnings of 1000 to 1200 rupees per month might have been financial transactions, but they embodied Sumitra's newfound independence. No longer reliant on her husband or family for sustenance, she seized control of her desires and needs. Each stitch became a testament to her self-sufficiency, weaving a tapestry of empowerment.

Sumitra's story exemplifies the transformative power of entrepreneurship nurtured by ACID. Through the subtle art of tailoring, her life has evolved from one of dependency to autonomy. Her journey radiates inspiration, echoing the aspirations of countless women who seek to carve their paths within the confines of tradition and domesticity.

As Bolpur Santiniketan's sunsets over the horizon, Sumitra's sewing machine hums, knitting not just fabrics but dreams—reminding us that the road to empowerment can start with a single stitch. Her narrative stands as a beacon, illuminating the path for others to tread toward self-reliance, igniting change in the tapestry of lives across the village and beyond.

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THANK YOU