

# Katakhali Swapnopuron Welfare Society

Strengthening Communities - Ensuring Rights of the Children



## Annual Report - 2018-19

[www.swapnopuron.org](http://www.swapnopuron.org)

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Society Registration Number	S/IL/91212
NGO Darpan Registration Number	WB/2016/0099092
Credibility Alliance Number	Under process
80G Registration Number	URN: AACAK3810B/10/14-15/S-0004
12A Registration Number	URN: AACAK3810B/10/14-15/S-0004
GuideStar Registration Number	GSN:10461

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## From the Desk of the Chief Functionary

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*The collective effort of the entire team of Katakhalī Swapnopuron Welfare Society has led to growth of the organization in the areas of humanitarian development and combat against human trafficking of the population living primarily in North 24 Parganas*

*The core areas of intervention of our NGO is child Education, child protection, anti-human trafficking, supporting menstrual hygiene management program, literacy programs for adults and women empowerment activities and skill development. Holistic development of Women and children are the two important pillars of our organization. Over the years the organization has worked closely under the National and State legislations, policies and different programmes focusing on human rights violation of women, children, adolescents and youth.*

*Starting from adhering to the Millennium Development Goals and subsequently to the Sustainable Development Goals, the organization has improved upon the strategic and programmatic changes. There has been significant initiative taken from the organization to improve the skills of the organization team members for them to cope up meaningfully with the changing scenario of the development sector.*

*Meaningful relationship has been established with the State and District level Administration, Police and Civil Society Organisations. During last year, these relationships have been further strengthened through collective programmatic support and community level interventions.*

*The participation of the communities and other stakeholders in the development programmes have also been effective in taking forward the agenda of creating Women, Child and Adolescents friendly across the program implementation locations. Significant support has been obtained from the Govt. Schools, Village Level Child Protection Committees, Block Level Child Protection Committees and Self Help Groups of Women.*

*The meaningful contribution of the Govt. Departments, Panchayats, Block Offices, funding partners and other developmental organizations have contributed significantly both in the form of resources and capacity building towards accelerating the activities of the organization and creating sustainable changes among those lives who deserved the most.*

*Last but not the least; I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Governing Board members, staff members and well-wishers for their continued support, dedication and encouragement in the journey of Katakhalī Swapnopuron Welfare Society.*

*I wish all the success to the entire team of Katakhalī Swapnopuron Welfare Society for taking forward the activities in future.*

**Satarupa Majumder**  
**Chief Functionary**

## Significant Achievements during 2018 – 19

- + Swapnopuron was successful in taking up 1.71 acres of land for construction of school building.
- + Opening of One Teacher School in remotest part of Sunderbans under Gobindokati Gram Panchayat. This school came up to bridge the gap as no ICDS centres are nearby and High school is much inaccessible during the rainy season. The first batch has 65 students.
- + During the "Sankalpa" program Swapnopuron was successful in sensitizing 10,000 students (both boys & girls) of 10 schools under Hingalganj Gram Panchayat.
- + Swapnopuron rescued 3 girls who had eloped from home with partners to get married. They were rescued and sent back home.
- + Swapnopuron also successfully supported a minor girl who was abused to get justice under the POCSO Act.
- + 10 Early marriages were prevented during this year.
- + The **project aims** at enabling marginalized rural women to live financially independently through vocational skill building. With the effort of skill building and employment support, trainees will be enabled towards self-employment with sustained quality performance.
- + This project with a group of traffic survivors at Baduria conducted a 15 days training program on Badhni, Shibori, Batik and Malaysian Batik. The program trained 15 girls and boys with 2 months support from SWS. Currently they have become self-reliant and are working on their own.

## Brief about the Organisation

With the experience of working in the remotest islands of Sunderbans, the organisation understands the reality of life situations of the children living in these islands. It has observed that the substantial numbers of children are vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitations. The children are being deprived of their basic Rights by every means. Most of the children are victim of child labour and also trafficked to other locations. Families of these children are left with no options when the suspected traffickers in form of lifesaver lure them with several offers. The organisation looks at ensuring Rights and Entitlements for all the children with the tune of the UNCRC and Sustainable Development Goals.

### Mission

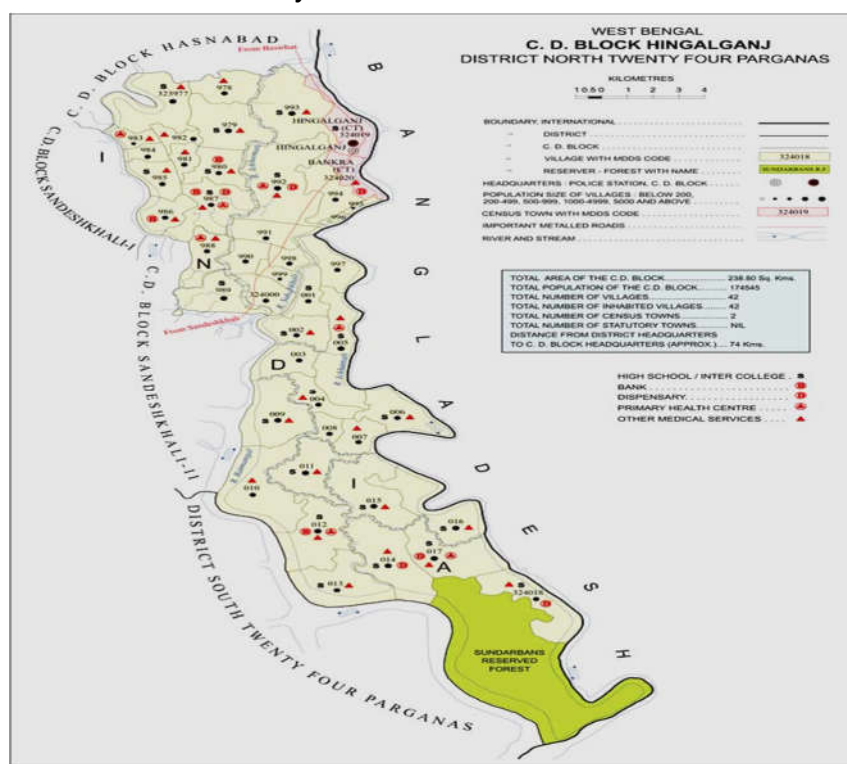
Creating a value based society for women, children, and adolescents towards ensuring their entitlements through Rights Based Approach by means of enhancing community participation and system strengthening.

### Vision

Empowering communities and promoting gender equality aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.

### Geographical Reach

#### Name of Gram Panchayat and the number of Sansad wise under Hingalganj Block



- ✓ Bispur-16
- ✓ Sadelerbil-15
- ✓ Hingalganj-15
- ✓ Rupamari-11
- ✓ Gobindokathi-14
- ✓ Kalitala-14
- ✓ Jogeshganj-17
- ✓ Dulduli-18
- ✓ Sahebkhali-15



## The Governing Board Members



Prasenjit Sarkar, An educationist, writer and an art lover, started his career in the media industry. After two years he joined the social sector & imparted Pre-primary and Primary Teachers' Training & Vocational Training to women. He is one of the important founder members of the organisation. Passionate about public relations, administration and community development he has capacities both for field interventions as well as coordination. He has conducted several workshops and seminars both with in-house & external resource / institution. He puts his ideas and guidance in the planning & developing strategies identify gaps and liaison with stakeholders along with guidance for appropriate financial management.



Bela Bose, A veteran social activist and former Head of the Department of English, Biharilal College, she has conducted and participated in various workshops & seminars in Kolkata. She has wide experience of social sector. She extends her support towards projects on SHG Groups, water sanitation and nutrition. She has also facilitated workshops organised by Govt. of West Bengal.



Satarupa Majumder a teacher by profession, specialists in primary & secondary education, pedagogy coordinator, worked with British Council as workshop coordinator. She is responsible for curriculum development of Swapnopuron. She is responsible for proposal writing, monitoring projects, supervising all programs, support implementation, planning in all programme team in liaison with different government & non-government sectors. She has attended several workshops by CII, US Centre, CINI, MSME, and Asian College Of Teachers.



Shibani Chakraborty, She is one of the former CDPOs with Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of West Bengal. She has in-depth knowledge of child development, health & nutrition, Child protection, child rights, child abuse and other child related issues. She conducts workshops with children, mothers, and youth and also TOT supports in preparing action plans for programme teams. She is in-charge of the child protection team of Swapnopuron Welfare Society. She has attended several workshops by Govt. of West Bengal, CINI, Ramakrishna Mission Narendrapur and CARE



Biswajit Saha, He is responsible for maintaining statutory matters related to finance/ accounts, IT, annual audit & maintaining fixed assets. He is quite a passionate person about children & education.

# Thematic Areas of Programme Intervention

Since its inception, the main focus of the organisation has been children and adolescent and their holistic wellbeing. The core areas of intervention for KSWs involve – Child Rights, Education, prevention from Trafficking & Child Marriage, sensitization on Menstrual Hygiene along with some intervention for the adults on Literacy and Women Empowerment. The work of the SWS has been centred on–

## Education

Swapnopuron ShishuShikshaNiketan is a co-educational English medium school in Katakhalī that follows the CBSE curriculum. Education is a fundamental right of a child, and Swapnopuron is striving towards providing quality education accessible and affordable to every section of the society. Through various activities and workshops and celebrations, Swapnopuron is providing the children as well as its teachers with the kind of exposure they need in order to enhance their creativity, knowledge & skills and develop them to continue imparting better quality education.

The objectives of Swapnopuron's school project in collaboration with Kolkata Gives Foundation are as follows:

- ✓ Newer teaching learning processes that focus more on child centric ways
- ✓ Equipping the teachers with capacity building skills
- ✓ Over all holistic development of the children through various recreational, creative learning, fitness programs and cultural events
- ✓ Conducting awareness camps on Child Rights and Child Protection
- ✓ The core principal of Swapnopuron is Equal Opportunity, and it strives for Right to Education for all. **Swapnopuron is a member of West Bengal RTE (Right to Education) Forum.**

- **Completion of the construction new School Building**

Construction of new school building that started in 21st December 2018 got completed on 12th January 2019. The new school is in the village of Boltola, Jorabottola, Block Hingalganj, North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. A total of 8 classrooms and a hall had been constructed along with 1 staff room for the teachers. The school has 2 bathrooms. The entire premise has been fenced with bamboo strips and net.





- **One Teacher School**

The one teacher school project by Swapnopuron, supported by Rotary Club at Mallekanagumti, under Gobindokati Panchayat. About 25 children are provided with pre-school education support in this one teacher school to make them ready for admission into local formal schools.



- **Two Days' Teachers' training program on Phonetics integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Education**

A two day's training program on Phonetics was conducted at the school premise of SwapnopuronShishuShikshaNiketan on 9th and 10th January 2019. This time the students were



the teachers of SwapnopuronSchool. The training aimed at equipping the teachers with knowledge, confidence and use of Jolly Phonics program with the children. It included- 42 basic sounds, letter formation, blending, segmenting, songs, actions, story-telling, tricky words and magic 'e' words-imbibing the most interesting way of mastering and teaching of English language in the most child centric way.

The training program was conducted by **Ms. Neeti Nagarkar**, M.Sc., ECCE, Jolly Phonics Professional Trainer (U.K), and Certified Consultant for

Handwriting without Tears (USA) and Founder of Kids World Education Consultants. She came from Mumbai to enlighten the teachers of Swapnopuron.

- **Teachers Training Workshop**

Teachers of Swapnopuron attended Teachers training workshop and Bengali Story telling workshop conducted by Sudeshna Moitra.

- **Observation of Open Classroom Day on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

SwapnopuronShishuShikshaNiketan celebrated Open Classroom Day on 12th January 2019 in its premises. It was a day of various events organized by **Cognizant Outreach team** and the teachers of Swapnopuron for the children.

# Child Protection

Katakhali Swapnopuron Welfare Society is associated with **Sankalpa project**, which is a State Government implemented programme. **Sankalpa is a sensitisation programme** specifically on child marriage and child trafficking along with various other forms of child sexual abuse, implemented by the government of West Bengal. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is the most invisible form of violence in our society.

It is one of the most atrocious forms of child rights violation. Sankalpa is an initiative to address and tackle the menace of increasing child marriages and child trafficking through sensitisation and awareness workshops by various NGOs at schools and educational institutions involving teachers, students and parents.



The organization had conducted sensitisation workshops on POCSO and other relevant laws pertaining to child protection in collaborated efforts with the officials of BDO and BDO representative, at different schools in Hingalganj Block, North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal. The BDO officials and teachers encouraged the participation of girls in self-defence classes.

## Major Activities Undertaken

- On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Swapnopuron conducted Sankalpa session at Jogeshganj High School. Principal and BDO Representative, Mr. Pramanik were present in the session.
- Sankalpa session at P.K.S. Priyanath High School on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. Dr. Shibani Chakraborty & Mr. Pramanik addressed the issues of child marriage.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, Sankalpa session conducted at Hemnagar High School on child rights and consequences of child marriage.
- Swapnopuron Welfare Society celebrated Child Rights Week from



14th - 20th November 2018. The week was celebrated by reaching out to 700 children in the remote island of Hingalganj. The week-long event included e Prabhat Pheri where children participated with placards highlighting various child centric issues such as Child Abuse, Child Marriage, and Child Rights. Book fair Exhibition in association with Oxford Subscription Company was organised to create and foster intellectual development among the children.

- Swapnopuron was featured in the Ebela newspaper for the child rights week walk on 14th November 2018 and also for launching Swanyansiddha program at Hingalganj and Hasnabad.

# Adolescent Health

Swapnopuron understands the importance of adolescent health and in its endeavour, the organisation has made its mandate to work on this issue. The main focus is to support and strengthen the capacity of 10 schools and almost 5000 girls in managing menstrual hygiene in Hingalganj. The Project works to develop knowledge attitude on menstrual health and hygiene among the girl students so that a positive attitude is enhanced in the community regarding the menstrual health and practice of menstrual hygiene.

## Specific objectives of this initiative are –

- ✓ To enhance the knowledge on menstruation and menstrual health by providing facts and scientific information to the girls students of the specific schools at Hingalganj areas
- ✓ To develop a positive behaviour on menstrual health and proper practice of menstrual hygiene including the use of proper use of sanitary napkins
- ✓ To develop the capacity of the school management to ensure a positive environment within the school regarding the practice of menstrual health and hygiene.



To develop enabling environment in the locality regarding the issue of menstrual health and hygiene

## Major Activities Undertaken

On July 11th, 2018, Swapnopuron Welfare Society (SWS) in association with Sneh Foundation conducted a Menstrual Hygiene Management Program at Halda Banstalla Gobardhan Vidyapith School for Tribal Girls and Ranibala Girls' High School of Hingalganj, North 24 Parganas. This event marked the beginning of an educational program that continued over a span of an entire year to sensitize the adolescent girls of Hingalganj on the importance of Menstrual Hygiene. The program was attended by Smt. Sudeshna Roy and Smt. Maumita Chatterjee of West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR).

Few of the pictures will say it all – our endeavour on sensitizing and addressing the issue of menstrual health and distribution of sanitary napkins among the school girls.

KSWs successfully organized different workshop during 2018 across schools of Hingalganj. One of them is Jogeshganj High School of Katakali, Hingalganj, Hasnabad. It is great to share the fact that SWF distributed sanitary napkins to 710 students. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Aparna Majumdar, and the girls were sensitized on the hygiene & health issues during their menstrual cycle.





# Women Empowerment

KSWS is promoting livelihood opportunities among the women through entrepreneurship development initiatives



The organization strives to move ahead with the thematic issues in spirit with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) and West Bengal State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC). It looks forward to ensure age appropriate academic improvement for the children in the intervention areas. The organization also thrives to ensure protection of the children from all forms of abuse & exploitations through involvement of the parents, communities, Village Level Child Protection Committees and other stakeholders. The organisation has been able to collaborate with state and district administration for effective implementation of various Govt. schemes and programs including capacity building and monitoring support.

## The Cases

- In 2 cases 3 girls from South 24 Parganas were missing. Information came to us through local people. In the first case FIR was filed with Canning P.S. and in the second case with Joynagar P.S. In both cases Swapnopuron helped in tracing the girls and then obtaining the bail of the girls under section 168 and then they were brought to CWC. Consequently they were handed over to their parents.
- Missing case of a girl named Meena (name changed). The missing diary was filed under Hingalganj P.S. and her age was mentioned as 18 years and 3 months which was incorrect. Initially threatening calls were received by parents and then it stopped. The case was filed on 22/10/2018. The case was reported to Swapnopuron on 27th May 2018 and we immediately filed a missing diary with Bhabani Bhaban Missing Person's Squad department. We shared phone numbers with them. They successfully traced calls. The girl was brought back within 15 days. She initially refused regarding threats and denied to stay with her parents. After several interactions with police and counselling by us she returned home.
- Prevention of Early marriage is another area where Swapnopuron plays a pivotal role been a part of Block level child protection committee and Village level child Protection Committee.

## Awards and Recognitions

- ✚ Swapnopuron Welfare Society was facilitated on 10th April, 2018 by Anubhav Trust for encouraging education amongst the children of Swapnopuron School. Satarupa Majumder, the Secretary, received the award from the Indian actress and dancer Mamata Shankar.
- ✚ On 8th May, 2018, Ms. Satarupa Majumder, Secretary, received felicitation from Glad 2 b a Woman for encouraging the social work undertaken by Swapnopuron Welfare

Society at a session on “Exotic Places to Visit in India” by Sweta Choudhury, Partner of Mile High

- ✚ On 30th June, 2018, Ms. Satarupa Majumder, Secretary of Swapnopuron Welfare Society was awarded a certificate of Appreciation for services and activities during the Lionistic Year 2017–2018 by the Lions Club Calcutta.
- ✚ On 28th June, 2018, Swapnopuron Welfare Society received recognition as Rotary Community Corps by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour,
- ✚ On 4th October, 2018, Swapnopuron Welfare Society received recognition by participating in Run for a Cause organised by the Tata Steel Kolkata 25k Marathon which is to be held on 16th December 2018.
- ✚ Swapnopuron was felicitated for its work on Child Education on 16th Feb’19 by Open Window Society and Nritikala Kendra.

#### **Annual Celebrations:**

- ❖ **156<sup>th</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- ❖ On 12th January 2019, the 156th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated at Swapnopuron Shishu Shiksha Niketan. The programme was presided by Joint BDO of Hingalgarj. The guests present were Jayeeta Nandy Majumder from Kolkata Doordarshan Kendra, Chaitali Sanyal, Sanchita Chatterjee, and Mr. Saibal Mitra from Deenabandhu Trust.
- ❖ **70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations:** On 26th January 2019, Swapnopuron Shishu Shiksha Niketan celebrated the 70th Republic Day Celebrations with all the teachers and students at Hingalgarj.
- ❖ **Saraswati Puja Celebrations:** On 10th February 2019, Swapnopuron Shishu Shiksha Niketan for the first time organised Saraswati Puja, the goddess of art, knowledge, wisdom, music, and learning. The celebration was attended by the students, the teachers and the guardians.
- ❖ **Observation of Bhasha Dibas:** Swapnopuron Shishu Shiksha Niketan observed Bhasha Dibas on 21st February 2019. Swapnopuron understands the importance of the mother language and encourages every child to love and respect their mother language. Children performed on a script which encouraged and emphasized upon the importance of learning, loving and respecting one’s own mother language.
- ❖ **Tata steel 25K Run:** Swapnopuron participated at the Tata Steel 25k run with Amit Sarkar, Bengal athlete, Madhuri Sarkar, Bengal athlete, Mountaineer Sunita Hazra ,NSS Jadavpur University, Paddmapukur Athletic Association and our own Amrita Mitra and Payel Howlader, to support the cause of propagating education, preventing child marriage and supporting child rights and anti-trafficking campaigns in Hingalgarj, Baduria and Hasnabad.
- ❖ **National Science Day:** On 28th February 2019, Swapnopuron Shishu Shiksha Niketan observed National Science Day with the students and teachers along with Dr. Reeta Bhattacharya and Ms. Monisha Chakraborty, Asst. Professor in Engineering in Jadavpur University. The entire event was facilitated by Kolkata Nivedita Shakti. Students and teachers have always encouraged to engage themselves in experiments of infused curriculum that brings about the holistic development of the individual.



## Partners in Solidarity

1. Kolkata Gives Foundation
2. ITC Ltd Guntur
3. Rotary Club of Endeavour
4. Rotary Club of Universe
5. Anubhav Foundation
6. Bidisha Bhaduri
7. Sugoto Bhaduri
8. Srija Bhaduri
9. Jain Foundation
10. Bhrajmaya Foundation
11. Dr. A. Majumder
12. Dr. A. Bhattacharya
13. GBC
14. Sweta Choudhury
15. Payal Sonthalia
16. Rashmi Sharma
17. Ritu Shroff
18. C. Rajpuria
19. R.k. Agarwal
20. Bikash Kedia

## Way Forward

Considering the last year activities and emerging needs of the communities, Swapnopuron intends to build the building for a full time residential school. The organisation has acquired a land in Hingalganj and has planned for a residential school from Nursery to Class – XII in next two years' time. The school is the prime focus of the organisation and it would be certified through CBSE with the aim to provide quality education along with open air learning and extra-curricular activities for overall development of the children.

The school would also ensure children from being child labourers and victims of human trafficking.

The organisation would also continue its intervention in the areas of child protection, adolescent development and women empowerment.



## Katakhalī Swapnopuron Welfare Society

**Strengthening Communities - Ensuring Rights of the Children**

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