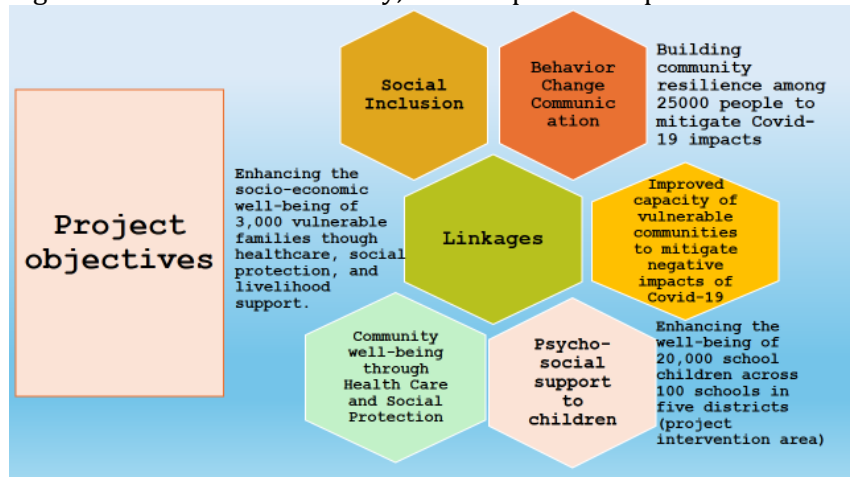


Mitigating the impact of Covid-19 through community resilience and improved access to treatment in 5 districts in West Bengal

The project titled 'Mitigating the impact of Covid-19 through community resilience and improved access to treatment in 5 districts in West Bengal' was initiated in February, 2023 in partnership with Misereor E.V and German Doctors e.V to respond to the complex array of challenges brought about in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which had social, economic and mental health repercussions for everyone, including children and adolescents. Although the initial situation on Covid-19 has been changed considerably and is no longer considered an emergency situation in India, its long term effects remain a serious challenge from the public health point of view. While addressing these challenges, the project's strategy for building a resilient and adaptable service delivery systems to withstand crises through various activities such as advocacy with the government for improved access to health care including health insurance and social protection services such as disability certification, sponsorship etc for vulnerable populations, capacity building of the frontline workers/service providers for better access to treatment facilities, school sensitization for the children and adolescents and teachers for early identification of mental disorders and refer cases to District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) for specialized care, training on positive parenting for the parents/immediate care givers, counselling and psycho-social support to enhance the child's coping abilities with life stresses have been of great significance to bring about a sustained change in the life situations of the marginalized groups.



The scope of this project:

- ✚ Building community resilience through trainings, workshops and awareness campaigns.
- ✚ Improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare and education
- ✚ Linking families with Government Health care and social protecting schemes
- ✚ Advocacy with the Government for increased access of the vulnerable families to support services.
- ✚ School Sensitization for physical, social and psychological well-being of schoolchildren and adolescents
- ✚ Coping with stresses through Counselling and psycho-social support to Covid-19 impacted children and their Families
- ✚ Capacity building of the front line workers

After two years of implementation of the project, some perceptible changes are observed in the health seeking behaviour of the community people to make better use of the services for health care and social protection services. In order to reach out to hard-to-reach and high-risk populations, the project's strategy



Empowerment of Adolescent Girls through sports – Inter School Football Competition in Birbhum District

to collaborate with state and local actors of the government to build capacities of the front line workers and expand the community-based support mechanisms is truly effective. The concept of gender equality and gender equity has also been anchored through various activities and self-organised events by the women groups, self-help groups, adolescent groups to address gender-specific violence and discrimination which needs to be nurtured and supported for a sustained change. The project has created a potential demand for the services in the catchment areas.

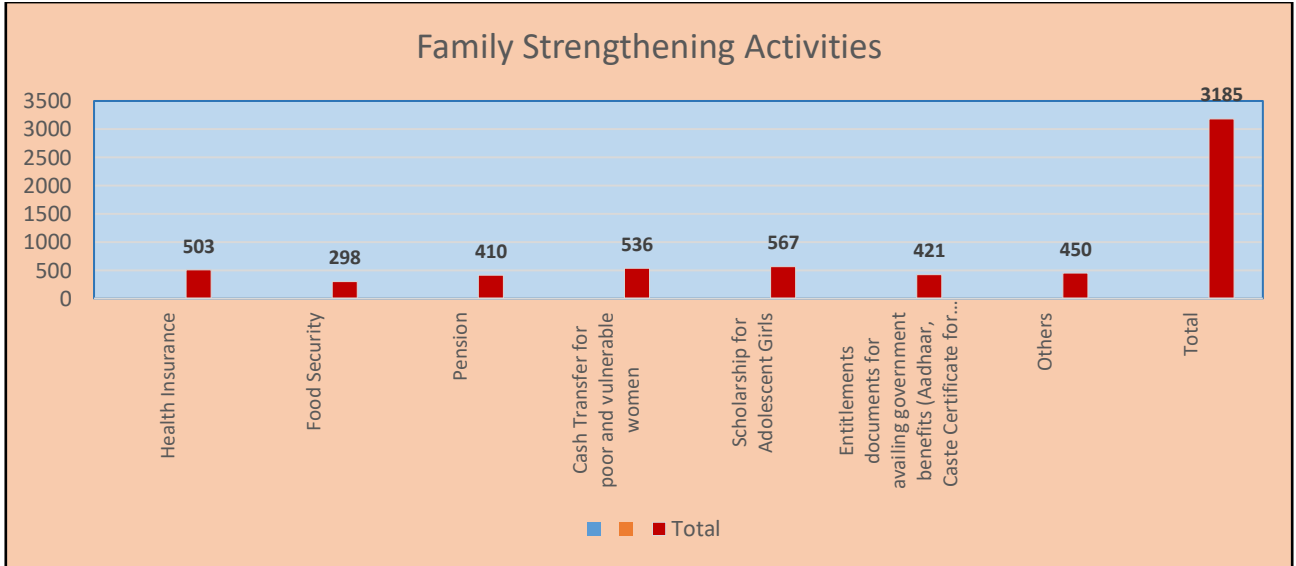
Performance Highlights

• Outcomes

- ✓ Reached 26401 individuals through 318 awareness camps.
- ✓ Conducted 41 programs with 1,713 high-risk individuals.
- ✓ 201 school sensitisation programmes with 20,369 school children
- ✓ 83 sessions on positive parenting with 2381 parents.
- ✓ 116 programmes with 3526 members of CBO, SHGs.
- ✓ 1502 frontline workers were trained through 33 training sessions.
- ✓ 1153 teachers were trained through 55 training sessions.
- ✓ 17 district-level meetings were held.
- ✓ 4,143 women were reached through 45 orientation programs.
- ✓ 503 children receive tuition support through the Remedial Coaching Centre out of which 373 out-of-school children were readmitted in schools who dropped out during lockdown
- ✓ 1545 individuals received counselling support by a trained counsellor. 1007 counselling sessions are already been conducted.
- ✓ 3185 families were linked with Government social protection programmes through home-visits, community-level linkage campaigns etc.
- ✓ 05 training of counsellors were conducted with 216 participants.

• Achievements

- ✓ Facilitated 43 MAS (selected by local self-government from active SHGs) to promote health-seeking behavior and establish community linkages with nearest health centers
- ✓ Encouraged regularity in school by addressing the problem of long-absenteeism and out-of-school children post-covid through providing them with alternate support education (Remedial Coaching Centre).
- ✓ 373 women's group advanced themselves through livelihood programmes under National Urban Livelihood Mission.
- ✓ Strengthened vulnerable families and Covid-affected families whose income was disrupted through various social protection schemes and conditional cash transfer benefits.
- ✓ Improvement in overall development of children with respect to their behavior, academic performance, participation in community and school level programmes.
- ✓ 481 covid orphans who have either lost both or one parent during Covid have been brought under Government linkage programmes, enrolled out-of-school children and helped them to return to normalcy.
- ✓ Advocacy with various Government departments (Health and Education) through district level meeting to establish the linkages.



Major Outcomes

সিউড়িতে উদ্যোগ

করোনা পরবর্তী সময়ে মানসিক ও স্বাস্থ্য সমীক্ষার প্রচার



সিউড়িতে শিশু সুরক্ষার প্রচার। শনিবার। —শান্তনু দাস

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, সিউড়ি: করোনার পরবর্তীতে শিশু ও নাবালকদের মানসিক ও শারীরিক স্বাস্থ্য সমীক্ষার প্রচারে এগিয়ে এল একটি স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা। শনিবার সিউড়িতে সাংবাদিক সম্মেলন করে সিউড়ি আর টি গার্লস স্কুলের প্রধান শিক্ষিকা ক্রিস্টিনা মাড্ডি জানান, করোনার পরে ছাত্রীদের কি পরিস্থিতি ছিল তা যাচাই করা খুব দরকার ছিল। একটি স্কুলে শুধু পড়াশোনার জন্যই আসে না, সামাজিকতা, সহাবস্থান সহমর্মিতা শিখতে আসে। এই সংস্থা সেক্ষেত্রে এগিয়ে এসে তার স্কুলের ছাত্রীদের সঙ্গী কথা বলেছে। তাদের বয়ঃসন্ধিকালের সমস্যা নিয়ে আলোচনা করেছে। যেটা খুব কার্যকরী হয়েছে। ছাত্রীদের স্বীকৃতিস্বাক্ষর করে তাদের কি করে স্কুলে ফেরানো হচ্ছে। এই প্রকল্পে উত্তরে স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থার পক্ষে জানান হচ্ছে, প্রশাসনের উদ্যোগের পাশাপাশি তাদের তরফে ছাত্রীটি সঙ্গে তাদের পরিবারকে নিয়ে কাউন্সিলিং করা হয় যাতে সে স্কুলে গিয়ে ফের আভাবিকভাবে পড়াশোনা শুরু করতে পারে সে চেষ্টা করা হচ্ছে।

সমাজ মাধ্যমে ছাত্র ছাত্রীরা যাতে হেনস্থার শিকার না হয়, কি করে ফেসবুক, হোয়াটসঅ্যাপ ব্যবহার করা উচিত সে জন্য সাইবার ক্রাইম থানার সঙ্গে নিয়মিত যোগাযোগ রেখে তাদের উপস্থিত থাকতে অনুরোধ করা হয়। পুরসভার পক্ষে কাউন্সিলর মনিদীপা মুখোপাধ্যায় জানান, যারা পরিস্থিতির শিকার তাদের সঙ্গে সাধারণ ব্যবহার করতে হবে। সে জন্য প্রশিক্ষণ থেকে কাউন্সিলিং হওয়া দরকার।

স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা জয়প্রকাশ ইন্সটিটিউট অফ সোশ্যাল চেঞ্জের পক্ষে বীরভূমের দায়িত্বে থাকা মিত্রা ঘোষ জানান, গত ২০ বছর ধরে জেলায় শিশু ও মহিলাদের নিয়ে তারা কাজ করছেন। বর্তমানে ২০ টি স্কুল বেছে নিয়ে তারা সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধির চেষ্টা করছেন।

Enhanced community engagement and participation in decision-making process, involvement in disease surveillance activities and peer-to-peer advocacy for behavior change communications regarding improved health practices.

Improved capacity of the communities to prevent, detect and respond to priority diseases through targeted interventions and surveillance systems reducing the transmission rates.

Strengthened decision-making skills and autonomy among adolescent girls and women regarding reproductive health choices, leading to informed decisions about contraceptive use, family planning.

Greater accessibility and utilization of contraceptive measures among sexually active adolescents.

Positive impacts on academic attendance, and school retention rates among adolescent girls who actively participate in sports, attributed to improved concentration, discipline, and motivation to succeed.

Empowerment of adolescent girls as community leaders and advocates for gender equality, health promotion and social change.

Promotion of lifelong participation in physical activity and sports among adolescent girls, leading to sustained improvement in health outcomes, social integration and empowerment.

Development of essential skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, decision-making through sports for change.

Good Practices & Unintended Benefits	Good Practices	Unintended benefits
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Good Practices & Unintended Benefits</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Letters issued by various government departments manifests the expression of collaboration and ownership. Users\UTPAL CHAKRABAR\Downloads\Permission for work with Block - Jayprakash Institute of Social Change 001858 (2) (1).docx ✓ Engaging children's groups in street plays to spark social dialogue on protection issues. ✓ Municipal bodies and Local self-government have developed ownership for assistance to Covid-affected families and migrant population. ✓ Adopting child-centric pedagogy in RCC to instill and sustain educational interest among children. ✓ Equity in delivery of services. ✓ The gender significance of the project is also evidenced from the proactive functioning of the Women's Groups in dealing with incidences of gender-based violence such as arresting child marriage and domestic violence which increased to a high extent during the Covid-19 period ✓ Children staged a drama in the International Book Fair in January, 2024 ✓ Support provided by CSOs (Space, equipment, reading materials etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Realized the benefits of sports in empowerment of adolescent girls and hence incorporated 'Sports for Change' into the purview of the programme. ✓ Adult women were identified for enrolment in alternative education. ✓ Inclusive education and development (IED) for the disabled children. ✓ Increased awareness on menstrual health and hygiene of Adolescent girls. ✓ Self-organised events by the women groups, self-help groups, adolescent groups to address gender-specific violence and discrimination ✓ Potential demand in the catchment areas of the services ✓ Mobilization of the local Media persons. (Media Advocacy) ✓ Support from private service providers such as GKB hospital, R.N.Tagore, Applo hospitals, Rotary club



Eco Cardiography Test at Health Camp in



Dissemination of IEC Materials by District Level Stakeholders in Paschim Bardhaman