



ANNUAL REPORTS

2019 - 2022



OUR REACH

West Bengal

- South 24 Parganas
- North 24 Parganas
- Kolkata
- Nadia
- West Medinipur
- East Medinipur
- Hooghly
- Darjeeling
- Murshidaabad
- Purulia

Jharkhand

- Ranchi
- Gomia

Chhattisgarh

- Kansabel



About us

About Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) is a social enterprise functioning at the grass root level for the permanent developmental changes of rural, urban and tribal areas of India. We believe that livelihood is the most important component of any sustainable developmental model. If we can improve economic conditions in the rural and tribal areas, we can automatically address other social aspects like Education, Health and Sanitation.

Hence, our immediate focus is on the development of existing livelihood including Agriculture, Horticulture, Fish Harvesting and Poultry that are prevalent in these rural and tribal areas. We provide technical assistance for the development of Education, Health, and Sanitation. We are also working towards providing a platform for traditional folk music, dance and artifacts as livelihood generating mechanisms for rural people. We encourage community led developmental programs to foster growth and awareness within the communities.



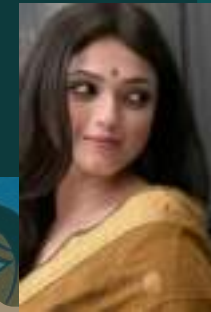
Founder's Desk

Sourav Mukherjee

"We are working to empower underprivileged people (especially women) who all are victims of sociological systematic problems through capacity building and community led environment friendly sustainable development by using capacity building as a tool. Our mission is to develop the existing livelihood including Agriculture, Paper plate making, Crab & Shrimp harvesting and Mangrove Nurseries that are prevalent in these rural areas of Sundarban. We provide technical assistance for the development of Education, Health, and Sanitation. We are also working to develop a sustainable city by reducing single use plastic. We are also using solid waste management as tool to create livelihood."

Sourav Mukherjee
KSCH
Founder & Director





President's Desk

Arpita Mukherjee

"We are a social enterprise working across India with a mission to foster pro-poor growth and protect and uphold the rights of women, children and indigenous communities. We specialise in communication for development using different IEC tools, and developing community-led creative industries based on entrepreneurship model through capacity building, intangible cultural heritage like performing arts and crafts."

Arpita Mukherjee
President

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Chitropot



Chitropot is an international fine art exhibition promoting art forms including painting and sculptures. Chitropot is an ideal forum for cultural exchange through workshop followed by exhibition. Artisans from Bangladesh, France, Italy, Netherlands, Canada and the UK participated in the event. Our goal was to promote fine art and create livelihood for artisans. Almost 40 artisans participated in this program.

- Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage organised the event in collaboration with I am Kolkata and WBHIDCO.
- We provided certificates to the participants.
- Media coverage was done for the event.
- A workshop was organised at Gaganendra Art Gallery.
- We organized a live painting session on Women Empowerment.
- Certificates were handed over to the participants.
- Eminent painters were involved in the festival.
- The event was inaugurated by the then minister in charge Mr. Firhad Hakim.

Folk-U



A photography workshop followed by exhibition. 20 photographers from West Bengal participated in the 3-day long workshop, followed by a 2-day long exhibition to promote the venture to the masses. We organised the workshop at Pingla, West Midnapur. Pingla is well known for scroll painting which is a part of the local cultural heritage. There were 39 families in the village and all the families got benefitted through this endeavour.

- We organised photography workshop on Potochitro or scroll painting.
- The workshop was funded by Sony India.
- We organised the exhibition at Asutosh Birth Centenary hall in collaboration with Indian Museum.
- Eminent artists like Shri Subhprasanna Bhattacharya and eminent actors like Mumtaz Sarkar and Mainak Banerjee joined us in the exhibition.
- A certificate was provided to each of the participants.

Abartani

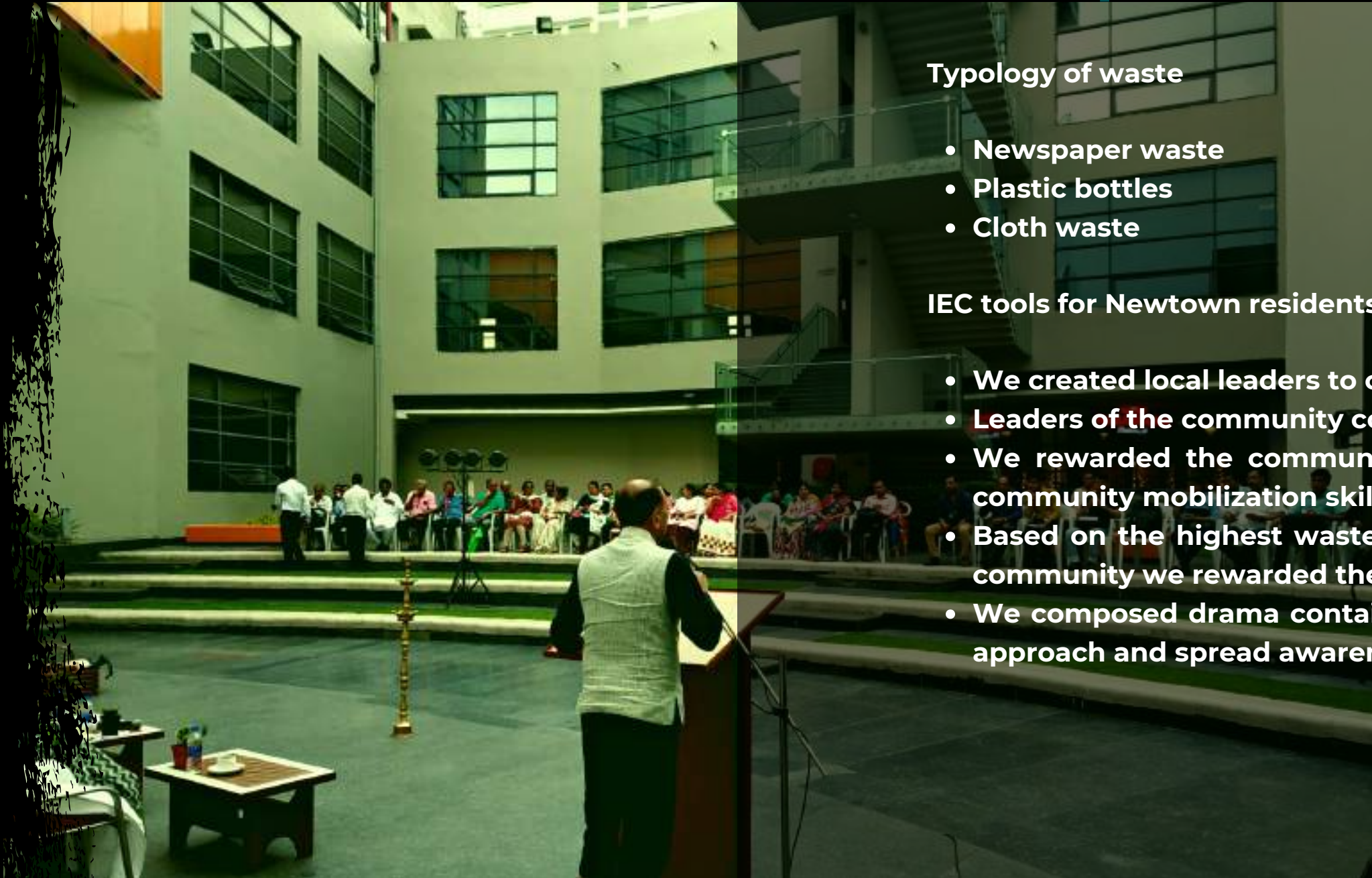


Our idea was to create an alternative livelihood system through waste management. We introduced innovative IEC tools to engage more people in the project. We supplied the collected waste to the under privileged women who created myriads of innovative and eye-catching products. The project was generating enough revenue to run it successfully.

Implementation flowchart

- Using different and innovative IEC tools a participatory approach was created in solid waste
- Management. We introduced technology to track waste distribution program.
- We handed over the waste to the SelfHelp Groups.
- We provided capacity building training to the SHG members.
- Revenue was generated through product selling.
- We created direct market linkage for the products made by the SHG members.
- Online platforms and offline stores were created.

Abartani



Typology of waste

- Newspaper waste
- Plastic bottles
- Cloth waste

IEC tools for Newtown residents

- We created local leaders to conduct the entire program.
- Leaders of the community conducted workshops for the next generation.
- We rewarded the community leaders. Evaluation was done based on the community mobilization skills and subject matter expertise.
- Based on the highest waste collection and participatory approach from the community we rewarded the community for social inclusion.
- We composed drama containing with local people to generate participatory approach and spread awareness.

SUDA



Creation of SHG Directory for SUDA

SUDA (State Urban Development Agency) honoured Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage when the former entrusted the latter with the responsibility of creating a directory of 792 Self Help Groups and their creations. KSCH successfully created a directory after examining and validating the credentials of each and every items produced by individual SHGs. 765 SHGs found a mention in the directory along with their merchandise. The directory has proven to be of immense help when collaborating with different SHG women.

Rakhi Utsav



In the year 2020 Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage in collaboration with State Urban Development Agency organized a workshop where 23 women took part from 6 different districts and learned to make Rakhis from eco-friendly materials. Later on, with the help of Merlin's 'I am Kolkata' a direct market link was created by providing a platform to those women so that they could showcase their craftsmanship. Shops were set up at Acropolis Mall. Fabulous Rakhis made from eco-friendly materials were displayed. People started flocking to these shops and soon all the rakhis got sold. The unprecedented idea of eco-friendly rakhis won the heart of the crowd.

Zero Waste



ZERO WASTE MUSEUM

Solid waste management is one more aspect of achieving a cleaner and sustainable society. Recycling or upcycling has been a much touted topic in cities and towns where people had little idea about how to recycle their waste or things which were no longer in use. Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage came up with the idea of creating an eco-system of waste management which would not only cater to the aesthetic sense of the citizens but at the same time would provide the economically backward but immensely talented section of the society with an alternative to earn a livelihood. With support from NKDA and WBHIDCO who provided us a space in the form of Zero Waste store to showcase the wares made from recycled and upcycled items KSCH mobilized various self-help groups to design, conceive and produce innovative products from waste materials. The store not only welcomes buyers of recycled products but urges people to donate their household solid waste so that they can be turned into a piece of art. Various SHGs are now involved in this initiative and members of those self-help groups especially women are being trained by experts/master craftsmen so that they can hone their skills and showcase their craftsmanship to the whole world. Besides being displayed at the zero waste store the merchandise are sent to various places and become an instant hit with the buyers.

Smart Kiosk



A smart kiosk is being run by self-help group women at Newtown, Kolkata. Bio-degradable products, recycled and upcycled products are being displayed there. The counter is for display and sell. Underprivileged women are taking care and making a livelihood out of this smart kiosk. The project partner is NKDA, Smart city mission.

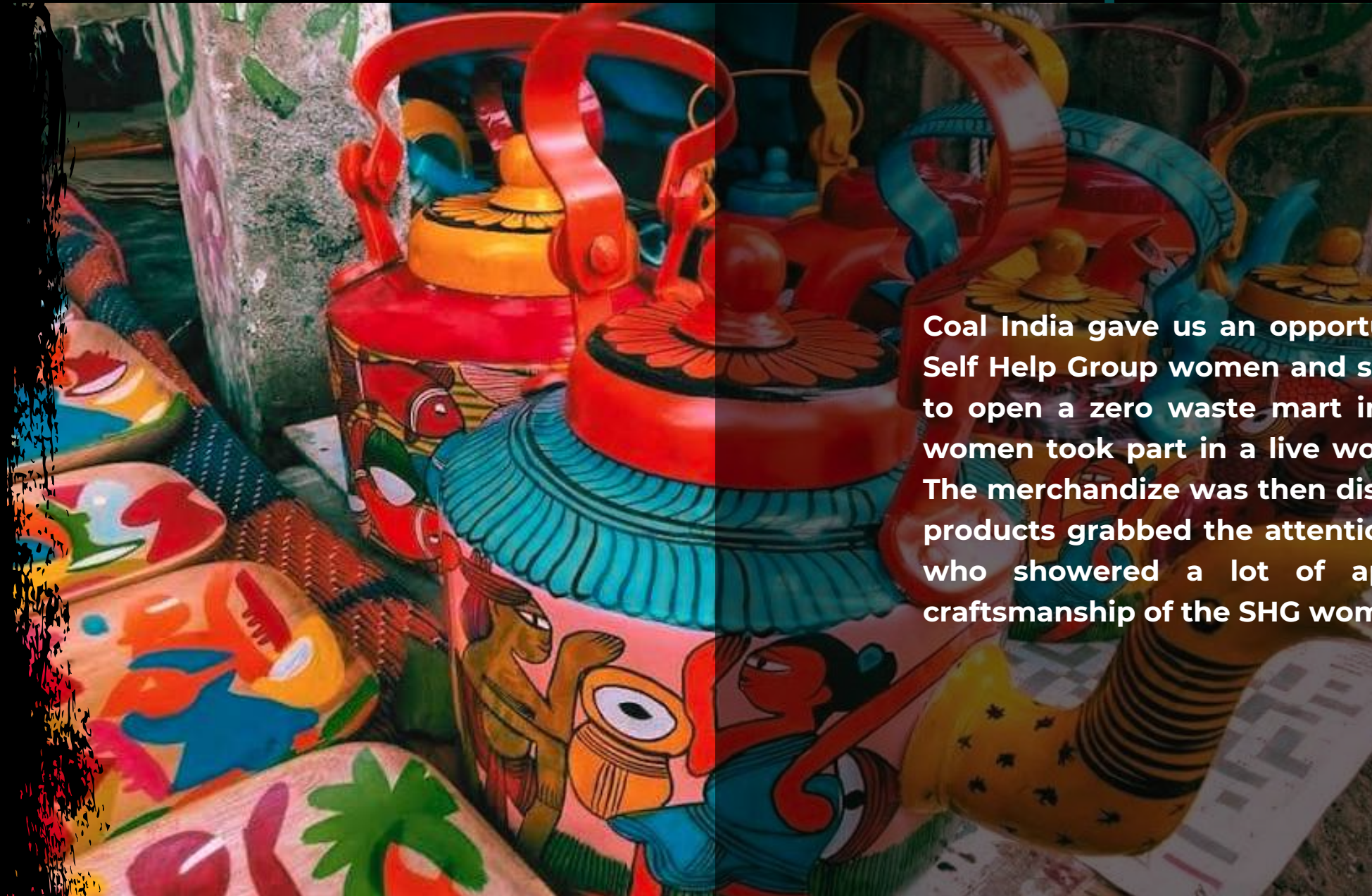
Media Coverage



2020-2021



Zero Waste Mart in Collaboration with Coal India



Coal India gave us an opportunity to showcase the merchandise produced by Self Help Group women and sold at the Zero Waste Museum. KSCH was invited to open a zero waste mart inside the Coal India premises for two days. SHG women took part in a live workshop and gave shape to different works of art. The merchandise was then displayed and sold from the zero waste counter. The products grabbed the attention of all including Central Coal and Mine minister who showered a lot of appreciation on the initiative and lauded the craftsmanship of the SHG women.

Covid Relief Work



During the 1st phase of Covid crisis we distributed food, medicines, mask and other essentials to the underprivileged and migrant workers across West Bengal. We distributed approximately 1,15,100 cooked meals, 1,45,800 grocery kits and 1700 masks amongst marginalized families in the state. We were active in Kolkata, South 24 parganas, the Sundarbans, Birbhum, Puruliya, Hoogly and North 24 parganas.

Source of funding: Public donation through Give India, bank account transfer, social media crowd funding.

Amphan Relief Work



After the havoc devastation of Super Cyclone Amphan, we organized several relief camps throughout this period in different areas of the Sundarbans and other affected districts in West Bengal in collaboration with local Government Bodies and other organizations. Till now we distributed over 1,56,500 meals, restored 2,650 houses and treated 3,870 patients through 14 medical camps. Total 18,520 cyclone affected families got benefitted.

Now, we are keen to work on sustainable development programs for permanent development. Based on the real time scenario we targeted three verticals; Education, Medical Assistance and Livelihood. We are also trying to preserve the ecological values of the Sundarbans.

Kolkata Society for cultural heritage (KSCH) organized in total 14 medical camps to ensure the health condition of the underprivileged people. Here we are sharing few glimpses of one of the medical camps at Mithakhali village, Manipur gram Panchayat in the Bashirhat range in association with Newtown residents' welfare forum on 20th June 2020.

The Community Forest



The Sunderban's mangrove forests are the largest in the world. It protects and nourishes the inhabitants. The mangroves of the Sunderbans act as giant carbon sink also. The landscape is also shaped by the mangroves as they hold on to the sediments with their roots. Above all, the mangroves have become a safe haven for different kinds of birds and animals, especially for the venerated Royal Bengal Tiger. For the last two and half centuries, the mangrove eco-system has been under immense stress due to unbridled human activity and climate change. As a result, the area has witnessed an unprecedented number of cyclonic formations and their intensity too has increased manifold. Being a low lying coastal area, The Sunderbans have already started losing landmass due to a rise in the sea-level. There has been a notable increase in the salinity of the surrounding waters also.

We mobilized 3560 people and organized multiple capacity building programs on mangrove plantation and cultivation. After that one unit started collecting the fruits and seeds from the rivers. Another team prepared the soil and implanted the seeds. Individuals, corporates, schools and other social institutions started to adopt these saplings. After seed implantation the task was to maintain the saplings from insects, birds, heavy rains and other natural calamities. So far we have planted 4,80,000 mangrove saplings. We have engaged 3560 economically distressed people. Our goal is to eliminate poverty, hunger, gender inequality and provide a decent work and economic growth to the people of the area. The steps that we have taken will improve life on land. We are determined to fulfil our responsibility to minimize the impacts of climate change through the climate actions and through partnerships with various stake holders.

Chitropot



Chitropot is an international fine art exhibition that promotes art forms including painting and sculptures. Chitropot is a forum ideal for cultural exchange through workshops followed by an exhibition. Artisans from Bangladesh participated in the event. Our goal was to promote fine art and create livelihood for artisans. 32 artisans participated in this program.

- **Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage organised the event in collaboration with the Merlin group and WBHIDCO.**
- **We provided certificates to the participants.**
- **Media coverage was done for the event**
- **A workshop was organised at Nazrul Tirtha art gallery.**
- **We organized a live painting session on Women Empowerment.**
- **Certificates were issued to the participants.**
- **Eminent painters were involved in the festival.**
- **The event was inaugurated by CMD WBHIDCO Mr. Debasish Sen- IAS.**

Media Coverage



Award

- Award from Public Relations Council Of India
- Best Disaster Management of the year, by milleniumPost & UK Deputy High Commission
- Community Based Organization of the Year, by PRCI
- Award from PRCI, Covid Warrior of the year

2021-2022



Yaas Relief Work



To carry out relief work and disaster management West Bengal Forest Department collaborated with the city based social enterprise Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage for the first time in the state. The south 24 Pargana division of directorate of forest collaborated with KSCH where real estate company Merlin group also joined hands to provide relief material in the remote areas of the Sundarbans hit by cyclone Yaas. The relief camp was organised in Kultali in presence of Sri. Milan Mondal, DFO, Directorate of forest, south 24 parganas. KSCH volunteers distributed 5 tons of materials among 1000 families in 5 villages of the Sundarbans. The program was supported by other individual donors. Items like drinking water, flattened rice, biscuits, batasha, soap, bleaching powder, tarpaulin, masks, and sanitary napkins were donated to the needy. Forest Department arranged Govt. vessels to reach out to the victims of the Yaas cyclone.

Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH) has been the first social enterprise in India to have collaborated with the Forest Department of West Bengal in disaster management. KSCH reached Gosaba, Sagar Island, Pathar Pratima to gauge the possible impact of Yaas on the Sundarbans along with the forest department, Govt. of West Bengal and do the preemptive embankment strengthening. They had already distributed food worth 12 tons to 43,000 villagers and dry food to 1500 families sporadically. Then they carried out one of the biggest relief works with forest department.

Covid Relief



Human and wild conflict and plastic pollution are the two major existing problems in the sunderbans. We from Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage tried to help our brethren to breathe in the time of crisis with free oxygen cylinders. We distributed the cylinders, were in touch with the patients and collected the empty cylinders. Then we sanitized and refilled the cylinders before reaching out to the next patient in need.

We procured 58 Oxygen Cylinders (47ltrs capacity) and started our service for the mass. We saved 8760 precious lives with this service.

Shelter and Pond Restoration



Due to supercyclone YAAS the villages of the Sundarbans were flooded with saline water. It destroyed mud houses and sweet water ponds, fresh water ponds are one of the sources of livelihood for the villagers. We restored 1050 shelters by providing tarpaulins to 1000 families. KSCH also restored 100 fresh water ponds for the villagers so that they could cultivate fresh water fish. We did this in Gosaba, Bidya and Sajnekhali.

Paper-Plate Making Project



Plastic waste is one of the biggest threats to the ecosystem of the Sunderbans. The presence of plastic increases the toxicity of saline water, which in turn is feared to have a long term impact on fishing and aquaculture, the livelihood of the residents of the Sunderbans. We installed paper-plate manufacturing unit in Jharkhali with two objectives, generating some income for the local women and reducing the adverse impact of plastic on the fragile ecosystem on the mangrove delta. 45 self-help group women are involved in this project. They are making around 4500 plates everyday.

Crab- Shrimp Cultivation



Human & Wild conflict and plastic pollution are the two major existing problems in the Sundarbans. Close to 2 lakh tourists visit the Sundarbans every year and they leave a trail of Thermocol plates during their visits. Thermocol plates are being hugely used during the social village ceremonies as well. After use people dump the waste plates in the river. This practice is creating a huge negative environmental impact in the biosphere land. Since the fish and crab yields are not substantial in the buffer zone, the helpless villagers are left with no option but to risk their lives and reach out to the core area of the forest to collect the crabs and shrimps and face the grave consequences. This is the prime reason of Human and Wild Conflict. Directorate of forest, 24 Parganas, South Division has already taken a stern step to curb this pollution and already banned the usage of plastics in the biosphere lands but they were unable to supply any alternative to the villagers to reduce the pollution. To create a sustainable and eco-friendly solution of these problems KSCH formally rolled out three projects on alternative livelihood for the villagers of the Sundarbans in collaboration with The Directorate of Forest, South 24 Parganas Division, Govt. of West Bengal. The pilot project encompassing the gamut of three sub projects namely Biodegradable Paper Plate manufacturing, Crab and Shrimp cultivation would entail 40 Self Help Groups from marginalized section of six forest fringe villages under Matla and Raidighi Range. Besides the production, we also provided a direct market linkage for the products.

CB Block Plastic free Community Market



Pilot Project for 'Plastic Free Market' at CB Block Community Market, Action Area IC, New Town. Under this project we are making plastic free CB community market in Newtown. Here we are replacing all non-biodegradable carry bags with different biodegradable alternatives. This is a two-year project. Monthly door to door awareness programs for the community is being done by NKDA. We are also organizing awareness programs for the shopkeepers.

**Blocks involved in the project: CA, CB, CC, CD and Shankalpa 3 & 4
Implementation areas: CB Community Market & adjacent street shops.**

Patalghor



Patalghor is the first ever subway book store and library in Kolkata, run by self-help group women. The space was granted by WBHIDCO.

Award

- Award form Times Of India
- Accreditation from Sundarban Tiger Reserve, Govt of West Bengal.
- Ratna Garva Award, from Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industries



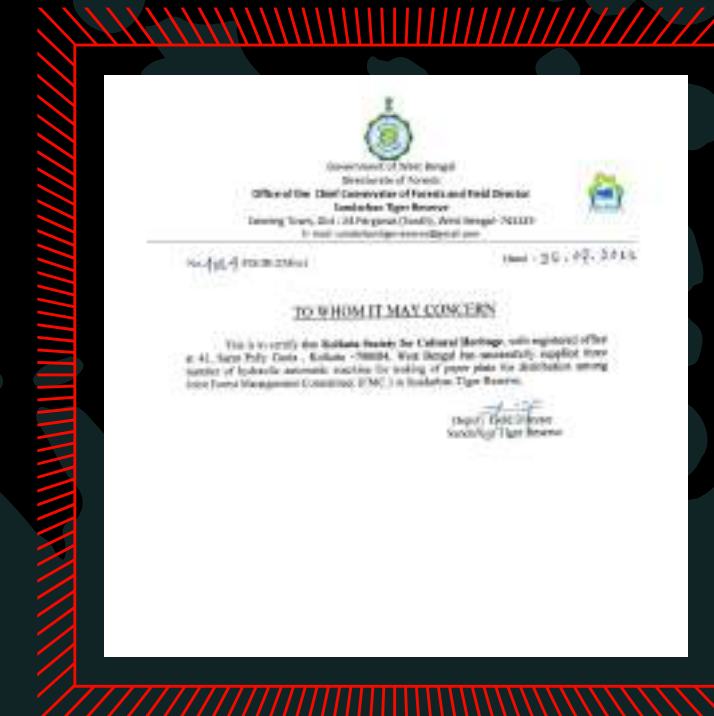
Media Coverage



The collage features several newspaper front pages and articles. The most prominent is the English newspaper **The Telegraph**, which has multiple headlines related to the Sunderbans:

- Lihood boost for s in Sunderbans** - A bid to curb as provide an of livelihood of Sunderbans, f Forest, South tion and Kol- Cultural Her- stromies. has approximately 350 marginal- ised women from the villages like Laskar Pui, Vivekanda Pally, Bharkhali Bazar, Tridip Nagar and Parbo Gargariya. The paper plate manufacturing project will start in the Bharkh- ali area under the Mafa rance.
- Women's unit to nurture nature and livelihood** - A women's unit has been formed to nurture nature and livelihood in the Sunderbans.
- PAPER PLATES ON STREAM FROM TODAY** - A project to manufacture paper plates is set to start in the Sunderbans.

Other newspapers shown include **Anandabazar Patrika** (with headlines like 'ভরসা বহু পটশিল্পীর' and 'আনন্দবাজার'), **মিলেনিয়াম পোস্ট** (with headlines like 'জঙ্গলের বিপদ এ' and 'নিউটাউনের বাজার প্লাস্টিকমুক্ত'), and **স্টেটসম্যান** (with headlines like 'শহর ও জেলার অদরে' and 'প্লাস্টিকমুক্ত বাজার, প্রকল্প নিউটাউনে').



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