

## **FORUM OF COMMUNITIES UNITED IN SERVICE (FOCUS)**

6, Tiljala Road Kolkata-70046

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF FOCUS FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014**

Dear partners & Honorable Members of FOCUS,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of FOCUS the undersigned feels pleasure to present the report of Annual performance of the Organization along with financial transactions ended as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

The financial Audited Statement as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 are with you and with your permission I read the observation and comments of the Auditors on the Books of the Account maintained by the organization along with documents supported the Statement of Expenditures and Payments.

We will be very happy if you discuss in the AGM where you feel necessary to make the system more transparent and reflective in all aspects.

In spite of emerging challenges for the urban poor from the different quarter of the society and vicious cycles of the operational areas the organization made all efforts to reach the target for the project except some shortcomings and unmet need of the people in need and extreme miseries.

The undersigned now present the project-wise Activities Report along with challenges and lessons learnt during the period mentioned above.

FOCUS has completed three decades and enriched the experiences by working and serving the destitute, marginalized and vulnerable children such as street and at risk children in slums and shanty areas of Tiljala, Tangra, Dhapa, Beck Bagan, Mehdi Bagan, Komedan Bagan, Auddy Bagan, North Range (Bunder Patty), Kasai Bustee, Metia Burj, Park Circus, Kasia Bagan, Narkeldanga and Rajabazar through various Education, Rehabilitation, Health services, Micro-Finance, Self Help Groups, Coaching and Training programmes. Some notable experiences of the organization in the last three years are as under:

#### **ANAND PAUL SUPPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

FOCUS in collaboration with Apeejay Surrendra Group has started its fourth consecutive year to overcome the hardships of the children living in slums and squatters in fulfilling their dreams of continuing and completing their education. In the mean time the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act introduced by the Government in 2009 which was implemented from 2011 in which it has been mentioned that free education has been given to all children between the age group of 6 -14 years of children in Government schools but in reality there is a huge gap between the policy and its actual implementation. In fact, there are various additional costs such as purchasing study materials, school wears, bags and other materials which are not address under the Act. The quality of education in the schools is very poor, and system of teaching is not up to the mark for a general student to pass the

term end exam. In order to intervene in accessing the Government facilities for the slum children, FOCUS has been working with the support of Apeejay Surrendra Group implementing Anand Paul Education Support Program to check drop out and to ensure retention in Government schools. The coaching centers are running successfully for the children in crisis, drop out and out of school children in the areas of Ward No. 59, 60, 61, 62, 64 and 65 under the program.

The data given below shows the total strength of the children supported under this project for the period of 2014:

**TABLE- 1**  
Class wise & Sex Wise Distribution of Children

Sl.No.	Class	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Class - I	13	18	31
2	Class - II	15	29	44
3	Class - III	31	32	63
4	Class - IV	30	30	60
5	Class - V	36	42	78
6	Class - VI	37	51	88
7	Class - VII	19	53	72
8	Class - VIII	16	32	48
9	Class - IX	2	9	11
10	Class - X	3	2	5
11	Class - XI	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>500</b>

The following table shows the areas our centres are located with the number of children:

**TABLE-2**  
Area covering under the project with the number of children in different centres

Sl. No.	Name of the centre	Area	Ward no.	Category	No. of children
1.	Iddgah Community Centre	Mia Jan Ostagar Lane	65	Primary	20
2.	Iddgah Community Centre	Mia Jan Ostagar Lane	65	Secondary	27

3.	Palm Avenue Club	Mia Jan Ostagar Lane	65	Secondary	25
4.	New Tiljala Community Centre	Tilajala	59	Primary	36
5.	New Tiljala Community Centre	Tilajala	59	Secondary	18
6.	Suharwardy Asian Boys Welfare Society	Park Circus Seven Point	60	Primary	21
7.	Suharwardy Asian Boys Welfare Society	Park Circus Seven Point	60	Primary	16
8.	Suharwardy Asian Boys Welfare Society	Park Circus Seven Point	60	Secondary	26
9.	Suharwardy Asian Boys Welfare Society	Park Circus Seven Point	60	Secondary	26
10.	Nehru Primary School	Park Circus behind Lady Bourbon College	60	Secondary	25
11.	Nehru Primary School	Park Circus behind Lady Bourbon College	60	Secondary	25
12.	Park Circus Education Foundation	Park Circus Seven Point	60	Secondary	24
13.	Jahangir Memorial	Mallick bazar	61	Primary	31
14.	Jahangir Memorial	Mallick bazar	61	Secondary	07
15.	Alishan Sports Club	Bed Ford Lane	61	Primary	28
16.	Alishan Sports Club	Bed Ford Lane	61	Primary	25
17.	Alishan Sports Club	Bed Ford Lane	61	Secondary	32
18.	Ripon Welfare Society	Ripon Street	62	Primary	21
19.	Ripon Welfare Society	Ripon Street	62	Secondary	22
20.	Ripon Welfare Society	Ripon Street	62	Secondary	23
21.	Ripon Welfare Society	Ripon Street	62	Secondary	22
Total					500

There are some major components of the program which derives the activities of the program and the overall implementation of the project which are mentioned under:

### COMPONENTS

### WORK DONE

#### Coaching support for primary and secondary children

Regular classes has been conducted in all the centres mentioned above, emphasis has been given on reading and & writing skills, special subject for secondary student has been allotted in all the centres for Mathematics and English subject

#### Over all monitoring and documentation of children progress

Regular attendance maintained for each and every child, Home Visits has been conducted at regular intervals, Monthly test (oral & written) has been conducted, Record keeping of the performance of individual child

<b>Formation of Shishu Sabha council/peer group of children</b>	Each and every centre have their own Children Council, current events, sports, general knowledge, national & International Events, problems of their surroundings are the major topics that were discussed in the meeting, guidance and open discussion with the teachers are also part of the session
<b>Extracurricular activities, indoor games, creativity classes</b>	Enhanced creativity of the child through drawing sessions, art and craft sessions, ideas sharing, centre decoration, etc.
<b>Health and hygiene</b>	Health camp conducted in every year for all the children, awareness program with the children and their parents at regular intervals
<b>Exposure visit for children and staff</b>	Educational Tour, Participation in Quiz Competition and Drawing contest and other participatory opportunity for them have been supported. Outing for the children and the staff every year, have been arranged
<b>Parents-Teachers meeting</b>	Monthly parents-teacher meeting conducted, students performance & progress discussed, applying for Birth Certificates, Identity Cards, Aadhar Cards, BPL cards, health issues discussed, Scholarships & other Govt. facilities linked
<b>Formation of Community Based Organization (CBO'S)</b>	CBO'S formed for sustainability, ownership growth and generation of community responsibility for successful implementation of the components, standing fir their Rights boldly
<b>Monthly evaluation of education system</b>	Regular monitoring of children performance based on monthly tests, in built competitions, progress reports, assessment tools and others are followed for evaluating the education system
<b>Teacher's Training</b>	Training and Orientation for project functionaries based on realized needs of the teachers, educators and slum volunteers which were held according the requirement.
<b>Resource mobilization, effective linkages with govt. schemes and new act on education program</b>	Accessing the Rights of Free and Compulsory Education for the children in Govt. school, applying for scholarships every year, conducting Exhibitions for Adult Learners and mobilization of resources are included in the activities of the project.
<b>Networking/advocacy/ lobbying</b>	Networking with Government schools in different areas, Local Councilors, Doctors, Police Station,
<b>Functional literacy class for adult learners</b>	Empowerment of women through literacy classes, giving knowledge of their Rights and Entitlements, Freedom of Expressing their values and ideas, have been given emphasis in the Functional Literacy Class
<b>Vocational training for adults</b>	Hand Skills Trade such as Beautician, Glass Painting, Vase Designing, Zari Work, Sequence and beads items such as mobile covers, hand bags, show pieces and other innovative ideas are included in their curriculum

About the Program	Shared thoughts
<p><b>Vocational Training and Functional Literacy program has also remained a major part of the program which was also launched with the Anand Paul Support Education Program by Apeejay group with FOCUS. The program was for those adults who have never been to school and have an urge to learn some lively hood skills. FOCUS has arranged the program such that among these 100 adults 50 would be provided with Functional Literacy and 50 would be provided with vocational training. The program is running successfully in its respective centers.</b></p>	<p><i>Shanaz Begum aged about 45 years mentioned that the knowledge on our own health is needed because we hardly get time to think about our health apart from our responsibilities. Also an adult Rouqaiya Kahtoon age 23 years shares that there is nothing wrong in keeping friendship with the boys but one need to be careful on being used by somebody and also that we should have knowledge about how we can protect ourselves. The demand for some basic Defense Training for themselves has been raised by them. They enthusiastically wanted to walk with today's world knowledge and environment</i></p>

**TABLE-3**

Distribution of Functional Literacy and Vocational Learner for the period of 2014-2015

SL.NO.	NAME OF THE CENTRE	NO. OF TRAINEE
1.	Life Welfare Society (Functional Literacy)	25
2.	Life Welfare Society (Vocational Training)	25
3.	Auddy Bagan Community Center (Functional Literacy)	25
4.	Auddy Bagan Community Center (Vocational Training)	25

### **INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME:**

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced by the Ministry of Women and Child in 2009-10 for implementation through State Governments Administrations. Child Protection means protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Besides children who are victims of abuse, exploitation and neglect, there are children with special needs such as children affected by HIV/AIDS and disabled children.

The objective of our Open Shelter Home is to

1. Provide safe and secure environment for overall development of children who are in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.
2. Build capacities of families and community to strengthen care, protection and response to children.
3. Create and promote preventive measures to protect children from situations of vulnerability, risk and abuse.
4. To ensure an appropriate inter-sectoral response at all levels.
5. Educate public on child rights and protection raise public awareness at all levels on the situation and vulnerabilities of children and families. Inform the public on available child protection services, schemes and structures at all levels.

Therefore the main aim of the project is that every child has the right to be cared for by a loving and nurturing family, to live with dignity, and to be protected from separation from her/his family, violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Involvement of Civil Society in the scheme is necessary so that the child may get proper care and protection according to the scheme.

Open Shelter Home is a replacement of integrated program for street children run by FOCUS since 1993 for 350 Street Children. 2010 year was the cut off year for this program under **FOCUS** and from April 2011 Open Shelter Home was launched for 25 vulnerable children living in difficult circumstances. The home is located at 47, South Tangra Road, P.S. Pragati Maidan, Kolkata-46. The ICPS is expected to create a structure and framework that will efficiently and effectively protect children specially those in difficult situations. It will also provide appropriate support services to their families for building their capacities to care, protect and provide a nurturing environment to their children. The major components of the program are:

<b>COMPONENTS</b>	<b>WORK DONE</b>
<b>Institutionalized services for the children</b>	Mainstreaming of children in Govt. schools, coaching support given by the educators, Monthly Test to record students performance were maintained in the Home. 90% of attendance level has been maintained, 17 children of 24hrs and 15 children are flying children for the session of 2014 – 2015,
<b>Innovative Learning Methods</b>	Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) like Phonic Cards, Flash Cards, different types of chart have been used as new method of learning,
<b>Health Initiatives</b>	Awareness on basic health & hygiene in parents meeting, yearly Health Check up of the children and free medicines have been provided,
<b>Nutrition</b>	Cooked food items formed the basis good health which includes nutritious foods like rice, dal, egg, chicken, vegetables, bread, butter etc.
<b>Cultural activities/Creative activities/Entertainment</b>	Art and Craft, Yoga, Dance, Singing, Drawing included in the extracurricular activities, participation in drawing competitions, Art Mela, Exposure visits conducted every year for the children,
<b>Sports</b>	Participation in Annual Sports conducted by the Vagrancy and winning cups in different events, quarterly in house cricket matches and other indoor games like carom, Ludo forms major activities for them in our Open Shelter Home,
<b>Outreach Centres</b>	Three outreach centres namely Shanti Sangha, New Tiljala Community Centre and Suharwardy Asian Boys Welfare Society containing 30-35 children in each centre have been maintained on regular basis, coaching support and some nutrition support have also been provided,
<b>Network/Advocacy/Lobbing</b>	Linkages with the Police Station, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Child Line 1098, Juvenile Justice Board, Vagrancy and DCPS are common centres in need of support,

### **Challenges in the program:**

- a. Migration of children for some major issues based on employment of the guardians, or eviction problem compels the child to move from the present area to distant place and also to get release from Home.
- b. Fluctuation in co-operation from local families is frequent as the children are receiving services home based but the family of the child do not receive facilities like free health camps and other related services at least once in a year.
- c. Lack of knowledge and awareness on drug addiction/alcohol consumption, the community environment becomes very risky and unhealthy for the children of the community. Along with this any kind of Drug Rehabilitation are also not available within the community which makes the matter worst.
- d. Due to illegal settlements in Ward No. 58 half of the community have become the victim of eviction because of some construction problem under the Kolkata Municipal Cooperation which have become a severe problem for the families of the child living in that area as we are unable to provide any services to them and also to provide social entitlements, lack of total implementation of Government services like JNURM, Rajeev Aawas Yojna, National Urban Livelihood Mission another anti-poverty eradication programme. The job of the scheme is also link with above schemes so that the rehabilitation process could be enhanced. Child Welfare Community (CWC), Juvenile Justice Home (J J Home), Foster Care is also key areas to be linked with this scheme. Irregularities in grant of funds have become lengthier which effects in proper implementation of the scheme.

### **CHILD LABOUR REHABILITATION cum WELFARE PROGRAMME:**

The problem of child labor is a major challenge to the developing countries. This is particularly serious in India as it tops the list with the highest number of child laborers in the world. The 2001 National Census of India estimated the total number of child labor aged 5-14 to be at 12.6 million. Although the Constitution of India guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6-14 and prohibits employment of children younger than 14 years, child labor is prevalent in almost all informal sectors of the Indian economy. Further the Child Labor Rehabilitation and Education Programme is working as a remedial cause for such children.

FOCUS has completed its 13 successful years working under this project. Basic education, vocational training and creative activity facilities along with nutrition and health check up are provided to 50 child labor beneficiaries in our Kulia Tangra Special School under the special guidance of two trained educators and one vocational trainer which are being monitored regularly by the parents committee, community leaders and the honorable members of the organization. From the table below we get the particulars of beneficiaries under the project:

**TABLE-1**

No. of children	Sex		Age Group
	M	F	
50	19	31	8-14 years

**TABLE-2**

<b>COMPONETS</b>	<b>WORK DONE</b>
Standard Curriculum and Learning Materials	Mainstreaming of children in Govt. Schools, supporting them with coaching classes following school syllabus, use of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) for accelerated learning, Monthly Test, Creative Activity classes of Art & Craft, drawing competitions are some of the major activities
Tracking & Monitoring of Child Labour	Record keeping of students performance, Monthly Tests, Assessment Tools, tracking the child for absenteeism and for drop out in school, maintaining regular attendance have been followed in the centre
Strengthen Health Component	Monthly Health Checkup for the children, discussion on healthy habits with parents and their children, records keeping of Health Cards of the children are included. Moreover information given on Diseases like Dengue, Malaria, HIV/Aids , Tuberculosis, Asthma, Skin Diseases, Birth Control Policies have been discussed with them on regular basis
Economic Rehabilitation and Sensitization of the Parents	Bank Account of individual student has been maintained. Annual Stipend from the Government have been given to them, information given on making of Birth Certificates, ID cards, BPL cards, Aadhar cards
Strong Linkages with Education Department	Good rapport build with Head Teachers of Government Schools, Club Members, Local Stake Holders
Awareness Generation	Anti-Child Labor campaigns in the local area, awareness about their rights such as Right to Free and Compulsory Education, Child Right and Child Protection, Child Marriage for their knowledge
Vocational Training for adolescents	Hand Skills trades like soft toys making, candle making, beads item such as show pieces, hand bags, Jewelry making training have been given to them

**MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT and CORPORATION SPONSORED SCHOOLS:**

From its infancy period FOCUS is working for the children and with the children for their upliftment and changing the attitudes of slum communities towards education. One of the major initiatives of FOCUS towards educating and supporting them was introducing Mid Day Meal program with its own objectives of enrolment and retention of children in school for education. The program was successfully carried on for more than five years and its cut off year was October 2013. The overall beneficiaries of the program were 1000 coming under 13 Government Aided schools in different areas. The program was started with the goal to increase enrolment , retention of the beneficiaries, especially of children belonging to poor and down trodden sections of the society; to provide nutritious meal to the school going children to achieve the goal



of healthy mind in healthy body; to promote friendship and feelings of common brotherhood among the children belonging to different caste, color, creed by providing meals to them together and also to increase their retention in schools. As long the program continued in the organization it has been carried out with full and loyal efforts to make it beneficiary to the children of unorganized sector of the society.

### **FUTURE PLAN**

- To institutionalize and de institutionalization for very vulnerable children living in extreme misery and circumstances.
- To expand and strengthen the existing services to Integrated Child Protection Scheme children in the field of health, education, recreation livelihood.
- To setup infrastructure open shelter home for day care services and short stay home particularly night shelter for street girls.
- To expand the areas of operation in Kolkata metropolitan including Howrah slums.
- To consolidate, coordinate and strengthen the social movements for physically and mentally challenged populations.
- To consolidate coordinate and strengthen the social movements for physically and mentally challenged populations.
- To organize special program on solid waste management and socio-economic organization of the waste pickers.
- To plan for launching a social movement on right to education bill 2009, Right to food, Right to micro credit, Right to livelihood etc.
- To create data base, knowledge base and status report on violation of human rights, particularly for child protection services.
- To strengthen co-operation among NGOs and city network for child protection at family and community level. This networking will also launch social campaign on housing rights, micro finance, schemes for BPL another sensitive issues for upholding of basic principles of constitution of India and democratic rights.
- To popularize and politicize the issues of human survival, dignity and minor children engaged in hazardous occupations through public awareness and sensitization of the key players in the society.