

ICOD

Inter-religious Centre Of Development



Annual Report
2014-15

"... ডুলিও না – নীচজাতি, মুর্থ, দরিদ্র, অজ্ঞ, মুচি, মেথর তোমার রক্ত,
তোমার ভাই! হে বীর, সাহস অবলম্বন কর; সদর্পে বল – আমি ভারতবাসী,
ভারতবাসী আমার ভাই। বল – মুর্থ ভারতবাসী, দরিদ্র ভারতবাসী, ব্রাহ্মণ
ভারতবাসী, চণ্ডাল ভারতবাসী আমার ভাই, ভারতবাসী আমার প্রাণ,
ভারতের দেবদেবী আমার ঈশ্বর, ভারতের সমাজ আমার শিশুশয্যা, আমার
যৌবনের উপবন, আমার বার্ধক্যের বারণসী; বল ভাই – ভারতের মৃত্তিকা
আমার স্বর্গ, ভারতের কল্যাণ আমার কল্যাণ। ..."

স্বামী বিবেকানন্দ

Any Country has Two Countries
Any City has Two Cities
Any Village has Two Villages

This World has Two Worlds
One for Those **Have** and One for Those **Have Not**

Inter-religious Centre Of Development (ICOD)
is an

Inter-religious Community of Abandoned and Downtrodden
and
is committed to establish their

Right to
Home

Right to
Education

Right to
Good Health

Right to
Happy
Living

Right to
Self
Reliance

Annual Report

2014-15

ICOD - Annual Report
2014-15

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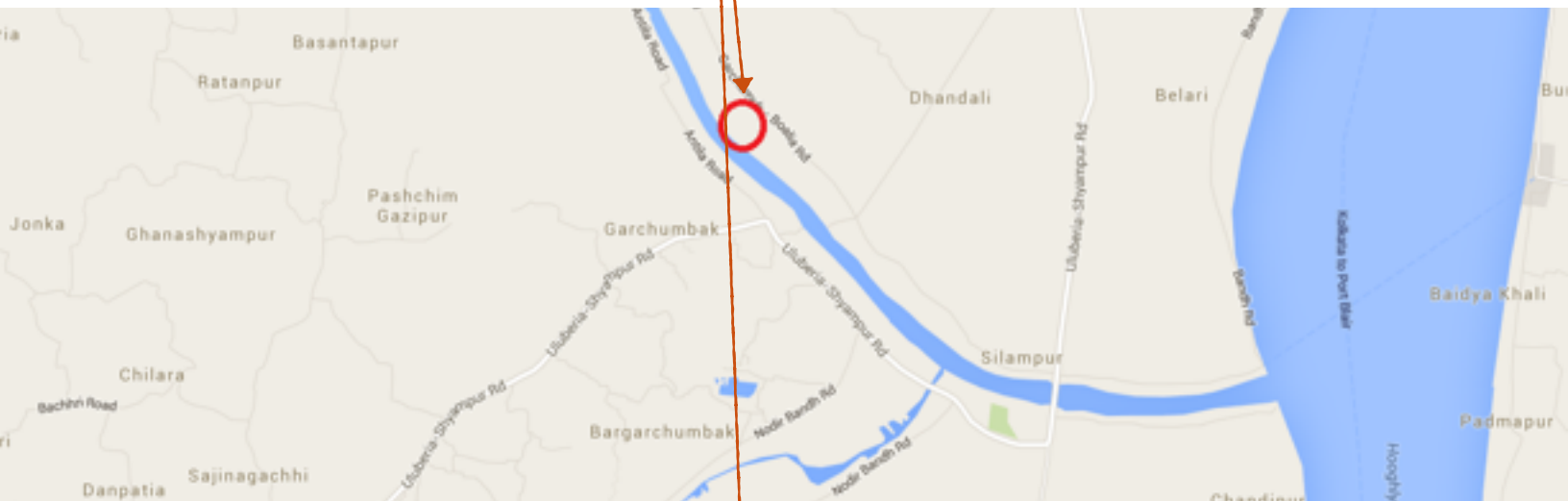
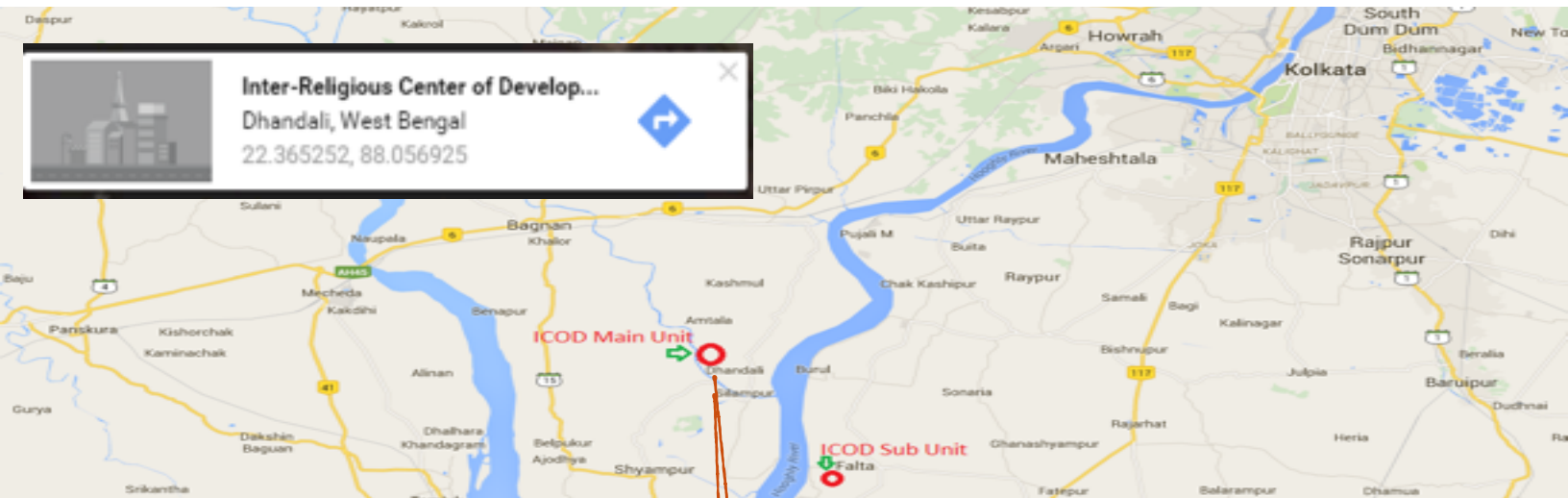
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Our Everyday Prayer



Message

from our Socio Spiritual Advisor



Gaston Dayanand

Dear sisters and brothers, inmates, governing body members, staff cooperators and collaborators, patrons and well-wishers, may our hearts be in the same communion than my two hands joining to say to all "NOMOSHKAR".

I am very happy of this yearly opportunity to express my feelings towards you all. We have passed together a great, difficult and long trials this year, and I congratulate all of you to have helped us to face it with courage, steadfastness and equanimity. Some of us may say : "We have won", but they are wrong, **because in our dedicated work of service, there are never a winner or a loser.** We are all under the Eyes of the Almighty Merciful God trying to do our best. Sometimes we fail, but always we can stand again with renewed strength.

I am especially grateful for our **new Governing Body members** who have infused a lot of new hope for the future. The same could be said for **the new professionals** who have joined our field workers at the service of the mentally disable. Together, we feel stronger to face the daily difficulties and problems and to confront without fear for the future.

We are really united, although we need to be more proactive to work together and not apart in our own categories or Homes. ICOD is now facing some kind of revival and we must all of us try to help to implement the new trends, the new projects and to integrate the new views which some of our members are bringing. Past is past and the first batch of social workers who worked from the beginning has practically completed the planning established in 2004. Only remains the

Children Park which is under way. It was a great challenge with such a few qualified staff. It was also complicated because of the complexity of a new kind of establishment, not seen elsewhere, **mixing together various kinds of people suffering from destitution**, abandon, a variety of handicaps mentally or physically, several genders, religions, castes, ethnic minorities and diseases from all ages including old people. **I must say that our inclusive group has succeeded beyond hope to create unity in diversity and be able to call oneself a real ICOD FAMILY.**

But nothing is forever acquired and we have to try more to keep this unity actively turned towards the others, especially the poorest.

We have certainly **to search more for Indian benefactors**, or to Income generating programmes to be able to become somewhat self supporting in the long future. Our new WEBSITE, thanks to the initiative of Nirmalya, shall help us tremendously to reach this goal.

But we must never forget that the aim of ICOD shall always remain the poor of the “5 D”: disinherited, despaired, distressed, despoil and destitute.

We shall always receive God’s blessings if we remain faithful to this goal. If we leave it to become like other NGOs aiming only at general development, especially of the middle or upper classes, I am afraid that, even if we are successful, we shall not really be able to rely on God’s approval. And what shall happen shall happen, as we have seen in other NGOs.

As for me, I pledge once more to continue **to work as a servant of all**, knowing quite well that slowly slowly I shall probably become irrelevant due to my growing age and limited understanding of the way to adapt to the new situation. What I can do or not, does not matter, for my heart and blessings shall remain always upon you all. I just shall try from now on **to increase our inter-religious activities**, since this remains **the second aim of ICOD after the service of the poorest.**

Let me assure you of my daily prayers. The two hours of contemplation I take every morning is meant to strengthen our bonds with the Almighty whose Names are infinite but who remains for me personally: “Abba, Baba” who loves every one of you and shall always accompany ICOD and their generous DONATORS

DOMINIQUE DADA AND DIDI, their foreign friends and our Indian donors. They do belong to our family, and we rejoice to see them again every November, except my elder Brother Dominique, still in the clutches of a terrible disease.

With my love and the blessings of our all-compassionate Lord Jesus,

Gaston Dayanand, your servant in God.

ICOD 5th September 2015





Message from Secretary

Mamata Ghosh (Gopa)

দেখতে দেখতে আরও একটা অর্থবর্ষ আমরা পেরিয়ে এলাম। বিগত অর্থবর্ষে একটা বিশাল ঝড় বয়ে গেল ‘আইকড’ এর ওপর দিয়ে; ঝড় বয়ে গেল আমাদের সকলের প্রিয় ‘আইকড’ এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা গ্যাস্টো দাদার ওপর দিয়ে; যা আমরা কেউ কোনদিন কল্পনাও করতে পারিনি।

এই বাংলার আটটি সংগঠন ABC, SHIS, CIPODA, BELARY প্রভৃতির আধ্যাত্মিক পরামর্শদাতার সর্বধর্ম সমন্বয় এর একজন প্রচারক হিসাবে কাজ করে চলেছেন গ্যাস্টো দাদা। সেবা ও ত্যাগের আদর্শে যাঁর সারা জীবনের পথ চলা, এই বাংলার দরিদ্রতম মানুষের কল্যাণে যাঁর উৎসর্গীকৃত জীবন, সেই মানুষটার জীবনবোধ ও বিশ্বাসের মূলেই আঘাত দিতে চেয়েছেন কিছু মানুষ।

কিন্তু আমাদের গ্যাস্টো দাদা সেইসব আক্রমণ শুদ্ধ চিন্তে প্রহণ করেছেন এবং আমায় বলেছেন, “বৃহত্তর বিশ্ব সংসারে এরকম মানুষের সংখ্যাই বেশি; তা বলে কাজ থেমে থাকবে না। কাজ যারা করে তাদের ভুল হয়, আর যারা কাজ করে না তাদের কোন ভুল হয় না। ওদের কাজ ওসব নেতিবাচক ভাবনা নিয়ে ব্যস্ত থাকা, তোমার কাজ হবে - অসহায় আর্ত মানুষের পাশে সাধ্যমত দাঁড়ানো। তুমি আমার কথা চিন্তা করছ

Looks like we have passed one more financial year really soon. However, as we look back, we realize perhaps a cyclone has crossed over ICOD and particularly over our beloved Gaston Dada, which any one of us could not imagine.

Our Dada has been working as a socio-spiritual advisor for eight NGOs of West Bengal; ABC, SHIS, CIPODA, BELARY etc. Unfortunately, we had to see, few individuals tried to demolish the moral of our noble man, who had stick through the path of sacrifice and dedicated his entire life for the poorest of poor in West Bengal to help them come out of their level of distress.

But our Gaston Dada has faced all those attacks at pure heart and said to me, “People like them are found more in this world, but your work should never be stopped. Those may fail who are committed to their work. They will never be wrong who does not do their work. Their work will be to stick to the negative thoughts, while your job will be to stand beside helpless people living in distress. You are thinking of

আর আমি ভাবছি দোমিনিক দিদির কথা; তাঁর কষ্ট যন্ত্রণার কথা। সে দোমিনিক দাদার সঙ্গে শেয়ার করতে পারছে না; দোমিনিক দাদা দারুণ অসুস্থ। সে একা লড়াই করে যাচ্ছে কত প্রতিকূলতার বিরুদ্ধে। তবে ধৈর্য ধর একদিন সব ঠিক হয়ে যাবে।”

উদারতা, সহিষ্ণুতা, ক্ষমার শ্রেষ্ঠতম উদাহরণ আমাদের এই দাদা। বিভিন্ন প্রতিকূলতার সাথে লড়াই করতে গিয়ে কখনো যদি বিচলিত হয়, তাঁর সচেতন বাণী নতুন করে আমাকে সেবাব্রতে উৎসর্গ করতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করে।

একবিংশ শতাব্দীতে দাঁড়িয়ে এইরকম বিরল ভাবনা তো তাঁর মত মানুষের মুখেই মানায় -

“হে উদাসীন পৃথিবী

আমাকে সম্পূর্ণ ভুলে যাওয়ার আগে

তোমার নির্মম পদপ্রান্তে

আজ রেখে যাই আমার প্রণতি”

মমতা ঘোষ (গোপা) - সম্পাদিকা, আইকড

me, but I am thinking of Dominique Didi; thinking of her pain. She is not able to share her agony with Dominique Dada, as he is severely ill. She is fighting alone against all evil forces. However, keep patience, one day everything will be fine.”

Our Dada is an ultimate example of kindness, tolerance and forgiveness. At times I might feel disturbed, but his message with caution helps me to remain focused in serving the society.

In this 21st century, such a rare thought is possible from person like him -

"Oh indifferent world

Before you completely forget me

At your ruthless steps

Today, let me keep my offerings”

Mamata Ghosh (Gopa) - Secretary



Message

from Our Greatest Supporter



Dominique Dada & Didi

31 X 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for
your good work.

Continue with full
dedication. We trust you.

We love you !

God bless you !

Dominique dada

Dominique didi

Message

from Our Important Supporter



Amis des Villages du Tiers Monde Friends of Third World Villages

Dear friends,

In 2015, three global and primordial events for the future of the planet hold our attention:

First COP 21, global conference for the climate under the aegis of the UNO (United Nations Organization), held in Paris, for that all States undertake to implement the solutions to contain the rise the temperature of 2 degrees Celsius by reducing emissions of gases.

Then the World Fair in Milan, Italy, with the theme "Feeding the planet, energy for life", and which was visited by more than 20 million of people and 60 Heads of State and Government. And finally the Encyclical of Pope Francois "Laudato Si'" that goes in the same direction : "preserve the Earth, our common good, by adding a spiritual dimension and a message of fraternity among peoples" :

- "Interdependence forces us to think one world, in a joint project"
- "Awakening of a new reverence for life, accelerating the struggle for justice and peace"
- "The behavior of those who consume more and more is not sustainable, while others can not live in accordance with their human dignity"

Therefore, subscribing to these programs and these texts, we are part of the struggle of our friends of ICOD and Brother Gaston, their spiritual advisor to assist the poorest and for bring to live a dignified life through your programs that we are proud to support.

Yours sincerely,
The board of AVTM

Vision

Where do we
want to go



Create an alternative people-centered society based on universally accepted human values of peace, justice, solidarity, equality, love, compassion, participation and self-reliance ensuring sustenance of nature.

Mission

How do we want to go



- ▶ facilitating the process of empowerment of the underprivileged, downtrodden, distressed and deprived communities.
- ▶ promoting and strengthen an organization of individuals by encouraging their initiative of self-help and reliance.
- ▶ organizing people for issue based movement through collaborative efforts at local, regional, national and international level.
- ▶ ensuring a sustainable existence with gender equality without the presence of any social injustice, prejudices or superstitions.
- ▶ offering humanitarian services to all abandoned, downtrodden, disadvantaged women, orphan widows, divorcees; irrespective of cast, creed, religion and beliefs.
- ▶ ensuring socio-economic, cultural, educational and income generating base of the downtrodden section of the community.



Goals

What do we want
to achieve

- ▶ total support and care to destitute, especially those found on the street, the orphan and the rejected
- ▶ a big family that belongs to the destitute where they can spend their life in harmony
- ▶ an unpolluted environment and preserve/increase the bio-diversity of the place enabling all living creatures to survive in peace
- ▶ an inter-religious platform where the members of all religions treated equally
- ▶ a centre for development of the abandoned, orphaned and downtrodden where they will be able to transform their lives and move towards 'mission independence'
- ▶ an inter-NGO relationship for grass root level development and an integrated network for global-social interactions



Br. Gaston Dayanand (Member) - Founder member of many NGOs and working on the field for 50 years or more. He has changed his permanent residence from Belari (Shyampur) to ICOD in January 2004



Ms. Kajal Maity (President)
- A social worker for two decades or more, currently staying at ICOD as House Mother of the Mental Unit.



Ms. Mamata Ghosh (Secretary) - A social worker by heart who has dedicated her life to the poorest of poor. Co-founder and staying at ICOD since the beginning.



Sunit Sarkar (Vice President) - Works at State Govt. office and stays at village - Chhayani Guzrat, P.S. - Rupasgaria, Bagnan, Howrah



Br. Markus Toppo (Asst. Secretary) - A Social worker working in the field for more than 24 years. Staying at ICOD.



Amitava Chakraborty (Treasurer) - Retired Govt. employee who is associated with ICOD since its inception. He stays at 58/1 N. S. Dutta Road, Howrah - 711101.



Mrs. Santa Ghosh (Member) - An advocate whose husband is also a lawyer. Stays at village - Dewara Soasti, near Shyampur in Howrah.



Mammoni Begum (Member)
- A house wife who is also attached with a self help group for last several years.



Nirmalya Ghosh (Member) - An engineer in the field of information technology and also a poet. Stays at Teghoria on VIP Road, Kolkata.

- Govt. of India
- Govt. of West Bengal
- Dominique Lapierre (Dada and Didi)
- Friends in 'Dominique Lapierre City of Joy Foundation' (DLCJF) - France
- Friends in 'Fund for the Friends of Bengal' (FFB) - Geneva, Switzerland
- Friends in 'AVTM (Help to the villages of Third World)' - Paris, France
- Friends in 'Asha Bengal' - Switzerland
- Friends in 'Indian Project' - France
- 'Catherine et Denis Collomb' - Lyons, France
- Roberto Spada - Italy
- Bernard Terneaud - France
- Bernard Prieur - France
- Alexander van Meerwijk - Netherlands
- 'HOPE' - Kolkata
- 'Belari Polly Bikash Samiti' (BPBS) - Shyampur, Howrah
- 'Asha Bhavan Center' (ABC) - Uluberia, Howrah
- Md. Kamruddin and his 'United Brothers Association' (UBA)
- 'SARHA' - Kolkata
- 'Healing Life' - Kolkata
- 'Utkal Sikshya Samsad' - Kolkata
- 'Siddha Sammarg Trust' - Kolkata

ICOD sincerely thanks them for supporting the mission.

Right to Home

Stand on your own feet

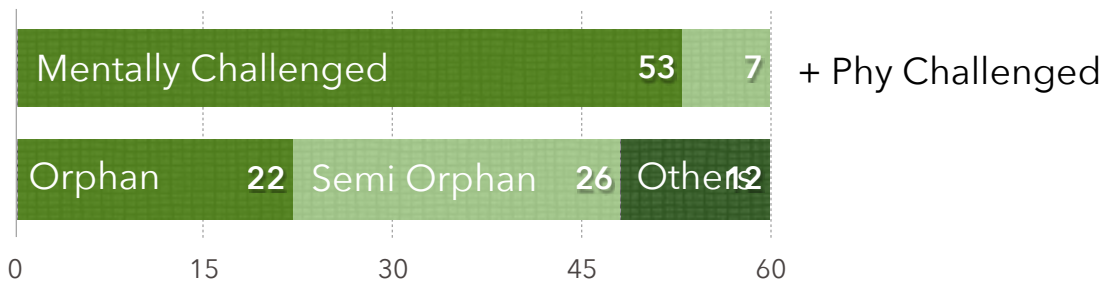
When young people leave home, they learn how to stand on their own two feet, but if they do not have a home! “Right to home” is about ensuring an individual gets a home to put his feet on the soil at the first place.

Unhappily we see destitute children, young adults and even aged often rejected by their nearer ones. Wish if ICOD could extend a home to all of them. Perhaps we have a little satisfaction for the two hundred some people who have got a home at ICOD. We call it a home where together hand in hand, they have created the walls under the loving care of everyone’s beloved Brother Gaston.



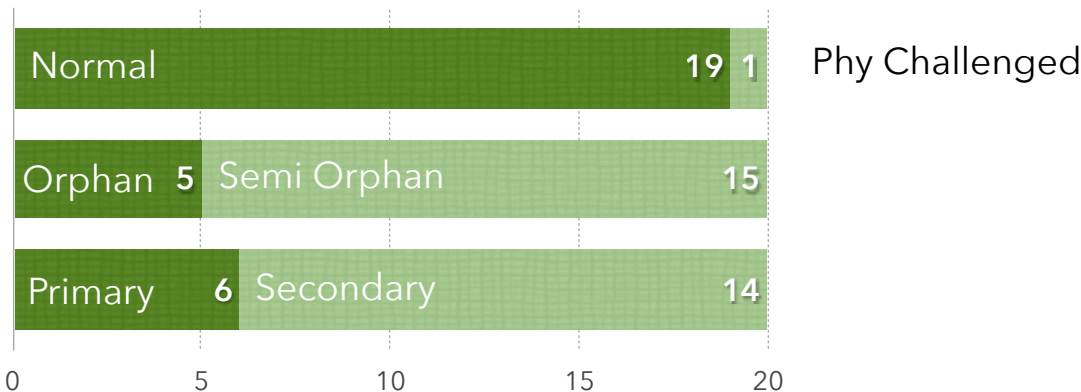
Home A: Mother Teresa Bhavan (Mentally Sick Unit)

Total Inmates - 60



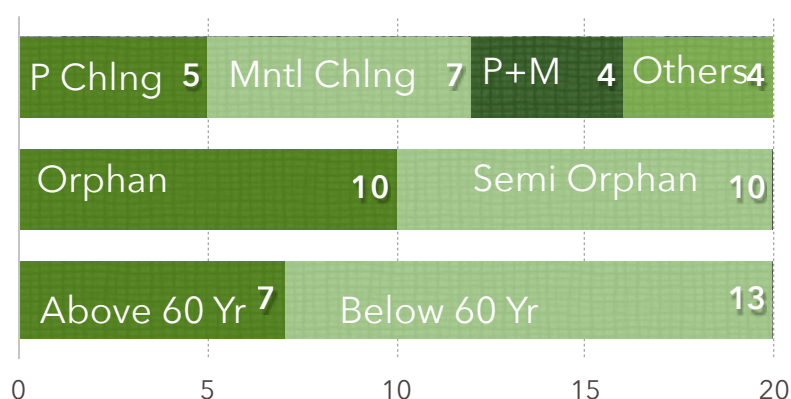
Home B: Malala Bhavan (Orphan Girls Unit)

Total Inmates - 20



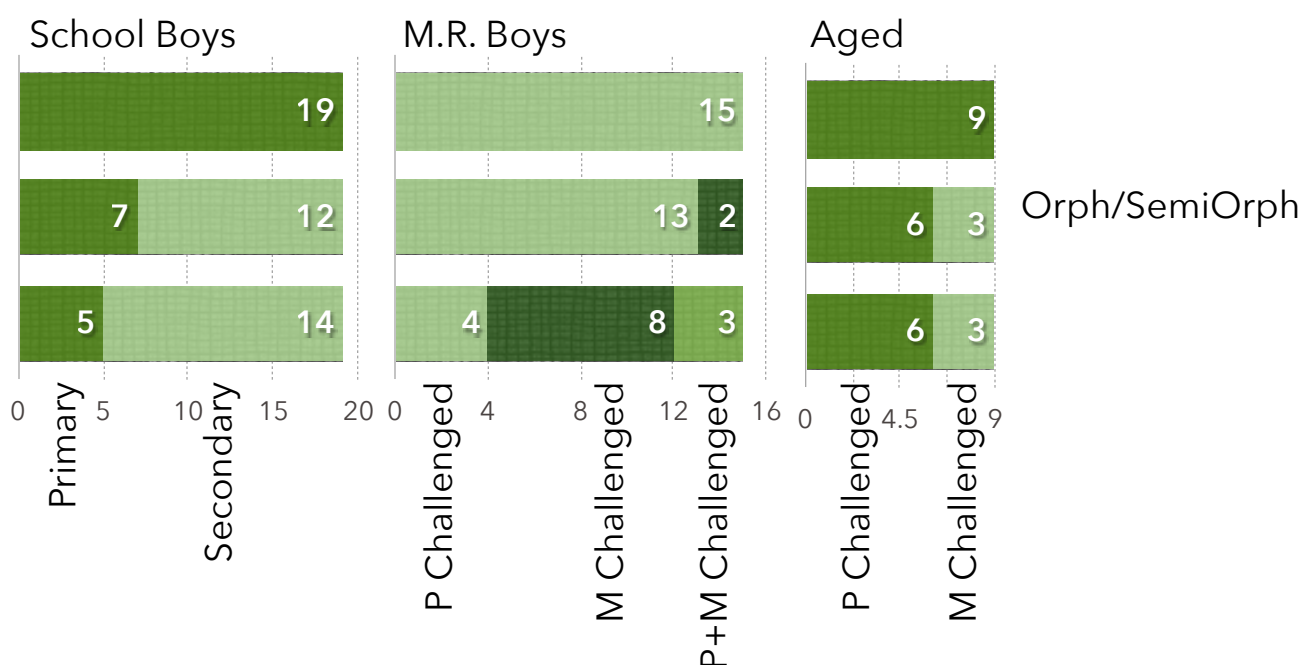
Home C: Tagore Hall (Abandoned Women Unit)

Total Inmates - 20



Home D: Dr. Sen Boys Home

Total Inmates - 43



Children studying outside:

- ▶ Alipur Dooar - 2 semi-orphan girls at local school
- ▶ Santragachi - 1 semi-orphan, physically handicapped boy and girl at local school
- ▶ Kolkata - 1 semi-orphan, physically handicapped girl studying masters degree at University of Calcutta, 2 semi-orphan, physically handicapped girls studying bachelor degree in Uluberia, 1 boy studying at school

Poor people have the right to beauty, love and attentive care that they find here.
ICOD is a Home for those

- children found on the street
- mother and babies found on the street
- sent by police or courts of justice
- fully orphan children for whom no abled relatives to look after
- children whose mothers are widows or left out by their husbands
- children whose mothers are prostitutes
- girls who are in moral danger even with their families
- mentally and/or physically challenged men, women, children rejected by their families
- mid-aged sick abandoned men and women
- old abandoned men and women

ICOD's 'Right to Home' program helps those helpless as they see ICOD as

- **Preventive** to prostitution, trafficking and other possible ill treatments
- **Curative** towards moral and social rehabilitation through schooling and other engaging activities
- **Rehabilitative** as they can choose their new life

ICOD Home projects are funded by Dominique Lapierre City of Joy Foundation (DLCJF).



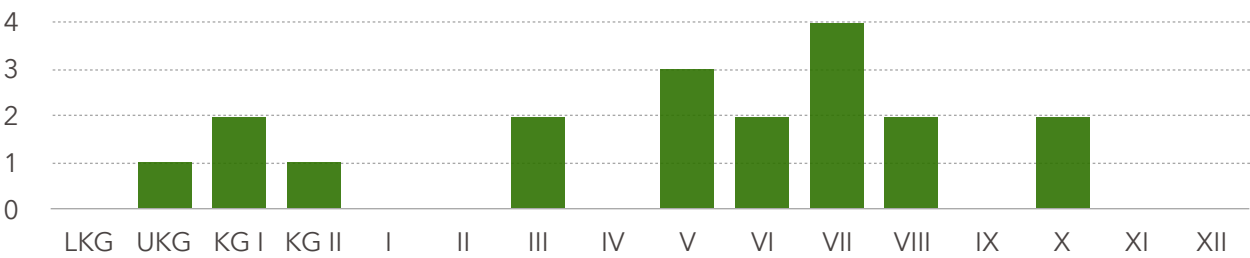
Right to Education

Strengthen your hand

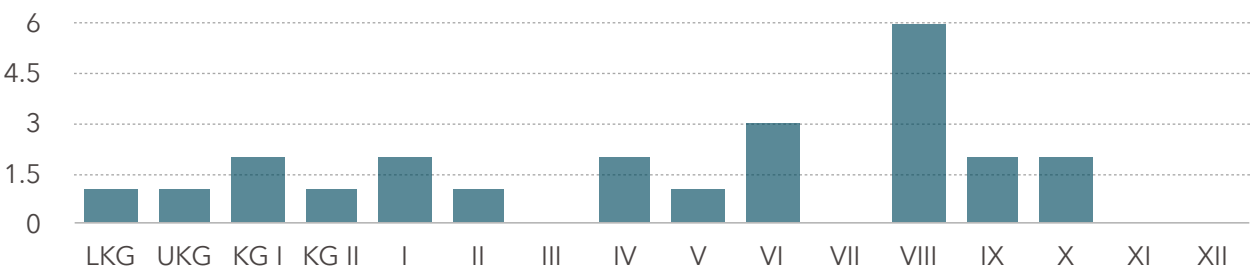
World Bank says in its report, “Education is a powerful driver of development and is one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace, and stability. Although there has been great progress in the last decade - many more children attend schools and girls’ education has markedly improved - 58 million children are still out of school. Even when children complete school, they often do so without acquiring basic skills necessary for work and life. This is particularly detrimental when unemployment is high and labor markets are demanding more skilled and agile workforces than ever before.”

ICOD Programs on Right to Education
School education at village primary and secondary school
Regular classroom coaching for inmates and outside village students
Vocational training for inmates
Support for higher education

Girls student in school: Total = 19



Boys student in school: Total = 19

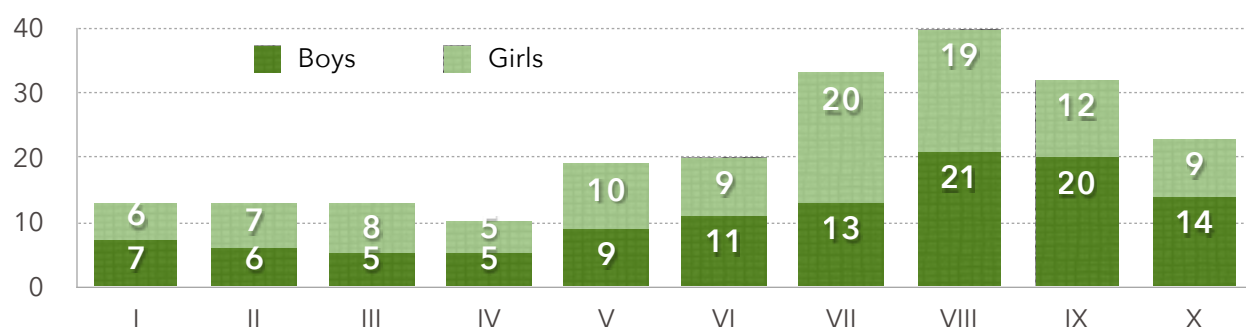


Luis Education Centre (Classroom coaching for school-going children of ICOD and nearby villages)

Regular education received at the village schools are not adequate. ICOD has learned over the years that a special emphasis is needed for the desired upbringing of the children at ICOD as well as all the boys and girls in the villages.

The program:

- ▶ Daily free tuition for all the subjects to students from class I to class X
 - Time: 6:15 AM to 9:15 AM
 - Total 285 days in the academic year (total learning hours = 855 Hours)
 - Number of tutors = 10 (one each for mathematics, physical science, life science, history, geography, english, bengali; two tutors for all subjects in primary classes; one tutor for general aptitude)
 - Students from villages are selected based on the degree of poverty and merit
 - Number of students = 216 (boys = 111, girls = 105)



The Impact:

- ▶ Students appeared in Class X School leaving (Madhyamik) Examination = 23
 - Passed = 22, Highest number = 472 (67.4%)
- ▶ Quality education that attracts students from far villages attending the sessions without a single dropout
- ▶ Helping village students and ICOD inmates to mix well with each other



Maya Academy (Music school for the girls and boys at ICOD)

The Program:

- ▶ Under the patronage of Bangeeya Sangeet Parishad, a State Govt. Unit
- ▶ Inmates nurture their skill on dance, singing, playing harmonium, tabla
- ▶ Weekly session with qualified music and dance teachers

The Impact:

- ▶ Dance and music helps our boys and girls to build a formative character
- ▶ Govt. certificate acts as a great incentive to them
- ▶ Learning through enjoyment helps them to participate in various outside events with high enthusiasm

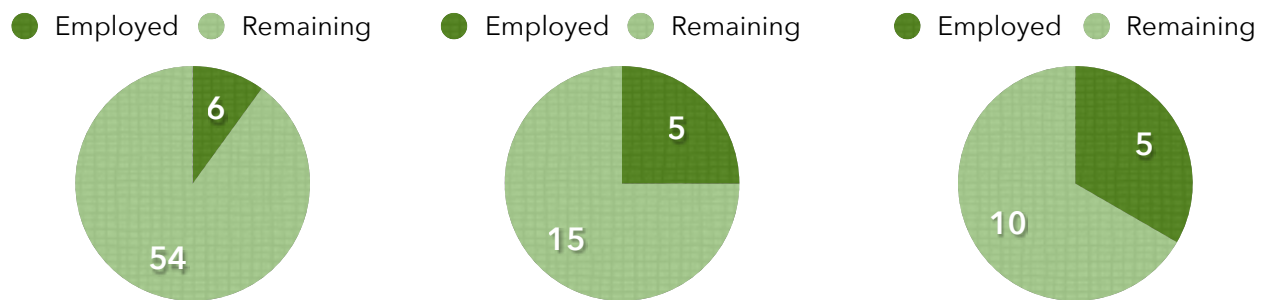


Vocational Training (Needle stitching works - Tailoring, Zori and Siphon Embroidery)

The Program:

- ▶ Started 9 years ago as an engaging activities for the physically, mentally challenged inmates
- ▶ Tailoring unit was started 5 years ago primarily for the physically challenged inmates. Later it had been opened for outside girls in the villages.

- ▶ Zori and siphon embroidery unit is targeted for the mentally challenged inmates.
- ▶ The units operates under an external professional who supervises the training program thrice in a week
- ▶ Bag manufacturing unit has been started in the current year under a lady specialist with 12 girls



Mentally Sick Women - Physically Challenged Girls - Physically Challenged Boys

The Impact

- ▶ Tailoring program is quite successful
 - All the in-house need of clothing is met by the unit.
 - 25 outside girls were trained in the current year and many of them have opened their own shop, others are engaged in service.
- ▶ Every month one saree is completed with the embroidery work and is sold in the open market at Rs. 4,000 to 5,000
- ▶ Inmates receive a monthly stipend on their bank accounts

Support for Higher Education

One of our girl, Momtaz Khatun has stepped in University of Calcutta, College Street campus to pursue her post graduation study in Bengali. ICOD is taking the whole care of her staying in a reputed Ladies Hostel in Kolkata and is fully supportive to see herself as a teacher serving the community.

Like a success can create many other successes, this has created a strong impact to other inmates who are also aspire to establish themselves as independent citizen of the country.

Right to Good Health

Fuel your body and mind

The right to the highest attainable standard of health is a human right recognized in international human rights law, as noted by UN and WHO in their report, saying it is “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.” We consider our health to be our most basic and essential asset to live life in dignity.

At ICOD, we take up right to health for all our members is an inclusive right to stay healthy in a healthy environment. With adequate nutritious food and essentials one can remain healthy inside when outside environment also offers a healthy surrounding that is full of ecological balance and bio-diversity. Our focus on right to good health has an all-round coverage, including the environment where we live.

ICOD Programs on Right to Good Health

Healthy inside : Food and nutrition

Healthy Outside : Bio diversity and ecological balance

Primary healthcare : In-house medical facility (Healing Touch)

Healthcare on the wheel : Ambulance service

Hospitalization

We believe one needs to stay on a disciplined diet and live in an atmosphere that is free from pollution to stay healthy for years. Our healthy inside and healthy outside programs are designed to prevent illness and bad health to the extent possible.

Food and nutrition - One kitchen for all

ICOD provides simple but healthy meals to all the inmates from one common kitchen for all the homes.

A part of the regular crops, vegetables, spices come from the ICOD farmland, which are produced following organic farming procedures.



Bio diversity and ecological balance

Entire land was originally pure paddy field, but we have taken reforestation programs over the years to transform it into a semi-forested area with hundreds of species of trees and a free land for birds, mammals, butterflies, reptiles etc. In its current form the entire area can be declared as a Reserve by the government for its richness in bio-diversity. Total protection of environment is secured with interdiction to cut trees, plants, flowers or kill any kind of life. The diversity of birds, for example, is followed closely and is really astonishing; many rare or never-seen species are observed every new season.



Some examples of plant and animal kingdom at ICOD -

A. Orchard: 150 fruit trees (18 kinds) were planted some 9 years ago, essentially for children's consumption (and also for birds, bats and monkeys!)

B. Vegetables Farming: Seasonal vegetables are planted throughout the year in X bigha marked for farming. Vegetables like cabbages, cauliflower, carrot, tomato, ladies finger, peas, beans, pumpkin, eggplants, various spices are produced, which are solely used for ICOD consumption in kitchen.



C. Coconut trees: Hundred coconut trees were planted four years ago through Govt. support. Typically at the end of four years, one tree can yield hundred coconuts per year, which would result into a good earning for ICOD. Unhappily, we have observed thirty of them were of poor quality and has been replanted this year.

D. Banana plants: Variety of banana plants are there in the specific field including the red ones from Kerala.

E. Flowers: Lawns are decorated well with variety of flowers throughout the year. Bulbs are reused.

F. Animal Kingdom: No animals are eaten at ICOD and stock-farming is the rule. The land is a sanctuary for the animal inhabitants some of them are regulated for animal husbandry, some others are just be there as God's creature.





Healing Touch (Primary healthcare unit)

The Program:

- ▶ Much needed primary healthcare unit at the premise opened in April 2014
- ▶ Staffed with an MBBS doctor and two specialised nurse for taking care of ICOD inmates and local poor
- ▶ Funded by an Andhra Pradesh NGO, Healing Touch

The Impact:

- ▶ Earlier arrangement of paramedic support to inmates are now better handled by institutional support
- ▶ Some of the girls and boys are now put in paramedics care giving program
- ▶ Local poor gets needed treatment at a minimal rate of Rs. 5
- ▶ Death certificate is being issued to the deceased at the premise without hassle



Physiotherapy Unit

The Program:

- ▶ Physically challenged inmates those are spastic, post-polio, crippled, paralysed, post-traumatic etc. are treated under a trained physiotherapist
- ▶ Open for eight hours a day for seven days a week

The Impact:

- Thirteen inmates are undergoing physical and mental exercises
- There is immense scope of improvement if we can have more professional and dynamic support

Healthcare on the wheel (Ambulance under MPLAD scheme)

With close to two hundred inmates, it is normal that we have to take them frequently to Kolkata or Howrah for critical care. An ambulance service in this regard is very important. Moreover, the availability of a well-equipped ambulance could have helped the paramedic support that our brother Gaston Dayanand had provided for forty years or more to the people in distress living in districts of West Bengal.

The good news is, our appeal to Sri Jogen Chowdhury, Rajya Sabha M.P. who is also an eminent artist of this time, is granted for the service of ICOD. We are thankful to Sri Jogen Chowdhury for his kindness to ICOD.

Hospitalisation

This is unavoidable when we have so many inmates and many of them are suffering from prolonged illness. ICOD have seen 25 deaths since the beginning. When we have a good number of old people, hospitalisation is quite a normal phenomenon for many. Issue arises when dying people don't want to be admitted in hospitals but want to take their last breath surrounded by close associates at ICOD premise.

Right to Happy Living

We hear about consumerism and materialism created a negative impact on life over the last five decades or more. Compared with their grandparents, in general today's young adults have grown up with much more affluent, slightly less happiness and much greater risk of depression. In fact, the World Health Organisation predicts that by 2020, depression will be the second leading cause of mortality in the world, impacting nearly one-third of all adults.

Through several studies and even through our everyday experience, we are well aware of growing unhappiness that is affecting almost all sections of people in our society. The concern over materialistic development has even compelled certain theorists to rethink on the general opinion of using Gross Development of Product (GDP) as an index of progression. There is an alternate view of taking a balanced approach of socioeconomic development of a country and its people that reflects in their Gross National Happiness (GNH).

We at ICOD understand, it might be impossible to eradicate the forces causing an increase in depression and unhappiness, but it is our right not to surrender in front of those pressures.

People here may be disconnected from their families and communities, but they build a strong social fabric of togetherness filled with love and compassion which is the source of happy living. We believe it is one of our fundamental right to live and let live happily.

ICOD Programs on Right to Happy Living
Festivals and Outings
Sports and Entertainment
Celebration (Marriage, Jamay Shasti, Annaprashon)

Source of Happy Living from the House of Prayer of Divine Mercy

The House of Prayer manifests ICOD's philosophy of integrating the major religions in a single structure to express the unanimity of all faiths on the Divine Mercy. It is neither a Temple, nor a Mosque, nor a Church. It is a House of Prayer for people of any religious belief.

- ▶ The octagonal structure symbolises eight major creeds (Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Parsee, Adibassi) present in India.
- ▶ The walls in an octagonal shape converges on a circle at the top. An octagon can be seen as an imperfect circle also symbolises mankind that tries to converge in God.
- ▶ Architectural style, outside structure, interior design in the form of paintings, figures, statements is an outcome of multi-faith synthesis that shows unity in diversity.



Our daily prayer by the inmates brings out our respect to the Divine Mercy, the mankind, the nature and helps to stay focused on life following the path of harmony, peace, tolerance and love.

Festivals and Outings

ICOD stands out for its equality and respect to every religions. It is a house of all religions and we honour practising religious custom and rituals as per their own faith. Celebration of all religious festivals like various Pujas, Eid, Christmas, Good Friday becomes major event with participation of all inmates irrespective of their religious origin. Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti are also celebrated with great enthusiasm by the children and seniors. Any of these programs start with the inter religious prayer at the House of Prayer.



Apart from the periodic festivals, especially in winter, young boys, girls and seniors, even if many of them are physically and/or mentally challenged go for days outing or picnic in the seashores, hill stations or important places to visit. Sometimes the trips are meant for having pure fun, sometimes they are also linked with educational purpose (example - visit to science city).



Throughout the year, visitors in groups used to come to spend a day at ICOD with the inmates and take away the spirit of humanity that helps them to reinstate the values in

life. Our inmates also get an opportunity to meet many distinguished visitors and interact with them and learn from their experience.

Sports and Entertainment

Children spend their leisure time on the playground on various sports. Annual sports happen in a winter day along with the brickfields children, which is a mega event for all the children.

At ICOD several days are observed like birthday celebration of Rabindra Nath Tagore, our Brother Gaston Dayanand, children's day, occasional visits of guests from India and abroad. Children make those days memorable through their music and dance performance.



Celebrating Marriage, Jamai Shasthi, Annaprashon

Orphan has the right to get married and celebrate the occasion at least like a lower middle class family in India. Apart from some exceptional girls on higher studies, we can expect most of our orphan/semi-orphan school going girls get married soon after completion of their studies (of course, always after 18 years). We expect the same even for the lightly handicapped girls as well. Grooms are selected carefully to ensure the girls would be accepted well in the new family. Dowry is a strictly no, but we try to make happy our sweet girls in bride's



trousseau. Our secretary specifically takes care of everything of the event in her own hand as mother and the marriages take place following the rituals of specific religions. So far 14 marriages happened including the one in the current year, and it is our great pride that all our girls are quite happy in their own family. ICOD remains as a maternal house for them and they

return with their spouse and children just like any other girls in the society.

Jamai Shasthi is a social ritual that is celebrated as a special event welcoming son-in-laws with our girls and children. The day is a big event with all the married girls along with their families having fun together, sharing their lives, stories,

recollecting old memories etc. Every year this return is a memorable event, ended with a note of meeting again next time sooner.



For the babies ICOD is their maternal uncle's house and social ritual demands the annaprashon or first rice they will have it here. ICOD is again a normal house



to observe the ritual with an exception of Dadu feeds the babies and blesses them in their way forward.

Right to Self Reliance

Never bend your spine to
others

The poor people’s voices tell us that poverty is more than low income - it is also about vulnerability, exclusion and isolation, unaccountability, powerlessness, and exposure to violence. A country where a large segment of people suffers from joblessness or decreasing earning to live their life with dignity, right to self reliance is more important. Even if some people do not own a piece of land or they have assets from their ancestors they should hold a sense of “can do” attitude to rewrite their future.

Empirical evidence and operational experience show that social development by putting “people first” in this context, promotes better growth, better projects and better quality of life. As the people at ICOD have past imprints of various adversity it is important to infuse confidence on their own ability and help them to contribute to various income generating activities.

ICOD Programs on Right to Self Reliance
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery
Handicrafts

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery

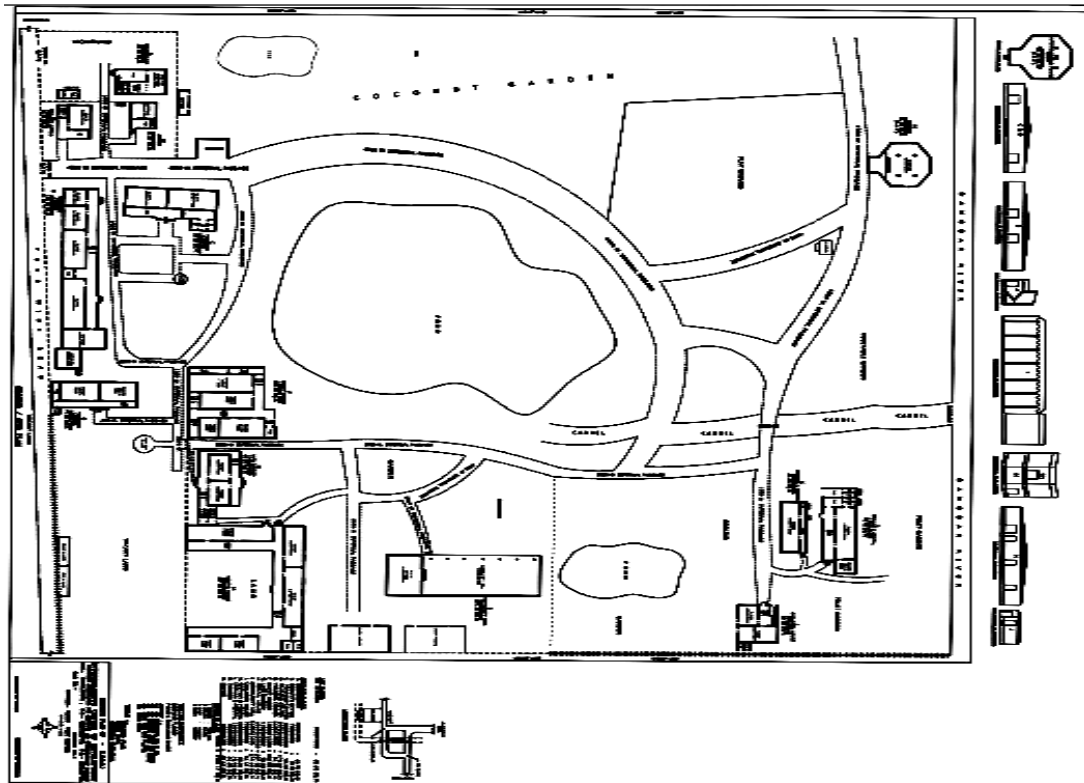
Bio-diversity and ecological balance is ICOD’s pride and the same level of harmony, tolerance, peace and love amongst human are also reciprocated towards the nature. We learn all these great virtue from the nature.

The Program:

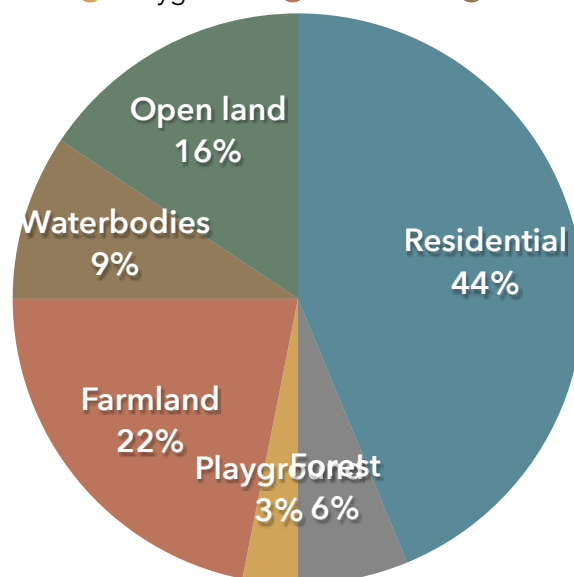
- ▶ As a natural extension to various projects involving agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery, various crops, vegetables, fruits, egg, fish are consumed as food for the inmates.
- ▶ Sometimes excess amount of fish from our three ponds is sold to the market and that is one important source of income.
- ▶ The same happens with coconut and various cultures like soya seed, sunflower, cotton and vegetables.
- ▶ Animals are not used for food but sold in the market occasionally.

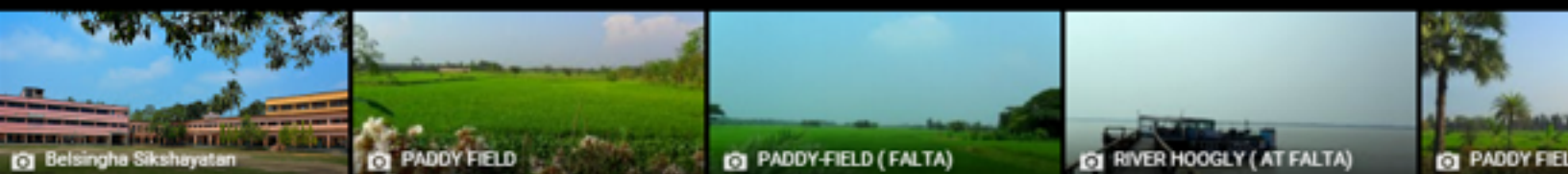
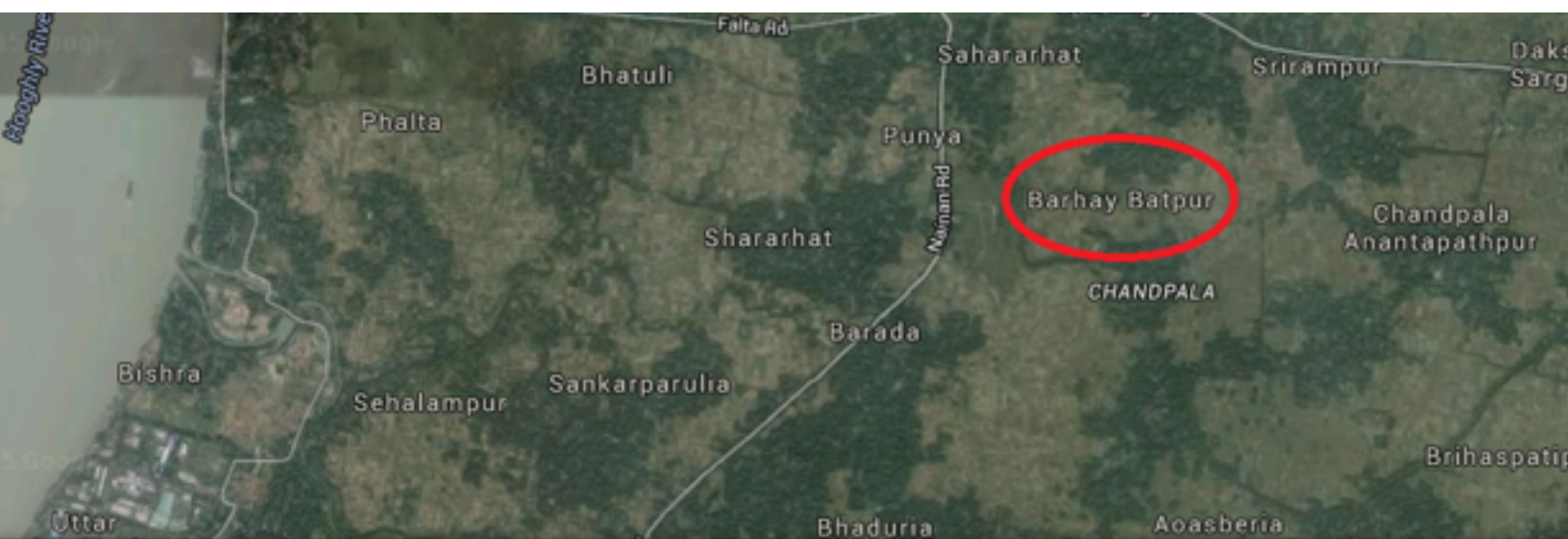
The Impact:

- ▶ A sizeable portion of the demand of food and other household operations are met from the agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery projects.
- ▶ Given the area of land and natural resources available, there is still a great opportunity of income generating projects are lying under-utilised.



● Residential ● Forest ● Playground ● Farmland ● Waterbodies ● Open land





ICOD Nava Jeeban

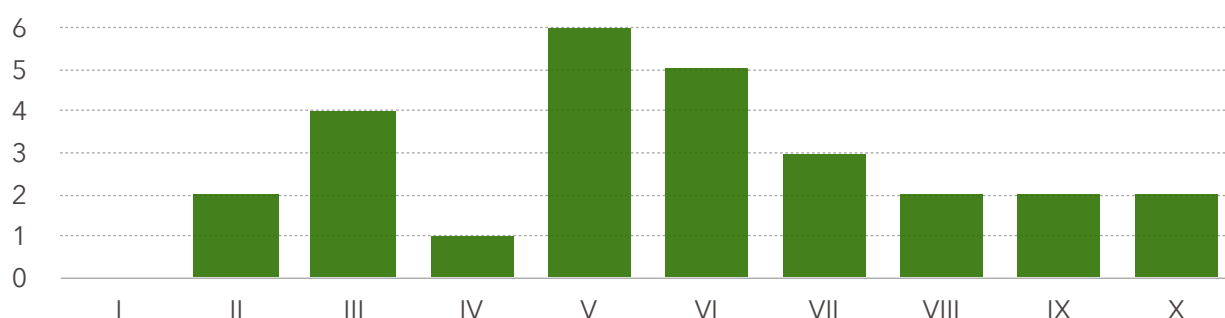
Village - Barhay Batpur, P.O. Saharar Hat, P.S. Falta,
Dist. 24, Pargana (South)

ICOD Nava Jeeban is a sub centre of Inter-religious Centre Of Development (ICOD) and is an integral part of ICOD family and maintain same Identity and mission of ICOD.

The sub centre is built on a 5 bigha land at Barhay Batpur, near Sahrar Hat, Falta in South 24 Paragana district with the focus of proving home to the destitute orphan or semi orphan boys and helping them to carry on their education following the Right to Education theme at ICOD.

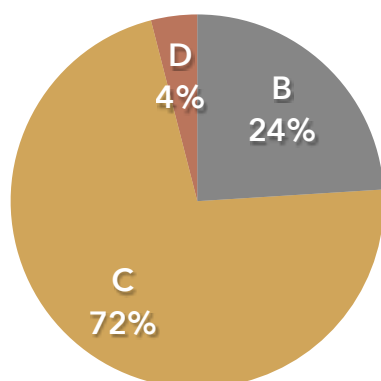
Beneficiaries & Education:

- ▶ Twenty Seven (27) boys found their home living at ICOD Nava Jeeban and all the boys are attending the normal Govt. school within the locality



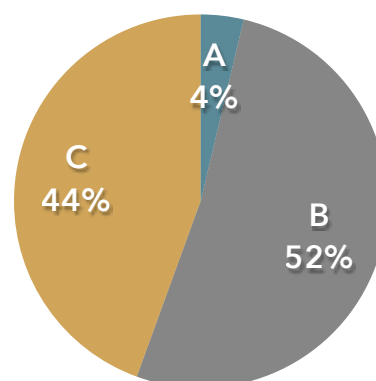
- ▶ All the boys are developing their personal life skills, social skills and their self esteem through proper care and training
- ▶ Considering the fact of their internal family circumstances and disturbances ruling over their mind, the boys are able to set their focus on education under a holistic care giving program at the centre. The school performance of the boys are satisfactory, which is also reflected at the successive improvement in last two years report

● A ● B ● C ● D ● Null



Year 2013-14

● A ● B ● C ● D ● Null



Year 2014-15

- ▶ All the boys are under proper food and nutrition for their desired physical growth and development
- ▶ One of the children with special need (deaf and dumb) is also able to cope up normal education with other children. He avails special training as well in sign language through one special school.

Social Activity:

- ▶ Apart from the education the children also participates in social activities like re-forestation programme around our neighbouring villages which was highly appreciated by the local Govt. authority.
- ▶ Boys take part in planting flower plants throughout the year for decorating our garden which gives lot of life to our member and attracts many visitors.

Leisure activity:

- ▶ Boys spend their leisure time primarily on the playground. During the year the boys take part in various sports such as football, cricket etc. which help them to develop their physical and mental health.

Medical support:

- ▶ The centre organized four medical camps during the year 2014-2015 and all the boys were checked vividly and treatment continued as per suggestion of the doctors. Apart from these medical camps when any of the boys has fallen sick he was taken to the Govt. Hospital.
- ▶ As a community service the centre took initiative for making awareness camps on cancer for the neighbouring villages four time during the year. The centre also has taken initiative to make heart surgery for nine poor people with support from Rotary International 1999 and also initiative to provide human hormone injection for a vulnerable person with the support from Hope Kolkata foundation.





Project for Primary Education for Adibassis brickfield children

Collaboration with Amalendu Smriti
Niketan (ASN)

Village - Chhayani Guzrat, P.O. Rupasgori, P.S. Bagnan,
Dist. Howrah

Overview of the operational area:

Every year the poor families mostly tribal from Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh migrate for work in the brick kilns of Howrah District. These labourers migrate in semi-bonded conditions due to acute shortage of sustainable livelihood options in their native places. Money lenders and contractors further compound the socio-economic condition of these labourers because of exploitative practices. Middlemen or labour contractors emerged as a set of exploiters. Their job is simple: They coax the poor people and farmers of these poorest areas of the country in to migrating for work to other states where the rich industrialists, brick-kiln owners or road contractors savour the cheap but skilled labour. These labourers do not qualify as migrants under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen's. The labour contractors have a very strong nexus with the brick kiln owners. Advances are given with the condition that the labourers fulfil their obligation with the contractor by going to the predetermined destinations where their labour is harnessed. The conditions under which these people live are far from satisfactory. Makeshift huts constructed in the kilns are so small that one has to crawl to enter these. Needless to say, basic sanitation is absent. The worst affected are the children, for whom there is neither any amusement nor any from of recreation. They too help their parents in making bricks. Children come along with the family. They are bonus to the contractors and brick kiln owners as : a) the children are engaged in work and not paid or partly paid and b) the children help their parents to meet the daily targets. As a result those children loose out on education. For 7-8 months of the year they remain in the kilns, of course without any facility for primary education. When they go back after the brick kiln season, another academic year has gone by. Considering the above aspects, ICOD with the help of ASN tries to make a small intervention that called ASHAR AALO in 12 brick kilns of Shyampur I & II, Bagnan II blocks of Howrah district.

Objectives of the Project:

1. Providing bridge courses to the children living / working in brick kilns and children from the affected sending villages.
2. Mainstreaming in education to all children affected by seasonal migration.

3. Providing shelter and remedial education to ensure continuation of education up to class VIII. & health support to child and labour.
4. Collecting scientific data on seasonal migration so as to help effective planning towards rehabilitation of the affected children.

5. Genesis of the Project:

- The education centre or a non-formal school will provide education to 300 children for 7-8 months. All teachers will take care of all students and their



mothers also. The class will be conducted 4 hours per day. Five days in a week. The teaching methodology will give the stress on value formation and functional educational that just literacy. It will follow and accept the Government model and syllabus and preparation using local materials.

- The teachers will ensure the classes are made attractive and good future for the children. Although there are some primary school in this area but they are not able to send their children due to language problem and their staying short time in the brick field. So schools are also not able to take of their children.

6. Project Vision:

To provide basic literacy and value education to the children of brick field (2-10 years) through non-formal living method. So that they can remain safe and mould in their character to be good citizen for our future India and in future they can have good responsibility for their family.

7. Project Goal:

Open 10 non-formal education centre or school in 10 village (brick field in Shyampur Block 1 & 2 and Bagnan Block- I to provide basic literacy education and value to the children in the brick field.

8. Management of Brickfield School:

- ▶ Overall project is managed by ICOD with the help of A.S.N. and also teachers and local community. Our representatives visit the centre to conduct evaluation and accept the advice of managing committee.



- ▶ Selection of teacher - To provide effective education to the children trained teachers are selected with graduation as the minimum qualification. They receive training from ICOD of mainly on the system, implementation and service delivery of education.
- ▶ Mode of teaching - Language of instruction is Hindi as the children are primarily from the Tribal community..

Important Statistics:

Number of brickfield schools = 10	Number of brickfields covered = 18 out of 250
Number of children in schools = 450 (approx.)	Student-Teacher ratio = 30:1
Session - October to June	Classes - 5 days * 3.5 Hrs (in a week)
Subjects - Hindi, English, Mathematics	Operational since 2005

ICOD Men, Women, Children

আমি উপানন্দ মণ্ডল। আমার বয়স ৮০ বছর। বাড়ি বেলারী। আমার তিন ছেলে, দুই মেয়ে আছে। ছেলেরা প্রত্যেকেই যে যার কাজ করে। মেয়েদের বিয়ে হয়ে গেছে। বড় ছেলে তার মাকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে গেছে। কিন্তু আর কোন ছেলে আমাকে খেতে, পড়তে দেয় না। আমার বয়স যখন ৭২ বছর, তখন আমি ভালো করে চলতেও পারি না, কাজও করতে পারি না। পাড়ার ভাইপোরা আমাকে খাওয়াত। তারাই বা আমাকে কতদিন দেখবে। হঠাৎ একদিন ঐ ভাইপোরাই আমাকে আইকডে গ্যাস্ট্রোবাবুর কাছে দিয়ে যায়। সেই থেকে আমি খুব ভালোই আছি। এখন আইকডে খাওয়া-পড়ার কোন অসুবিধা নেই।



**Upananda
Mandal**

I am 80 years old, Upananda Mandal. My home was at Belari. I have three sons and two daughters. Each of the guys live independently. The girls have got married as well. The eldest son allowed his mother to stay with him. But no other son wanted me to stay with them. When I was 72 years, I could not work further, could not even walk on my own. Nephews in the neighbourhood fed me for few days. But how long they could serve me. One day those nephew took me to Gaston Dada at ICOD. Since then I'm staying here happily. Now there is no problem in my life.

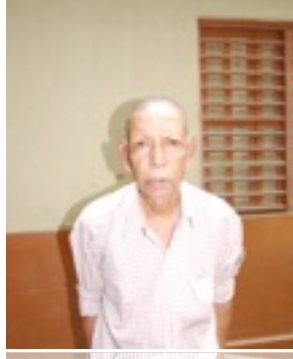
আমি কানাইলাল পাল, বয়স ৭৫ বছর। আমি আমার স্ত্রী, দুই মেয়ে, এক ছেলেকে নিয়ে ডোমজুড়ে থাকতাম। বড়মেয়েটি লেখাপড়ায় ভালোই ছিল, কিন্তু ২০ বছর বয়সে হঠাৎ টিউমারে মারা যায়। সেই আঘাতে ছেলে ও ছোটমেয়ে মানসিক ভাবে ভেঙে পড়ায় ডোমজুড়ে আর থাকতে পারলাম না। একদিন কামরুদ্দিনদার সহায়তায় আইকডে গ্যাস্ট্রোদার কাছে এলাম। এখানে আসার কয়েক বছর পরে আমার স্ত্রী ও পুত্র মারা যায়। মেয়েটি আইকডের মানসিক বিভাগে কাজলদির তত্ত্বাবধানে থাকে। আমি সেনভবনে গানবাজনা নিয়ে দিন কাটায়। আমার স্ত্রীর স্মৃতির উদ্দেশ্যে সেনভবনের পাশে এককামরার ঘর করেছি। সেনভবনের মার্কুসদা ও অন্যদের নিয়ে এই বয়সে ভালোই আছি।



Kanai Pal

I am Kanailal Pal, 75 years of age. I lived at Domjur with my wife, two daughters and one son. The elder daughter was a very good student but suddenly she died in tumour at the age of 20. With that shock my son and younger daughter were mentally depressed and we had to leave Domjur. One day we came to Gastoda-da at ICOD with the help of Kamruddin-da. Few years later, my wife and son died here. My another daughter is under the supervision of Kajala-di in the mental unit at ICOD. I spend the day at Sen Bhawan playing music. In the memory of my wife I have made a one-room house beside Sen Bhawan. I am fine here at this age with Markos-da and others.

আমি বিকাশ সর্দার। এখন আমার বয়স ৭৩ বছর। আমার বাড়ি ছিল সইদপুরে। বাড়ি সইদপুরে হলেও ছোটবেলার বেশিরভাগ সময় মামারবাড়ি মাদারবেড়িয়ায় থাকতাম। বিবাহ করিনি। তারপর মামারবাড়িও বেশিদিন থাকতে পারিনি। ঘুরতে ঘুরতে প্রথমে বেলাড়ী মিশনে যাই। সেখানে কিছুদিন থাকার পর গ্যাষ্ট্রোদার সঙ্গে আইকডে চলে এলাম। তখন আইকডে কেউ নেই। একা একা থাকা রান্না করা এবং বিষধর সাপেদের সঙ্গে লড়াই করে থাকা শুরু হল। এইভাবে কয়েক বছর থাকার পর এখানে কিছু লোক এল। ধীরে ধীরে লোক বাড়ল। এখন আমি সেন ভবনে বড়ো ও বাচ্চাদের নিয়ে ভালোই আছি।



**Bikash
Sardar**

I am Bikash Sardar, now 73 years old. I lived in Saidapur. Though my home was at Saidapur but I spent most of my childhood days at Madarberiya in my maternal uncle's house. I did not marry. I could not stay long there. After searching here and there at first I came to Belari Mission. After spending a few days I came to ICOD with Gaston Dada. Then no one was at ICOD. I stayed alone, cooking my food and started to live fighting with the poisonous snakes. After a few years, some people came here. The number of people increased slowly. Now, I'm fine at Sen Bhawan with the aged persons and children.

আমি কৌশিক রায়, বয়স ১২ বছর। আমার বাবা বিজয় রায়, গ্রাম - বড়বেড়িয়া, পোঃ - দেরিয়া, থানা - কুলপি, জেলা - দঃ ২৪ পরগণার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা। আমি স্মৃতিশক্তি দূর্বল, শারীরিক ও মানসিক অক্ষমতা নিয়ে আমার জন্ম। আমার বাবা অন্যত্র বিয়ে করায়, সংসার ও তার দায়ভার বহন করতে মা পরের বাড়িতে খেটে কোন রকমে সংসার চালায়। এই রকম সহায় সম্বলহীন অবস্থায় আমার মায়ের পক্ষে আমার চিকিৎসার ও পড়াশোনার খরচ চালানো যাচ্ছিল না। তাই আমার মা আমাকে আইকডে ২৭/১০/২০১৪ তারিখে দিয়ে যায়। আর আমি গুরুদেবের ইচ্ছেয় ভালোই আছি।



**Kaushik
Roy**

I am Kaushik Roy, 12 years old. My father is Bijay Roy. Our residence was at village - Baraberiya, PO - Deriya, PS - Kulpi, District - South 24-Parganas. My memory power is weak, as I was born with physical and mental disabilities. My father married elsewhere. My mother had to take the responsibility to carry out the means of livelihood doing the job of homemade. In such poor condition my mother was not able to pay my medical treatment and schooling. So my mother handed over me to the ICOD on 27 October 2014. I'm fine with the blessings of Gurudev.

আমার নাম রাজু, বয়স ১৩। আমাকে ৪-৫ বছর আগে রাস্তা থেকে খুব খারাপ অবস্থায় হোপ ফাউন্ডেশন উদ্ধার করে হোপের হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করে। তারপরে সেখান থেকে চাইল্ডলাইনে এবং তারও পরে ক্যালকাটা সামারিটান্সে দেওয়া হয়। আমি ভাল করে কথা বলতে পারি না, আর কাউকে কিছু বোঝাতে পারি না। দু'বছর আগে আমি আইকডে আসি। এখন অনেকটা ভাল আছি।



Raju

My name is Raju, 13 years old. Four to five years ago, Hope Foundation found me in the road in a very bad condition and admitted me in the Hope Foundation Hospital. Then I have gone to ChildLine and afterwards to Calcutta Samaritans. I can not speak well, I cannot make anyone understand my language. Two years ago, I came to ICOD. I'm a lot better now.

আমি সুরজ মাজি। আমার বাড়ি বিহার ছিল। সেখানে অনেক খারাপ অবস্থায় ছিলাম। আমার বাবা আমাকে বেলাড়ীতে নিয়ে এসেছিল। এসে আমি মামার বাড়িতে ছিলাম। আমি যখন ছোট, ৩ বছর বয়স, তখন আমার মা মারা গিয়েছিল। আমি যখন মামার বাড়ি ছিলাম, তখন আমার মামা অনেক মারত। আমার দিদা আমাকে মারা দেখতে না পেলে আইকডে দিয়ে যায়। আইকডে আসার আগে আমি কিছু জানতামনি। এখন আমার অনেক বন্ধু হয়েছে। আমার আইকড খুব ভাল লাগে।



Suraj Maji

I am Suraj Maji. My home was at Bihar. Our condition was very much wretched there. My father took me at Belari. I was at my maternal uncle's house. When I was young, 3 years old, my mother had died. When I was at my maternal uncle's house, my uncle used to beat myself. My grandmother could not tolerate that, she took me in the ICOD. I didn't know anything before coming. Now I have a lot of friends. I love ICOD.

আমি রাখীপূর্ণিমা অধিকারী, বয়স ৬ বছর। আমার বাবা কে জানি না। আমার জন্ম রাস্তায়। আমার মা আমাকে ও দাদাকে নিয়ে রাস্তায় থাকত। তারপর একদিন হোপ সংস্থা আমাদেরকে ওদের ওখানে নিয়ে যায়। ওখানে ভালোই ছিলাম। কিন্তু একদিন আমার মা মামার বাড়ীর গল্প বলায় ওখানের আন্টি মামার বাড়িতে নিয়ে যায়। দাদু দিদা নেই। মামা তখন বাড়িতে ছিল না। মামীমা আমাদের দেখে অস্বীকার করে এবং চেনে না বলে ওনাদের জানায়। হতাশ হয়ে সবাই ফিরে এলাম। আমার যখন ৩ বছর বয়স, তখন হোপ সংস্থা থেকে আমাকে ও মা কে আইকডে নিয়ে আসে। এখানে মা মানসিক বিভাগে থাকে। আর আমি অন্য মেয়েদের সাথে একসঙ্গে থাকি। আমি কেজি আপারে পড়ছি। গোপা মা ও দাদুর ভালোবাসায় খুব ভালোই কাটছে।



**Rakhi
Purnima
Adhikari**

I am Rakhipurnima Adhikari, 6 years old. I do not know who is my father. I was born on the streets. I lived on the streets with my mother and brother. One day Hope Foundation took us to their agency. We were fine there. One day my mother told the story of my maternal uncle's house to them; an aunty from the institute took us to my maternal uncle's house. Maternal uncle was not there at that time. Maternal aunt denied our relationship and told that she didn't know us. We all were disappointed and returned. When I was 3 years old, then my mother and I came to ICOD from Hope Foundation. My mother stays here in the mental unit. I stay with the other girls. I am studying in upper KG. Here we are quite well under loving care of Gopa-ma and Grandpa.

আমার নাম প্রতিমা মাইতি। বয়স ৭ বছর। আমার বাবা কে কখনো দেখিনি। রাস্তা থেকে আমার মা কে তুলে নিয়ে গিয়ে SHIS সংস্থা ওদের ওখানে আশ্রয় দেয়। ওখানেই আমার জন্ম। যখন আমার ৯ মাস বয়স তখন SHIS সংস্থা আমাকে ও মা কে আইকডে নিয়ে আসে।



Pratima Maity

My name is Pratima Maiti, 7 years old. I have never seen my father. I heard few men took my mother from the street and left her at SHIS agency. That's where I was born. When I was 9 months old they had taken us to ICOD.

এত লড়াই করতে করতে আমার মা মানসিক ভাবে অসুস্থ হয়ে গেছে। এখানে মানসিক বিভাগে থাকে, আর আমি মানসিক বিভাগের বড়দির কাছে থাকি। উনিও আমার মা। আমার নিজের মা এতটাই মানসিক ভাবে অসুস্থ যে আমাকে অনেক বার মেরে ফেলতে চেয়েছে। মার খেয়ে আমার রক্ত বেরিয়েছে। মারের চোটে আমার মৃত্যুও হতে পারত। গোপামা, কাজলমা ও অর্চনাদির আদরে আমি অনেক ভাল আছি। এখন কেজি আপার ক্লাসে পড়ছি।

Due to too much struggle she became a mental patient. She lives here in the mental unit. I live here with the head of mental unit. She is also my mother. My own mother is so mentally ill that she wanted to kill me several times, and I bled badly. In those attacks I could even die. With the love of Gopa-ma, Kajal-ma and Archana-di, I am now well. I read in Upper KG class.

আমার নাম রিংকি খাতুন। বয়স ৯ বছর। আমার মা হিন্দু, বাবা মুসলমান। আমি ও আমার দাদা জন্মাবার পর মা বাবাকে ছেড়ে চলে আসে, আর সবাইকে বলে বাবা মারা গেছে। মা দাদাকে একজনের কাছে দিয়ে দেয়। তখন আমাকে আমার দিদা আইকডে রেখে যায়। আমার মা আবার বিয়ে করে। কিছুদিন পর আবার তাকে ছেড়ে দিদার কাছে যায়। একদিন দিদা মাকে নিয়ে আইকডে আসে। আমি মা বলে ডাকায়, দিদা বলে সে আমার মা নয়, মাসী। মাও আমার সাথে খুব খারাপ ব্যবহার করল। আমি অবাক হয়ে গেলাম। আমি অনেক কাঁদলাম। পরে শুনেছি মা আবার বিয়ে করেছে একজনকে যার নিজের বৌ ও ছেলেমেয়ে আছে। মায়ের নাকি আবার বাচ্চা হয়েছে। তবে এখন আমি নিজেকে বাবা-মা পরিত্যক্ত মেয়ে বলেই মনে করি। গোপামা ও দাদুর ভালবাসায় বাবা-মা না থাকার দুঃখ ভুলতে পেরেছি।



**Rinki
Khatun**

My name is Rinki Khatun, 9 years old. My mother was a Hindu, and father was Muslim. After the birth of me and my brother, my mother left my father and told everybody that my father died. My mom gave my brother to someone. My Grandma left me to ICOD. My mother married again. After a few days she again left him and went to Grandma's house. One day Grandma came to ICOD with my mother. When I called my mom my grandma said that she is not my mom, but my aunt. My mom misbehaved with me. I was surprised. I cried a lot. Later I heard that my mother again married someone who had an wife and children. My mother gave birth of other babies again. Now I think myself abandoned of parents. With the love of Gopa-ma and Grandpa I have managed to forget the sorrow of not having parents.

আমি সোমা দাস। বয়স ১৭ বছর। আমার যখন ৬ বছর বয়স, তখন আমার মা মারা যায়। তার কিছুদিন পর বাবাও মারা যায়। আমার নিজের বলতে কেউ ছিল না। কারণ আমার মাকে একজন কুড়িয়ে এনে মানুষ করেছিল, তিনি আগেই মারা যান। আমাকে আমার পালিতা দিদার বোনঝি নিজের কাছে রাখে। কিন্তু তিনি আমাকে পড়াশোনা করাতেন না, শুধু সংসারের কাজ করাতেন। মাঠে গোবর ও জ্বালানি কাঠ কুড়োতাম। অনেক মারধোর করত।



Soma Das

I am Soma Das, 17 years old. When I was 6-years old, my mother died. Shortly after, my father also died. No one was there for me. Someone adopted my mother who died earlier. My step Grandma's niece took me to her place. She did not allow me to study. I had to work hard. I had to collect cow dung and firewoods from field. She used to beat me quite often.

খুব মন খারাপ থাকত। কেমন একটা পাথরের মত হয়ে গেছিলাম। আমার ১২ বছর বয়সে মাস্তুপিসির সাহায্যে আইকডে এসে পৌঁছোয়। গোপামা, দাদু ও অন্যদের পেয়ে ভাল আছি। এখন আমি ক্লাস ফাইভে পড়ি।

I was always depressed. My heart turned into stone. When I was 12 years old I reached ICOD with the help of Mantu-pisi. I am fine here with Gopa-ma, Grandpa and others. I read in Class V now.

আমার নাম বিনু সাঁধুখা। বয়স ৪০ এর কাছাকাছি। তেল নুন মশলা বিক্রি করা আমার গরীব বাবা আমার যখন ১৬/১৭ বছর বয়স আমার বিয়ে দিয়ে দেয় হোটলে কাজ করা চামন সাঁধুখা নামে একটি ছেলের সাথে। নতুন জায়গায় স্বামীর সাথে থাকতে থাকতে আমি বুঝতে পারলাম রোজ নেশা করে বাড়ি ফিরে স্ত্রীকে পেটানোতে তার আনন্দ। ততদিনে তিন ছেলে মা আমি। দিনের পর দিন স্বামীর অত্যাচার সহ্য করেও তিন ছেলেকে নিয়ে আশায় থাকতাম। কিন্তু দিনে দিনে অত্যাচার সহ্যের সীমা পার হতে থাকে। ছেলেরাও সেই অত্যাচার থেকে বাদ পড়েনি। একদিন আমার সহ্যের বাঁধ ভেঙে গেল। দেড় বছরের ছোট ছেলে ফেলে রেখেই বাড়ি ছাড়লাম। কোথায় যাব কিছু জানিনা। শুধু ভেবেছিলাম ঐ মাতালের কাছ থেকে পালাতে হবে। এক স্টেশন থেকে ট্রেনে উঠে পড়ি। ট্রেনে তিনদিন তিনরাত কাটিয়ে একরাশ আতঙ্ক ও ভয় নিয়ে নেমে পড়ি এক অজানা স্টেশনে। দিনের বেলা ভিক্ষা করে পেট ভরানো আর রাতে প্লাটফর্মে ঘুমনো এভাবেই কাটছিল। একদিন এক মহিলার সহযোগিতায় এক হোমে আশ্রয় পাই। সেখানকার ভাষা লেখাপড়া না জানায় কিছুই বুঝতে পারতাম না। সেখানে কয়েকবছর কাটানোর পর তাদের সহায়তায় এই আইকডে আশ্রয় পাই। এখানে দাদু ও গোপামার ভালবাসায় ভাল আছি, সুখে আছি।



Binu
Sandhukhan

My name is Binu Sadhukhan. My age is around 40. My father whose trade was selling oil, salt, spices was poor. When I was 16/17 years old, my father arranged my marriage with Chaman Sadhukhan, a hotel boy. At the time of living in a new place, very soon I realized that my husband enjoyed beating me in an intoxicated state in every night after returning home. I was already a mother of three sons by then. Day after day, I tolerated the torture of my husband; I still stayed with my sons with some hope. But day by day torture was going out of my tolerance. Children were also not excluded from the violence. One day I crossed my tolerance limit. I left my one and half years old son and left home. I did not know where to go. I have to escape from the drunk man. I got up in a train from a station. With a flurry of panic and fear I spent three days and nights on the train, and got off at an unknown station. I started continuing my livelihood begging during the day and sleeping on the platform at night. That was my daily routine. One day, a woman helped me to get a shelter at a home. I could not understand the language of them as I was illiterate. After spending a few years there, I got shelter at ICOD. Here Gopa-ma and Grandpa love me and I'm happy.

আমি মনোনিলা দেশমুখ, বয়স ১০০ বছর। আমার ছয় মেয়ে, ছেলে নেই। মেয়েদের সবার বিয়ে হয়ে গেছে। আমার স্বামী মারা যাওয়ার পর আমাকে মেয়েরা সবাই দেখছিল। কিন্তু তাদেরও বউ ছেলে নাতি নাতনি হওয়ায় আমি সংসারে একটা বোঝা হয়ে গেলাম।



Manolina Deshmukh

I am Manonila Deshmukh, 100 years old. I have six daughters and no son. All my daughters were married. After my husband's death, my daughters were looking after me. When grandsons, granddaughter-in-laws, granddaughters, grandson-in-laws became the head of the family, I became a burden to them.

আমাকে মেয়ে ও নাতনিরা মিলে আইকডে দিয়ে যায়।
এখানে আমি নিজের কাজ নিজে করতে পারি। ভাল আছি।

My daughters and granddaughters left me at
ICOD. Here I can do my work by myself. I am
fine now.

আমার নাম অদিতি ধারা, ৪৫ বছর বয়স।
বাবা একসময় সামাজিক রীতি মেনে পেশায়
রাজমিস্ত্রি শেখর ধারার সাথে ধান্দালি
(বাপের বাড়ি) থেকে বজবজ (শ্বশুর বাড়ি)
পাঠিয়ে দেয়। শ্বশুর শাস্তি স্বামীকে নিয়ে
ছিল সুখের সংসার। এর সঙ্গে বাড়তি সুখ
এনে দেয় মেয়ে মধুমিতা। কিন্তু হঠাৎ করে
আমার মধ্যে একটা পরিবর্তন আসল, লোকে
বলতে লাগল আমার মাথা খারাপ হয়ে গেছে।
এইসময় যাদের সাহায্য আমার বেশি প্রয়োজন
ছিল, সেই শ্বশুরবাড়ির লোকজন আমাকে ও
মেয়েকে বাপের বাড়ি পাঠিয়ে দিল। গরীব বাবা ও
দাদা আমার চিকিৎসা শুরু করে। সুস্থ হয়ে
আবার শ্বশুরবাড়িতে আসি। আবার শুরু হয় নিয়মিত
অশান্তি। শাস্তি আমার গয়না নিয়ে নেয়, তাতে মানসিক
চাপ বেড়ে যায়। বাবার দেওয়া বাকি একমাত্র সম্বল কানের
ছলের চিন্তায় অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়ি। লোকে বলতে থাকে বন্ধ
উন্মাদ। আমার ওপর চলতে থাকে বিভিন্ন ধরনের অত্যাচার,
খেতে না দেওয়া, মারধর, স্বামীর উদাসীনতা, কটুক্তি।
এতেও শান্ত হয়নি তারা, আমাকে পাঠিয়ে দেয় বাপের
বাড়ি। মেয়েকে আসতে দেয়নি। আমি একেবারে একা, সহায়
সম্বলহীন, অবলম্বনহীন হয়ে পড়ি। বাবা মা দাদা আমার
চিকিৎসার জন্য অনেক চেষ্টা করে, তারপর কোন উপায় না
দেখে আমাকে রেখে আসে বেলাড়ীতে। তারপর কোলিয়া,
বারুইপুর বিভিন্ন জায়গায় ঘোরাঘুরির পর কাজলদির
সান্নিধ্যে আসি এবং আইকড পরিবারে মাদার টেরেসা ভবনে
আশ্রয় পায়। মাঝে মাঝে মেয়ের জন্য মন খারাপ হলেও দাছ
ও গোপামার ভালোবাসায় এখানে ভাল আছি।



Aditi
Dhara

My name is Aditi Dhara, 45 years
old. As per social custom my father
sent me to Budge Budge (In-laws
house) from Dhandali (parents'
house) with brick mason Shekhar
Dhara. I had a happy family with
father-in-law, mother-in-law and
husband. Modhumita, my daughter
brought an extra happiness. But
suddenly a change came in me;
people began to say that I became
mad. At this time the members of in-
laws family sent me and my daughter
to parent's house. The poor father and
brother started my treatment. After
recovery I came back to in-laws'
house. The turmoil began again on a
regular basis. Mother-in-law took my jewellery,
and stress level started to rise. The only thing
left was an earring, a gift from my father. I
became sick thinking about that earring. People
started to tell me complete mad. I had to suffer
from various types of tortures like no food,
physical assault, ignorance of husband, foul
languages etc. Still they were not satisfied.
They sent me to my parent's house. They did
not allow my daughter with me. I was absolutely
alone, helpless, became support-less. My
father, mother and brother tried their level best
for my treatment. But finding no other way they
left me at Belari. Then wandering at Kolia,
Baruipur etc. I came in contact with Kajal-di and
got the shelter at Mother Teresa Bhawan and
become a part of ICOD. Sometimes I feel sad
about my daughter. But with the love of Gopa-
ma and Grandpa I am happy here.

আমি শম্পা দে, বয়স ২০ বছর। আমি জন্ম
থেকেই একজন শারীরিক ও মানসিক
প্রতিবন্ধী। সর্বদা শুয়ে থাকি। এমন কি
নিজের কাজটুকুও করতে পারি না। সেই
কারণে আমি বাড়ির একটা বোঝা হয়ে
থাকায় আমার মা আমাকে উলুবেড়িয়া
স্টেশনে শুইয়ে দিয়ে বিস্কুট আনতে যাচ্ছি
বলে একেবারে চলে যায়।



Sampa De

I am Sampa De, 20 years old. I
was born with physical and mental
disabilities. I always lie down. I
could not even do my work myself.
So, I was a burden to my family.
One day my mother told me that
she was going to buy biscuit and
left me at Uluberia station. She did
not come.

আর আসে না। ক্লাবের কিছু ছেলে আমার পরিচয় জিজ্ঞাসা করায় আমি কিছু বলতে না পারায় আমাকে আইকডে দিয়ে যায়। আজ থেকে দশ বছর আগে। মাসি আমায় ফিজিও করায়। মানসিক ওষুধও খায়। এখন কথা বলতে পারি। অনেক ভাল আছি। শুয়ে শুয়ে কিছুটা হাঁটতেও পারি

When some of the club members asked my identity, I could not tell. They left me at ICOD 10 years before. I got physiotherapy from my aunt, got mental medicines also. Now I can talk. I'm much better. I can walk a little, lying on the floor.

আমি সন্ধ্যা মণ্ডল। বয়স ১৫ বছর। আমি একজন অসহায় প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়ে। ক্লাস V পর্যন্ত পড়েছি। আমার মা ও বাবা দুজনেই মারা গেছে। শুনেছি আমার ঠাকুমা মায়ের ওপর খুব অত্যাচার করত, এমনকি মারধোর করত। বাবার সঙ্গে কথা বলতে দিত না। একসময় মা মানসিক রোগী হয়ে আইকডে থাকতে শুরু করে চিকিৎসার জন্য। কিছুদিন পরে বাড়ি ফিরে যায় আর তারপর মারা যায়। পরে বাবা মারা যায়, ঠাকুমা মারা যায়। আমার পিসি মায়ের সব গয়না, বাসন, টাকা নিয়ে আমাকে গোরু, ছাগল চরাতে দিত, গোবর কুড়াতে দিত, খুব মারধোর করত। আমার দাদা ছিল। পিসির অত্যাচার সহ্য করতে না পেরে মানসিক রোগী হয়ে রাস্তায় রাস্তায় ঘুরে বেড়াত। একদিন পিসি আমাকে আইকডে দিয়ে যায়। এখানে আমার মানসিক রোগের চিকিৎসা চলছে। সবার ভালবাসায় অনেক ভাল আছি। মাঝে মাঝে আমার দাদার জন্য খুব মন খারাপ হয়।



**Sandhya
Mandal**

I am Sandhya Mondal, 15 years old. I am a handicapped helpless girl. I have studied till Class V. My mother and father both died. I have heard that my grand mother used to torture my mother, and even beat her. She didn't allow my mother to talk to my father. My mother began to stay at ICOD as a mental patient for treatment. After a few days, she returned home and died. After that father died, grandmother died. My aunt captured all the jewellery, kitchenware and rupees of my mother and she forced me to handle cattle and to gather cow-dung. She used to beat me. I had a brother. Unable to bear the torture my brother became mental patient and used to wander on the streets. One day my aunt dropped me at ICOD. Here I am getting the treatment of my mental disease. I am here a lot better with love of all. Sometimes I feel very upset for my brother.

আমি ২৭ বছরের ইন্দ্রাণী মণ্ডল। আমরা তিন বোন, বাবা মাকে নিয়ে ছিল আমাদের সংসার। বাবা (উৎপল মণ্ডল) ছোটবেলায় বলতেন, বড় হয়ে আমি উকিল হব। বাবার মতো হাইকোর্টের উকিল। সুখেই ছিলাম। কিন্তু হঠাৎ করে বুঝতে পারি বাবার মধ্যে একটা পরিবর্তন আসছে। বাবা বাড়ি ফিরে রোজ মায়ের (রমা মণ্ডল) সাথে ঝগড়া করতেন। একদিন অসহায় ভাবে আমরা দেখলাম মাকে বাবা মেন্টাল হসপিটালে পাঠিয়ে দিলেন।



**Indrani
Mandal**

I am Indrani Mondal, 27 years old. We had a family with three sisters, father and mother. My father, Utpal Mondal, used to say in my childhood that I would be an advocate of High Court like him. We were happy. Suddenly we realized that our father was changing. Our father started quarrelling everyday with our Mom (Rama Mondal) after returning home. One day we helplessly saw that my father sent my mother to mental hospital.

আর আমাদের বাড়ির বাইরে বের করে দিলেন। আমরা তিন বোন অসহায় ভাবে রাস্তায় ঘুরে বেড়ানোর সময় মামা নিজের কাছে নিয়ে যায়। এরমধ্যে মাও হসপিটাল থেকে ফিরে আসেন। পরে আমরা জানতে পারি বাবা অন্য এক জায়গায় থাকেন। মামা মামীর সংসারে মা সমস্ত কাজ করলেও আমাদের চারজনের দায়িত্ব নেওয়া ওদের পক্ষে অসুবিধার হয়। ওখান থেকে বেরিয়ে আসি। এরমধ্যে জানতে পারি বাবাও মারা গেছেন। সহায় সম্বলহীন অসহায় অবস্থায় মাসীর বাড়িতে পৌঁছোয়। কিন্তু সেখানেও আমাদের কপালে জুটেছিল লাঞ্ছনা, অত্যাচার। অবশেষে মাসীরই সহায়তায় হোপ ফাউন্ডেশনে দীর্ণ, জীর্ণ, রোগাক্রান্ত অবস্থায় আমরা চারজনে যায়। হোপের চিকিৎসায় ভাল হয়ে আমি আইকডে আসি দাঙ্গর কাছে।

He threw us out of the house. We three sisters stranded in the street helplessly and seeing that our maternal uncle took us with him. In the meantime, our mother returned from the hospital. Later we came to know that our father started living elsewhere. Though my mother did everything in the house of maternal uncle, they did not want to take the responsibility of four of us. We came out of the house. In the meantime we came to know that father had also died. We reached our aunt's house in wretched and helpless condition. We were insulted and tortured there. Finally with the help of my aunt we reached Hope Foundation in poor, wretched, sick condition. Getting the treatment at Hope Foundation we became well. Then we came to Grandpa's home at ICOD.

আমি রুনু ঘোষ। আমার বয়স এখন ১৬ বছর। যখন আমি ৮ বছরের আর আমার ভাই ৫ বছরের আমার মা বাবার সাথে রাগারাগি করে সুইসাইড করে। বাবা আবার বিয়ে করে। কিছুদিন পরে বাবা আমাকে ও ভাইকে বিক্রি করে দেবে ঠিক করে। সেই সময় আমাদের এক প্রতিবেশী দিদাকে খবর দেয়। দিদা খবর পেয়ে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমাদের বাড়িতে এসে বাবার সাথে অনেক বচসা করে আমাদের নিয়ে দিদার কাছে চলে আসে। তারপর দিদা আমাদেরকে আইকডে দিয়ে যায়। এখানে আমার বাবা আমাদের বাড়িতে নিয়ে যাওয়ার জন্যে এসেছিল। কিন্তু গোপামা দিদাকে ছাড়া কাউকে চেনে না বলায় বাবা ফিরে যায়। আমি এখন খুব ভাল আছি। ক্লাস X এ পড়ি।



**Runu
Ghosh**

I am Runu Ghosh. I am now 16 years old. When I was 8 years old and my brother was 5 years old, my mother committed suicide in anger on my father. Father married again. A few days later my father decided that he would sell my brother and myself. A neighbour informed this to our Grandma. She came to our house, fought with my father and took us with her. Later Grandma left us at ICOD. My father came here to take us with him. But Gopa-ma told that she only knew Grandma, no one else and my father returned. I'm very good now. I read in class X.

আমি ১৪ বছরের সাবিনা খাতুন। যখন আমার ৬ বছর বয়স তখন আমার বাবা মারা যায়। আমরা চার বোন এক ভাই। আমাদের সবাইকে মা ঘরে রেখে কোথায় যেত জানিনা। আমার দুই দিদি নিজেরা দেখে বিয়ে করে নেয়। আর আমার মা আমাদের দুই বোনকে আইকডে রেখে যায়। আমরা যদি কখনো বাড়ি যাই, দিদার কাছে গিয়েই থাকি। আইকডে ভাল আছি, ক্লাস VII এ পড়ছি।



**Sabina
Khatun**

I am Sabina Khatun, 14 years old. My father died when I was at the age of six. We have four sisters and one brother. We didn't know where my mother used to go leaving ourselves in the room. My two sisters got married themselves. My mother left me and my sister at ICOD. If we ever go home, we go to Grandma's house. We are happy at ICOD. I read in Class VII now.

আমি আদিমনি বেসরা। ১৮ বছর বয়স। আমি জন্মে থেকেই আমার বাবাকে জানিনা। মায়ের কাছে মানুষ। তবে মায়ের মুখে শুনেছি, বাবা আবার সংসার করেছে। মায়ের সাথে বাবার কোন যোগাযোগ নেই। আমি খুব কষ্টেই বড় হয়েছি। আমি যখন খুব ছোট তখন মা আমার এক প্রতিবেশীর সাথে আমাকে নিয়ে মেদিনীপুর থেকে হাওড়ার গড়চুমুকে ইঁটভাটার কাজ করতে নিয়ে আসে। মা আমাকে পিঠে বেঁধে ভাটায় কাজ করতো। তখন আমার ৪ বছর বয়স। সেইসময় আইকডের গোপামা ও দাদু ইঁটভাটায় বাচ্চাদের পড়াশোনার জন্য স্কুল খুলেছিল। সেখানে পড়াশোনা করতাম। দুর্গাপূজা থেকে গ্রীষ্মকাল পর্যন্ত স্কুল চলতো। বর্ষায় কাজ হত না তাই আমরা বাড়ি চলে যেতাম। সেখানে মা অনেক কষ্টে সংসার চালাত। পরে গোপামা আমাকে আইকডে নিয়ে আসে এবং আমি এখানকার বাংলা স্কুলে পঞ্চম শ্রেণীতে ভর্তি হই। ভাল বাংলা বুঝতে পারতাম না বলে খুব অসুবিধা হত। তবে আমি নিজের চেষ্টায় ও এখানকার মামা মাসীদের সহায়তায় বাংলা ভাষা ভালভাবে শিখে গেলাম। এখন ক্লাস VIII এ পড়ছি, স্কুলে ভাল রেজাল্টও করি। গোপামা ও দাদুর ভালবাসায় খুব ভাল আছি।



**Adimoni
Besra**

I am Adimani Besra, 18 years old. I do not know my father since my birth. I was brought up by my mother. I heard from my mother that father married another woman again. My mother has no contact with my father. I grew up in a miserable state. When I was very young, my mother took me from Midnapore to a brickfield at Garchumuk, Howrah with the help of a neighbour. Taking me at her back, my mother used to work in the brickfield. Then I was 4 years old. At that time, Gopa-ma and Grandpa opened a school at brickfield for kids' education. I used to study there. The school used to open from Durga puja to summer. In the rainy season brickfield remained close, so we used to go home in that period. There my mom had to struggle to operate her family. Gopa-ma took me to ICOD. Here I was admitted in class V in a Bengali medium school. But I was not so comfortable in Bengali. By my effort and help of maternal uncles and aunts I started to understand Bengali. Now I read in class VIII, and score well in the school. With the love of Grandpa and Gopa-ma I'm fine here.

আমার নাম শান্তনু কর। বয়স ১১ বছর। আমার জন্ম থেকে বাবাকে দেখিনি। মা আমাকে ছোটবেলায় একটা ঘরের মধ্যে রেখে লোকেদের বাড়িতে কাজ করতে যেত। যখন আমি বসতে শিখলাম তখন আমাকে দড়ি দিয়ে বেঁধে, খাবার দিয়ে কাজে চলে যেত এবং সন্ধ্যাবেলায় ফিরত। সারাদিন ঘরের মধ্যে থাকায় কারো সঙ্গে দেখা হত না, কথা হত না। একা একা বসে শুধু কাঁদতাম। দড়িতে বাঁধা অবস্থায় একজায়গায় বসে থাকতে থাকতে আমার শিরদাঁড়া ছমড়ে শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী হয়ে গেলাম। যখন আমার বয়স তিন বছর তখন গোপামা আইকডে নিয়ে আসে। এখানে এসে সবার ভালোবাসা পেলাম। বিশেষ করে গীতাদির ভালোবাসায় ও সহযোগিতায় আমি দেরিতে হলেও কথা বলতে শিখলাম। ফিজিওমাসীর সহায়তায় হাঁটতে শিখলাম। এখন তৃতীয় শ্রেণিতে পড়ছি। ভালো আছি।



**Shantanu
Kar**

My name is Shantanu Kar, 11 years old. I have not seen my father since birth. Mother used to go to people's house to do the job of made servant locking me inside a room. When I learned to sit my mom used to tie me with the rope give me some food and go for work and used to return in the evening. As I used to stay locked in the room throughout the day I was unable to meet or speak with anyone. I used to cry alone for the whole day. As I had to sit in a particular place, my spine bent and I became physically handicapped. When I was three years old then Gopa-ma brings me at ICOD. Here everyone loves me. Especially due to Gita-di's love and support, though late, I learned to talk. I learned to walk with the assistance of physiotherapy teacher. Now I read in class III. I'm fine.

আমি পরিতোষ মণ্ডল। আমার বয়স এখন ১০ বছর। আমি নন্দিনী মণ্ডল। আমার বয়স ৭ বছর। আমাদের বাবা মারা গেছেন। আর মা ভিক্ষা করে আমাদের কোনওরকমে খাওয়াত। একটি ঘর ছিল, তাও ভাঙাচোরা। ক্লাবের ছেলেরা সেটাকে সারিয়ে দেয়, তাতেই আমরা তিনজন থাকতাম। কিন্তু মা অত্যধিক চিন্তা করতে থাকায় একসময় মানসিক ভারসাম্য হারিয়ে ফেলে। তারপর একদিন আমাদের নিয়ে রাস্তায় বেরিয়ে পড়ে। কয়েকদিন রাস্তায় ঘোরার পর খাবার না পেয়ে শরীর কাহিল হয়ে পরে। ঘুরতে ঘুরতে একসময় বাগান্ডায় এসে পড়ি, তখন অনেক রাত্রি। আইকডের নিতাই মামা আমাদের দেখে, গ্রাম প্রধানের সহায়তায় আইকডে নিয়ে আসে। এখানে গোপা মা ও দাদুর ভালোবাসায় যেন নতুন জীবন ফিরে পেলাম। মায়ের মানসিক রোগের চিকিৎসা চলছে, এখন অনেক ভাল আছে। আমি, পরিতোষ এখন ক্লাস ফোরে পড়ছি। আর আমি, নন্দিনী কেজি ওয়ান-এ পড়ি। আইকডে থাকা, খাওয়া, পড়ার কোন অভাব নেই, খুব ভালো আছি।



**Paritosh
and
Nandini
Mandal**

I am Paritosh Mondal, 10 years old. I am Nandini Mondal. 7 years old. Our father has died. Our mother was begging to feed us. We had a house, too dilapidated. Boys of Club had repaired it, and we three lived there. But our mother thought too much and lost her mental balance. Then one day she came out on the streets with us. After roaming for few days in the street we became physically weak due to lack of food. At the time of walking around we reached Baganda one night. There Nitai Mama of ICOD met us, with the help of the village chief, Nitai mama brought us to ICOD. With the love of Mother Gopa and Grandfather we got a new life here. Our mother is undergoing treatment for mental disorders, she is now much better. I'm Paritosh, now in the Class IV. And I am Nandini, read in Class Kg I. There is no scarcity of room, food and dress in the ICOD. We are very good here.

আমি মমতাজ খাতুন। অন্য সবার মত আমার ছেলেবেলা খুব আনন্দে কাটেনি, কেটেছে হার না মানা এক সংগ্রামের মধ্যে দিয়ে। জন্মের কয়েক বছর পরেই আমার ভাগ্য আমাকে এক প্রতিবন্ধকতা যুক্ত নৈরাশ্যের অন্ধকারে নিক্ষেপ করে। বুঝতে পারি আমি সাধারণের থেকে আলাদা, প্রতিবন্ধী। কিন্তু মনের

জোরে সেই
তমসচ্ছন্ন জীবন
থেকে বেরিয়ে এসে
আমি প্রজ্জ্বলিত
আলোর সন্ধানে ছুটে
চলি। বাড়ির আর্থিক
অবস্থা খারাপ
থাকায় এবং পিতার
ভালোবাসার
প্রবঞ্চনায়, বেঁচে
থাকার তাগিদে
আশ্রয় নিই
আইকডে। শারীরিক
ভাবে সুস্থ হয়ে ওঠার
পাশাপাশি শুরু হয়
ছাত্রজীবন।
আইকডে দাপ্তর
আশীর্বাদ এবং
সুবেশী মাসি ও
গোপা মায়ের
সহায়তায় ১ম, ২য়,
৩য়, ৪র্থ শ্রেণীতে

পড়তে পড়তে কখন যে ধীরে ধীরে প্রাথমিক - উচ্চ - মহা
বিদ্যালয়ের গণ্ডি পেরিয়ে অবশেষে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পাঠ
শুরু করেছি তা আজও আমাকে বিস্ময়ভূত করে।
আইকডের দাদা নির্মাল্যদার আর্থিক সহায়তায় এখন আমি
MA Part 1 এ বঙ্গীয় সাহিত্য ভাষা বিজ্ঞান নিয়ে
পড়াশোনা করছি। ছোটবেলা থেকেই আমার স্বপ্ন দক্ষ
শিক্ষিকা হওয়া। তাই আশা রাখছি সকল গুরুজনদের
আশীর্বাদে ভবিষ্যতে আমি যেন সত্যি সত্যিই এক দক্ষ
শিক্ষিকা হয়ে উঠতে পারি। আর আমার মত আরও
দশজনকে এই আদর্শে ও শিক্ষায় যথার্থ মানুষ করে তুলতে
পারি। আইকডের মত এমন একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান থাকায় আজ
আমার জীবনে আমি অনেকটায় সফল হয়ে উঠতে
পেরেছি। আইকডের কাছে আমি চির কৃতজ্ঞ।

Momtaz Khatun

I am Momtaz Khatun. My childhood was not passed with lots of happiness like many others, but it was full of struggle. However, I did not surrender myself. Within few years after my birth, my fortune threw me into a dark ocean of obstacles without much hope. I realised I am not an ordinary girl, I am handicapped.

But my mental strength helped me to come out of the dark shades of life and moving in search of light.

Financial situation of the family was not strong. To make the situation worsen, me, my siblings and mother were cheated by our father. To survive in life, I took a shelter at ICOD. Slowly I started recovering physically and my student life also began. With the blessing of grandpa and support of Gopa

mother, Subesi aunt I started passing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade and thereafter crossed the boundary of primary - high school - college and eventually landed at the University of Calcutta. The entire journey keeps me in surprise. Now I am studying Bengali Literature and Linguistic in MA Part 1 with the financial support of Nirmalya-da of ICOD. My childhood dream was to become a good teacher. Hope with the blessings of my seniors one day I will become an efficient teacher and help at least ten poor persons like me to become real human being. Today I have become somewhat successful in my life as I got an institution like ICOD by my side. I will remain grateful to ICOD all my life.



Views & Voice

ICOD - Annual Report
2014-15

Friends of ICOD

Being attracted by the fragrance of his devotion as well as his pleasant personality, a group of dedicated people gathered around taking an oath to join hands and engage themselves in the activities of ICOD. Consequently a group was formed under the name

“Friends of ICOD”. The group may be formed and deliberately confined itself in the virtual world but the activities of the group for last few years are really



praiseworthy.

“Friends of ICOD” was formed in face book by a group of likeminded people with an aim to gather on a common platform and extend their support to the individuals and the organisation that have engaged themselves in serving socially and economically challenged section of the society. Starting its voyage in the year 2011 with 11 such enthusiasts the group is now growing up day by day

with the inclusion of lots of new members who are really on their toes to jump into any organised effort in healing the distressed lives.

In the month of November 2011, a special function was organised at the compound of ICOD at Belari in presence of almost all the volunteers serving the inmates of ICOD. At the end of the function new garments, fruits, sweets and toys were distributed among 45 in house children. The function was organised under the leadership of Utkal Sikhkhya Samsad – a voluntary organisation working in the field of education. That was the first direct interaction of the “Friends of ICOD” with the inmates of ICOD.

“Friends of ICOD” returned in the month of May 2012 when 21 likeminded people visited ICOD and enjoyed the whole day with the inmates. Obviously the aim of that visit carried a specific purpose. “Friends of ICOD” from its previous experiences believed that the continuation of service for the mankind requires a huge number of volunteers. Many of the social working organisations lack such resources and in the long run the organisation concerned faces a huge problem to carry on their duties in spite of continuous supply of fund. Hence, from the time of its inception “Friends of ICOD” stressed upon generation of man power which is a part of the project Human Resource Development (HRD) undertaken by the group itself. The group also stressed upon developing man power especially from the inmates of ICOD. For such a purpose to be fulfilled “Friends of ICOD” felt the necessity of supplying ICOD the means for building up general awareness among the inmates in connection with self development and also felt to provide them basic educational inputs. Hence, “Friends of ICOD” stepped forward to create a library consisting of books of different categories. Persisting on a given call the group could manage to collect lots of books from its members. Those members, who could not donate books, offered some fund and lots more books were purchased and thus the seed of a quality Library was sown under the name “VIVEKANANDA LIBRARY” at the premises of ICOD.

Since 2011 “Friends of ICOD” was in regular touch with the authorities of ICOD in one hand and on the other it was in persistent effort to chalk out a plan by means of which the lives of the inmates of ICOD may be enriched from every possible direction. “Friends of ICOD” during its journey also noticed that there are a lot of individuals in the society and also a few voluntary organisations who are engaged in a specific area of activities in discrete manner. Hence bridging such like-minded people and organisations was automatically included in the special aims of the group.

To make the planning accomplished they started to establish connecting links with the likeminded people from every sphere of the society and also with the voluntary organisations active in different fields for the betterment of distressed lives. Soon their sincere endeavour yielded positive results. A good number of new friends in form of quality people and active voluntary organisations joined hands to support ICOD authorities.

In the year 2015 “Friends of ICOD” initiated the long awaited project of establishment of Children Parks in the premises of the Ashram. That was in the month of February, when the newly formed forum “Healing Life” and the budding little-magazine for children named “Vuvujela” joined hands and spent a whole day with the inmates. The children of ICOD organised a descent programme of dance and group songs.

Again, in the month of October 2015, on the auspicious day of Mahalaya “Friends of ICOD” came to visit the Ashram and distributed new clothes to 103 members of the inmates. This time four organisations namely “Healing Life” “SARHA”, “Utkal Sikshya Samsad” and “Siddha Sammarg Trust” participated in the programme organised by the children of ICOD.

“Friends of ICOD” originated and confined in the virtual world is not an organisation in true sense but an unique idea which is continually spreading from one mind to the other and awaiting a marvellous snowballing effect in near future. This is the reason why the group strongly believes that ICOD, with all its current projects like running Orphan and physically challenged unit, extending medical help, maintaining mentally challenged women unit, Luis’ education coaching centre, and extending hands for ecological development, is not really alone. The viability ICOD - the divine home may still be dependent on the assistance offered by “The city of Joy Aid” Trust established by the great humanist Dominique Lapierre but “Friends of ICOD” pledges to show the responsibilities to all its intents and purposes to maximum extent and believes that ICOD will remain and flourish further in its dedicated service for the distressed for the years to come.

Partners as “Friends of ICOD”



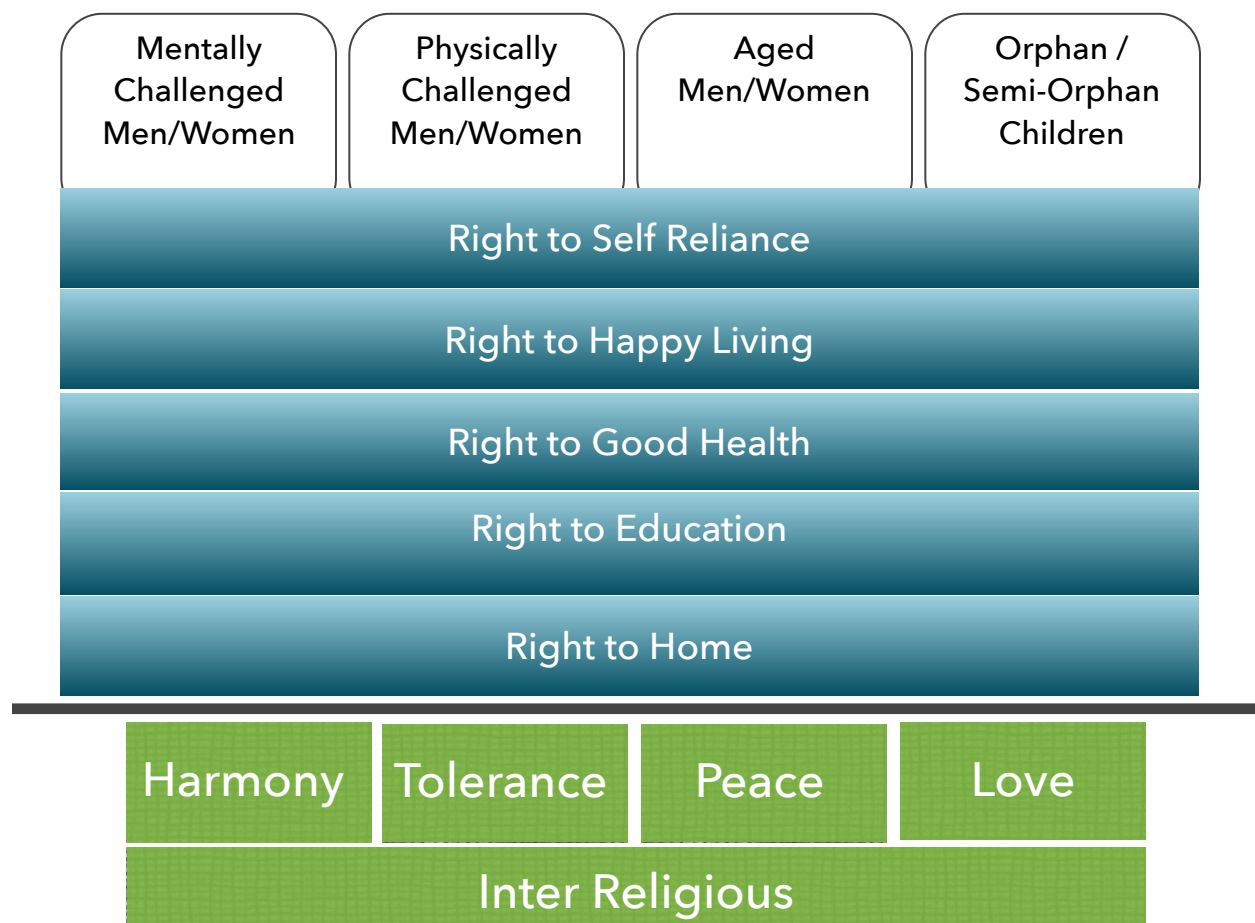
Utkal
Sikshya
Samsad

Siddha
Sammarg
Trust

Look forward to your support

The journey of ICOD along with the destitute and downtrodden is filled with extensive challenges, but at the same time quite satisfactory. All the stories involving our inmates tell us the helplessness around us in this world. However, that is not all. Compassionate people and organisations are also there who have lend their support and inspire those poor people to live their life with courage and hope.

Over the years ICOD has established itself on a strong foundation of inter-religious harmony, tolerance, peace and love under the guidance of great socio-spiritual advisor Brother Gaston Dayanand. ICOD is a human organisation laid on these foundation principles, where these important qualities are common to every individuals living in it.



Our “5 Rights” program are the building blocks over the strong inter-religious foundation to transform lives of destitute who can be mentally challenged men/ women or physically challenged men/women or aged men/women or orphan/ semi-orphan children.

The Way Forward

ICOD has taken various projects under each of these Rights programs with supports from volunteers, donors, well-wishers. These projects are at different maturity levels and are required extensive support from individuals, organisations, governments to reach the desired levels.

We may take a simplistic approach to assess our programs on their maturity to check their current state. Levels can be seen as:

	Nascent	>	Evolving	>	Mature	>	Sustained
	Mentally Challenged	Physically Challenged	Aged	School going Children	Outside ICOD		
Right to Home	Mature	Mature	Mature	Mature	X		
Right to Education	Nascent	Evolving	Mature	Evolving	Evolving		
Right to Good Health	Nascent	Evolving	Mature	Mature	Nascent		
Right to Happy Living	Evolving	Evolving	Mature	Sustained	Nascent		
Right to Self Reliance	Nascent	Evolving	Evolving	Evolving	Nascent		

Below table suggests with all our current projects the programs for different section of people stays at the following levels of maturity.

Needless to say, ICOD looks forward to the supporters especially on the areas where the programs are running at a lower level of maturity. Either the scarcity of fund or unavailability of skilled professionals prevented ICOD to take up right projects necessary for their development.

Support as Volunteers:

ICOD believes there are many “men in the middle” who might be the representative of “HAVE” worlds, but they carry a strong empathy for the people in the “HAVE NOT” world. They are the right people as Volunteer, who can offer enthusiasm, expertise in a field, work skills, life skills or affection and empathy for the people. Only work out the time you can give and how often you would like to volunteer a few hours a day, a few days a week, or just a day or few days every month.

Even someone isn't clear about what you can offer, we urge to make a visit to ICOD and if possible even spend few days with us. We are sure you would be able to work out an option that suit your time and skill.

Support through Fund Raising:

ICOD appeals to the individuals and organisations to sponsor existing or new projects through their donation. When you make a financial contribution, share your invaluable expertise or provide infrastructure and other amenities, you ensure (1) our children and youth take a step towards brighter future, (2) our associates who are physically challenged or mentally retarded take a step towards better living. The donation can be “need-blind” or “need-specific” to any of our 5 Rights program.

Here's how you can donate:

Indian Donors

#1 - Check

payable to “**Inter Religious Centre Of Development**” and send to -

ICOD
Village: Gohalapota, P.O: Madhobpur,
District:Howrah, Postal Code:711315,
West Bengal, India

#2 - Bank Transfer

Bank - Paschim Banga Gramin Bank
Branch - Baganda, Shyampur, Howrah
IFSC - UCBAORRBPBG
A/C # 10200100003425 / Savings

Foreign Donors

#1 - Check

payable to “**Inter Religious Centre Of Development**” and send to -

ICOD
Village: Gohalapota, P.O: Madhobpur,
District:Howrah, Postal Code:711315,
West Bengal, India

#2 - Bank Transfer

Bank - Bank of India
Branch - Dhulasimla, Uluberia, Howrah
IFSC - BKIDOOO4288
A/C # 428810110001103 / Savings
SWIFT - BKIDINBBCOS

Financial Statements

S. S. LOHIA & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Phone : (033) 6541 9730
Fax : (033) 2242 4684
email : sslohiaca@rediffmail.com
sslohiaca@gmail.com
27, Brabourne Road
Narayani Building
7th Floor, Room No. 711
Kolkata - 700 001

Ref. No.

Date **28 SEP 2015**

AUDIT REPORT

We have audited the accounts of **M/S. INTERRELIGIOUS CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENTAL** of Gohalapota, Madhabpur, Shyampur, Howrah – 711 315 (W.B.), Registered under W.B. Society Registration vide Registration No. S/1/L/26861, for the year ending 31st March, 2015 and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certify that according to the audited accounts :-

01. The brought forward foreign contribution at the beginning of the year as on 1st April, 2014 was Rs. 404013.75.
02. Foreign Contribution of worth Rs.1,62,43,552.00 were received by the Association during the year ended 31st March, 2015.
03. The Balance of Un-utilised foreign contribution with the Association at the end of the year as on 31st March, 2015 was Rs. 648540.75.
04. That Depreciation on Fixed Assets were charged.
05. Certified that the Association has maintained the accounts of foreign contribution and records relating thereof in the manner specified in section 13 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 read with sub-rule (i) of Rule 8 of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rule, 1976
06. The information furnished above and in the Balance Sheet and statement of Receipt and Payment is correct as checked by us.

Place: Kolkata.

Dated: 28/09/2015



For **S. S. LOHIA & CO.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No-314154E


(S.S LOHIA)

Partner
Membership No-051739

INTERRELIGIOUS CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT
GOHALAPOTA, MADHABPUR, SHYAMPUR
HOWRAH - 711315 (W.B.)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2015(FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION)

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (₹)
Funds		Fixed Assets	13,459,946.97
General Fund		(As Per Schedule "A ")	
Opening Balance	13,825,595.96	Current Assets	
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,931,714.92	Cash in hand	14,202.25
		Cash at Bank(savings a/c no.428810110001103)	634,338.50
	15,757,310.88	Fixed Deposit with BOI	6,288,125.16
Corpus Fund	5,243,505.00	Interest Accrued	576,034.00
(Opening Balance)			6,864,159.16
Current Liabilities		Tds On Fd Interest	18,300.00
TDS Payble	1,800.00	Security Deposit	11,669.00
	21,002,615.88		21,002,615.88

As per our Annexed Report of even date

For S.S.LOHIA & CO.
Firm Registration Number : 314154E
Chartered Accountants

(Signature)

(S.S.LOHIA)
Partner
Membership No. 051739
Place : Kolkata
Dated:28/09/2015



President

Kajal Maity
President

For Interreligious Centre of Development

Secretary

Namata Ghosh

Secretary
Interreligious Centre of Development
Howrah - 711315

Treasurer

Manomohan
Treasurer

For Interreligious Centre of Development

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2015 (FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION)

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (₹)	INCOME	AMOUNT (₹)
To General Unit Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "B")	2,056,137.50	By Donation Received	16,243,552.00
To Mental Ashalyum Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "C")	3,605,888.50	By Bank Interest (Saving A/c)	53,104.00
To Old Age Home Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "D")	1,106,838.50	By Interest On FDR	576,034.00
To Orphan Unit Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "E")	3,494,225.50		
To Office & Administration Expenses (As Per Schedule - "F")	1,038,550.00		
To Social Welfare Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "G")	496,820.00		
To Vocational Training Centre Expenses (As Per Schedule - "H")	495,422.00		
To Agro Horticulture & Floriculture (As Per Schedule - "I")	212,767.00		
To Animal Husbandry & Pisciculture (As Per Schedule - "J")	178,119.00		
To Sub-Project 24 Parganas (Orphan) (As Per Schedule - "K")	728,478.00		
By Dispensary Running Expenses (Healing Touch) (As Per Schedule - "L")	536,019.00		
By Sub-Project Brick Field (Ashar Alo) (As Per Schedule - "M")	348,622.00		
By Special Programme Expenses (25th December,	39,850.00		
To Depreciation	603,238.08		
To Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,931,714.92		
	16,872,690.00		16,872,690.00

As per our Annexed Report of even date

For S.S.LOHIA & CO.
Firm Registration Number : 314154E
Chartered Accountants

(Signature)

(S.S.LOHIA)
Partner
Membership No. 051739
Place : Kolkata
Dated: 28/09/2015



President

Kajal Maity
President

For Interreligious Centre of Development

Secretary

Namata Ghosh

Secretary
Interreligious Centre of Development
Howrah - 711315

Treasurer

Manomohan
Treasurer

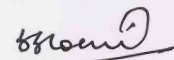
For Interreligious Centre of Development

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2015 (FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION)

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (₹)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT (₹)
To Opening Balance		By Asset Purchase(Addition To Fixed Assets)	1,714,392.00
Cash in hand	96,441.25	By General Unit Running Expenses (As Per Schedule - "B")	2,056,137.50
Cash at Bank(savings a/c no.428810110001103)	307,572.50	By Mental Ashalyum Running Exps. (As Per Schedule - "C")	3,605,888.50
To Donation Received	16,243,552.00	By Old Age Home Running Exps. (As Per Schedule - "D")	1,106,838.50
To Interest On saving A/c	53,104.00	By Orphan Unit Running Exps. (As Per Schedule - "E")	3,494,225.50
		By Office & Administration Exps. (As Per Schedule - "F")	1,038,550.00
		By Social Welfare Running Exps. (As Per Schedule - "G")	496,820.00
		By Vocational Training Centre Exps. (As Per Schedule - "H")	495,422.00
		By Agro Horticulture & Floriculture (As Per Schedule - "I")	212,767.00
		By Animal Husbandry & Pisciculture (As Per Schedule - "J")	178,119.00
		By Sub-Project 24 Parganas (Orphan) (As Per Schedule - "K")	728,478.00
		By Dispensary Running Expenses (Healing Touch) (As Per Schedule - "L")	536,019.00
		By Sub-Project Brick Field (Ashar Alo) (As Per Schedule - "M")	348,622.00
		By Special Programme Expenses (25th December,14) (As Per Schedule - "N")	39,850.00
		By Closing Balance	
		Cash in hand	14,202.25
		Cash at Bank(savings a/c no.428810110001103)	634,338.50
	16,700,669.75		16,700,669.75

As per our Annexed Report of even date

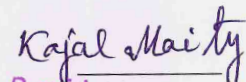
For S.S.LOHIA & CO.
Firm Registration Number : 314154E
Chartered Accountants


(S.S.LOHIA)

Partner
Membership No. 051739
Place : Kolkata
Dated:28/09/2015

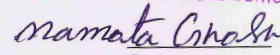


President


President

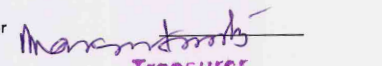
For Interreligious Centre of Development

Secretary


Secretary

Interreligious Centre of Development
Howrah - 711111

Treasurer


Treasurer
For Interreligious Centre of Development

ICOD Credentials

Administrative Information

Name of the organization	Inter-religious Centre Of Development (ICOD)
Postal address	Village - Gohalpota, P.O. - Madhabpur P.S. - Shyampur, District - Howrah, PIN - 711315 West Bengal, India
Location	About 30 KM from Uluberia, Howrah
Office Telephone	+91 33 65411915
Email	icodenquiry@gmail.com
Website	http://icodindia.org
Contact Person	Nirmalya Ghosh
Phone	+91 9830167218

Legal Information

Documents

Society Registration Act XXVI 1961 West Bengal	S/IL/26861 of 2004-2005 (Dated 24 Jan 2005)
Section 12 A of IT Act 1961	DIT (E)/S 181 8E/243/2009-10
Tax Deduction A/C No. (TAN)	CAL103029F, 11/03/2010
Permanent Account No. (PAN)	AAATI662E
Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 (FCRA)	14700216, 22/06/2009
FCRA Return	10 September, 2014
Section 80G (5)IV of IT Act, 1961	DIT (E)/306 8E/243/09-10/1229-1231
Fire & Life Safety Recommendation	WBFES/D.O., Howrah/FP/697/13 HWH / Ins B.Cum E.B/653/23; 10/09/2013

Team ICOD



Left to Right:

Nabin Roy, Palash Dalui, Markus Toppo, Jagannath Bose, Madhusudan Chakraborty,
Smt. Mamata Ghosh, Beauty Das, Tripti Manna, Harubala Kirtan, Kajal Maity, Archana Pal



Our Daily Prayer

Almighty and Merciful God
We are here today to worship you,
To tell you that we love you,
Not only by lips but with our whole heart.

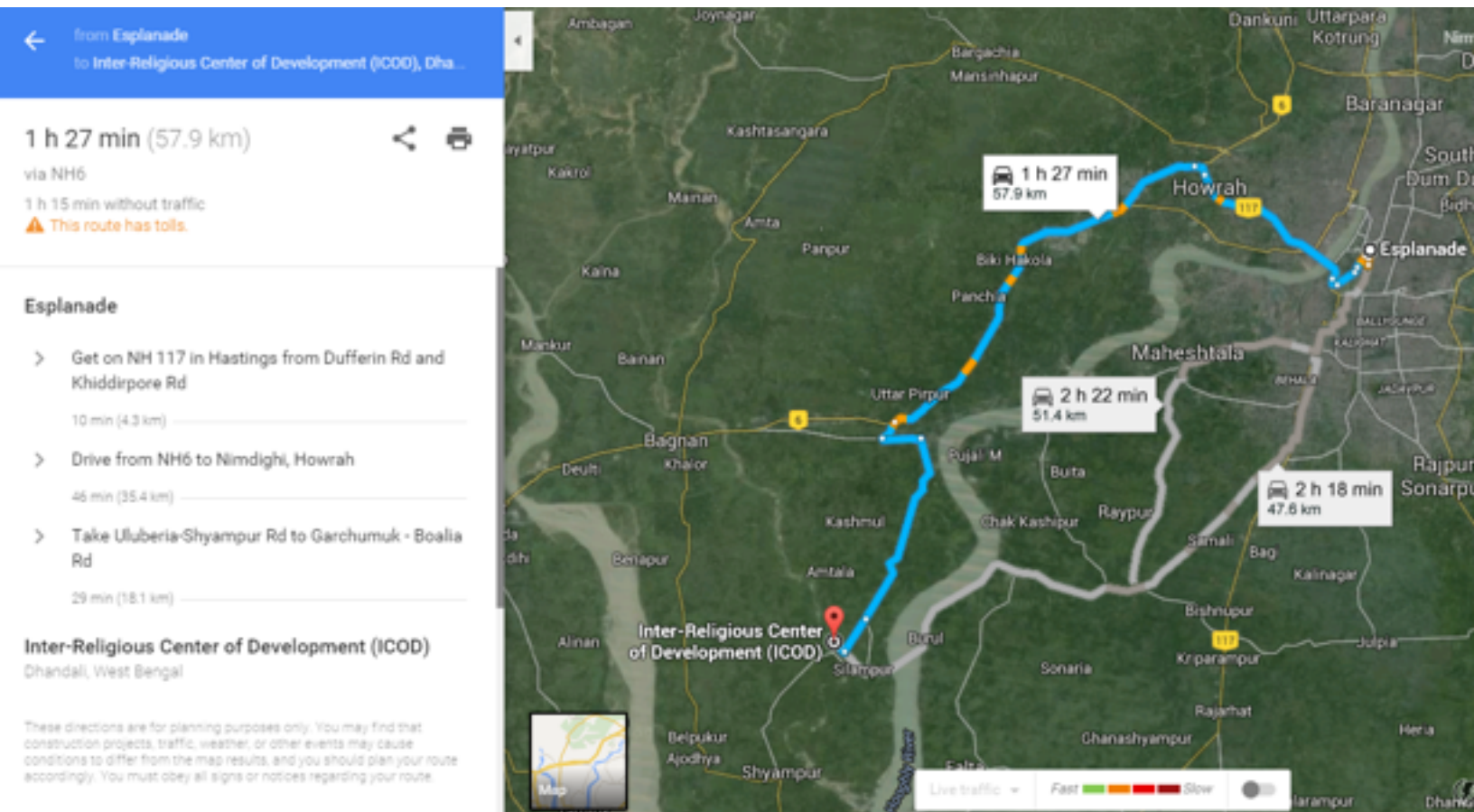
And we want to serve you –
We know that we are not better than the others,
And that we are poor sinners, weak and selfish,
But we want to follow your ways.
Give us your light, so that we can see the way
Give us your love, so that we can share it.
Give us your strength, so that we can carry on our duty.
With courage and good will,
We are here to offer you prayers
And our prayer will be to serve you,
And our puja will be to serve you,
Through the service of our poor brothers and sisters,
Specially the sick, the ones suffering,
Those who feel lonely, those who are without hope,
Help us to become men and women of peace and love,
Bringing happiness wherever we go,
Always ready to offer to others,
What we have received from you;
Our smile, our service, our love, our life,
Hindus, Muslims, Christians
We are all your sons and daughters
And all of us can reach you through our own ways,
Since you are our creator and father -
We are all brothers and sisters,
Since you are our Guru -
Teach us to love one another.
Since you are Merciful and Forgiving -
Teach us to forgive one another.
Since you love us,
Give us what we need more, your peace, your love,
Your happiness,
And our lives will be beautiful and the poor happier.

আমাদের প্রতিদিনের প্রার্থনা

হে সর্বশক্তিমান, করুণাময় পরমেশ্বর, কেবলমাত্র মুখে নয় বরং
সমস্ত অন্তঃকরণ দিয়ে আমরা যে তোমাকে ভালবাসি,
তা প্রকাশ করতে এবং
তোমাকে পূজা করতে আমরা আজ এখানে উপস্থিত।

আমরা তোমার সেবা করতে চাই -
তবে আমরা জানি যে, অন্যদের থেকে আমরা অতি তুচ্ছ,
হীন, পাপী, দুর্বল এবং স্বার্থপর।
তবুও আমরা তোমার পথ অনুসরণ করতে চাই,
তুমি তোমার আলো দাও, হে জ্যোতির্ময়,
যেন আমরা পথ দেখতে পাই।
তোমার প্রেম দাও, হে প্রেমময়, যেন আমরা
তা ভাগ করে নিতে পারি।
তোমার কাছে প্রার্থনা অর্পন করার জন্য আজ আমরা এখানে এসেছি
আর আমাদের প্রার্থনা হবে সেবা করা,
আমাদের পূজা হবে তোমার আরাধনা করা এবং
সমস্তটাই হবে আমাদের দরিদ্র ভাই বোন
বিশেষতঃ অসুস্থ, নিপীড়িত, অসহায় ও
আশাহীনদের প্রতি সেবার মাধ্যমে।
প্রেম ও শান্তির যথার্থ মানুষ ও বাহক হতে
তুমি আমাদের সাহায্য কর।
আমাদের হাসি মুখ, সেবা, ভালবাসা,
আমাদের জীবন এবং আমাদের যা কিছু
তুমি আমাদের দিয়েছ সবই
যেন অন্যদের দেবার জন্য প্রস্তুত থাকতে পারি - এই আশীর্বাদ করা
আমরা যেখানেই যাই না কেন,
সেখানে যেন আনন্দ বিস্তার করতে পারি।
হিন্দু, মুসলমান, খ্রিস্টান আমরা সবাই তোমার সন্তানাদি এবং
আমরা সবাই আপন আপন রাস্তায়
তোমার কাছে পৌঁছে যেতে পারি।
যেহেতু তুমি আমাদের সৃষ্টিকর্তা ও পিতা -
আমরা সবাই ভাইবোন।
যেহেতু তুমি আমাদের গুরু - আমাদের ভালবাসতে শেখাও।
যেহেতু তুমি পরম করুণাময় ও ক্ষমাশীল -
পরস্পরকে ক্ষমা করতে শেখাও।
যেহেতু তুমি আমাদের ভালবাস - আমাদের বেশি করে দাও
তোমার শান্তি, তোমার প্রেম, তোমার আনন্দ
যাতে আমাদের জীবন আরও সুন্দর হয়, আর দরিদ্ররা সুখী হয়।





Inter-religious Centre Of Development (ICOD)

Village - Gohalapota, P.O. - Madhabpur, P.S. - Shyampur, Uluberia, District - Howrah, 711315,
West Bengal, India

Speak to us: +91 33 6541 1951

Write to us: icodenquiry@gmail.com

Visit us: <http://icodindia.org>

Join us: fb/groups/friends.of.icod