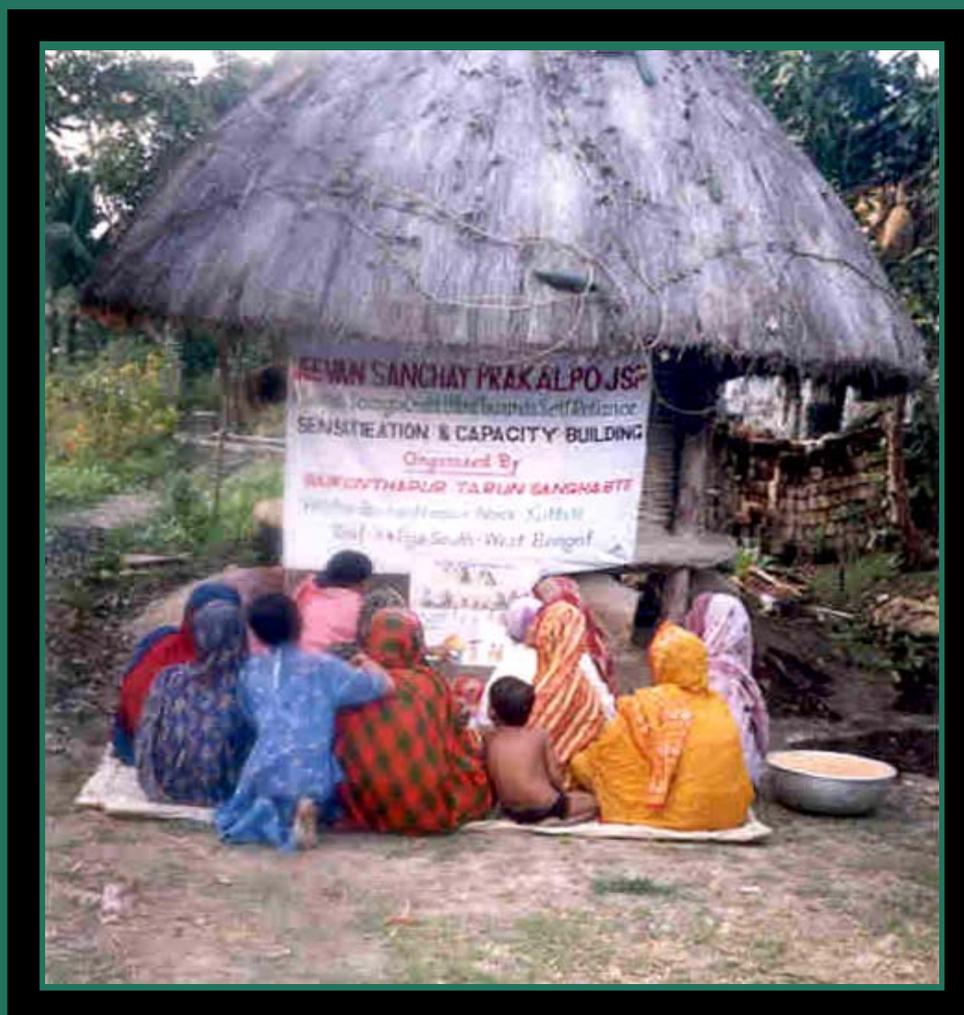


26TH ANNUAL PARTICIPATORY REFLECTION

2007 - 08



BTS

(BAIKUNTHAPUR TARUN SANGHA)

Baikunthapur, South 24 Parganas
West Bengal-743 383

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BTS has established its strong partnership with local PRIs and Govt authorities to empower our reference people living in the delta of World's the most popular Mangrove Forest Areas under the territory of Sunderban, The World Heritage Site as declared by UNESCO.

The area where we work for the underserved and the vulnerable small & marginal farmers or fishermen or forest-fringe-people are under the control of Sunderban Bio-sphere Reserve/Tiger Reserve Zone which is usually in every year troubled by the natural disasters like flood and cyclone creating a huge damage in the life of the poor and the malnourished. They always struggle for their existence .

Poverty & food insecurity, malnutrition, social injustice, gender discrimination, castism, unemployment , child and women abuse while they are in search of livelihoods being migrated to the metro-cities, insanitation and health hazards due to non-availability of minimum basic basic healthcare as there is no rural health centre or hospitals to serve the m with a drop of emergency medicines or treatment by a qualified doctor in absolute need generally creat panics in the live of the islanders...!

On behalf of BTS, I am grateful to express our sincere gratitude to those benevolent supporters and donor-friends, Govt.personnels and officials, well-wishers and my beloved project staffs for their timely support and co-operation to enhance our development support services to those who are in need of our care and concern BTS expands its intervention with the local Govt.Schools of Primary Education alongwith a strong participation with PRIs and Gram Unnayan Samities to explore needbased development possibilities and reflection exchange with a motto to promote rightbased empowerment & security.



CHALLENGING GROWTH

History

In 1978, a group of youngsters started a club for recreational activities for the youth in Kultali block. The major floods that hit the island in 1982 made the youngsters undertake a series of relief measures, physically helping victims to reach safer places, pleading the government and administration for relief support and organizing the relief camps. This was the turning point in the history of the Club.

The youngsters were struck by the extent of poverty amongst the people on one hand and total lack of apathy and support from other quarters. They realized the vulnerability of the people and the need to contribute towards organized community development. Thus the resolve to work towards building better facilities for the people in need but who didn't know how to obtain. Thus, Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha was born, popularly known as BTS.

Challenging Growth

BTS was registered under the West Bengal Society Registration Act in 1983 and later received the certification under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in 1996..

BTS is also registered U/S 12A & 80G(E) of Income Tax Act, 1961, Govt. of India and has a status to receive donations/contributions from all national as well as International sources of development-interest.

BTS started off focusing on Education as a fundamental to empower and liberate people. They started a KG & Nursery School in a hut but the school collapsed down on a cyclone-hit night, thus destroying the only shelter!

However, BTS had the good fortune to meet Geeta Venkadakrishnan, who introduced BTS to Edith Wilkins of the Hope Foundation, Kolkata. They were recommended to the Embassy of Ireland where Pat Scullion, the First Secretary & the Dy. Chief of Mission, was strongly moved by the need to support BTS in the reconstruction of the School Building and thus bore the cost for 3 Classrooms.

Coincidentally, around the same time, BTS came in contact with Kumar Bhattachaya & Shruti Lakhotia of the Seattle Chapter at Asha For Education, USA who after a careful consideration of the fact considered funding for BTS-PathBhavan, the school for the neglected working children engaged in Prawnseed catching from crocodile infested rivers and collecting NTFPs from the Reserved Mangrove Forest infested with the carnivorous Royal Bengal Tigers...

Thus, with the kind support of the initial partners, the eventful journey of BTS begun....



VISSION

BTS dreams of an enriched society where each and every individual will live respectfully with equal rights to information, socio-cultural observations, proper education & healthcare, thus promoting women Empowerment & Childhood liberties at large.

MISSION

To provide equal opportunities to all sections of rural poor and distressed people for their comprehensive development and self-reliance in a sustainable and participatory approach enhancing special emphasis on cause and care of vulnerable women and their malnourished children, who are in acute need of proper care.

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Being a Community Base Organization, BTS believes in Participatory Project planning. For identification of problems in the concerned areas, BTS has conducted several need assessment exercises by involving the community people as a whole while the staff and volunteers have facilitated the entire process. To plan out this project, BTS has followed the Goal Oriented Project planning (GOPP) where the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology is used which reflects the project objectives of the primary stakeholders or the common rural mass in need.

THRUST AREAS

- **Food Security & Alternative Livelihood Promotion
- **Education & Child Rights
- **Basic Healthcare with emphasis on Preventive areas
- **Water & Sanitation (WATSAN) with WASH
- **Micro-Finance through SHGs(Self Help Groups)
- **Sustainable Agriculture through Bio-Farming Process
- **Solar Energy for Household Lighting & Cooking
- **Community Based Disaster Management & Rehab.
- **Save Mangrove Forest, Tiger Reserve & Eco-Tourism

CHILDRIGHTS & EDUCATION

BTS-Path Bhavan is the Working children's education initiative of our organization. This was the first venture into development support in 1983 for the poor working children of Kultali which was later upgraded to the Upper Primary (High School) level.

Presently, there are 232 students in 9 classes from Preparatory to Class VIII. Most of the students are from very poor family background. In addition to Joyful Learning, the students are given nutritional and healthcare support besides Vocational Outlook in absence of Learning –pressure. **Asha for Education, USA** supporting this education efforts for a longtime partnership.

We are also running a **Children Resource Library** and a **Computer Literacy Center** to support children's education and technical capacities in this remote rural area. BTS also provides Books to



CLASSWISE CHILDREN ENROLLED

Class	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
LKG	84	33	34	26
UKG	41	43	27	21
I	39	47	34	20
II	37	28	40	22
III	06	31	25	31
IV	09	06	27	21
V	19	04	18	25
VI		16	10	14
VII			17	09
VIII				14
	235	208	232	203



Healthcare by doctors, School Uniforms, Hygienic materials and educational materials for enabling the poor parents economic burden-free and to send their loving ones to regular schooling without involving them in the livelihood activities like fishing and farming.

Besides exercise on Joyful Learning Process (JLP), BTS is giving emphasis on propagating TLMs by the trained teachers. Expansion of JLP to local Govt. Primary Schools (3 Units) is a good response and the govt schools are interested to take care of the TLMs to attract the attention of their students with a increased attendance. BTS-PathBhavan is thus entering into a catalyst's role to create a better atmosphere in the field of basic vis-a-vis high school education with parents' interest to allow their children to regular schooling entertaining child rights to quality education and protection.

OUR PRIME CONCERN

- ** No Drop-out/Out-of-school Children
- ** No Child Abuse/Child Labour
- ** No Girl Child Trafficking/Sex Abuse
- ** Quality /Value-based Education with Vocational Approach
- ** Sponsorship for Rural Talented Students in deplorable situation
- ** Rainwater Treatment for SDW in Schools



BTS - PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

To ensure protection and rights of the 3-6 age group children of rural working mothers living in the delta areas of Sunderban Bio-sphere Reserve ,BTS has been running 6 Pre-School Centres(PSCs) formerly popularized as Child Care Centres(CCCs) in 2 delta CD Blocks Kultali and Patharpratima in the District of South 24 Parganas.

These PSCs are now able to save and take care of 150 vulnerable children from Rural Working mothers' families in need as they are fully engaged in earning livelihoods from nearby Forests or Rivers or from daily wage labouring or working as maid-servants. Anyhow, the children are in their full use of Childhood utilities with motherly cares.

Sl. No.	Name of PSCs	Total	Boys	Girls	Mainst-reamed
1	SishuTirtha	25			
2	GreenBuds	25			
3	SahaPathi	25			
4	Kishalay	25			
5	Nazrul	25			
6	Rammohun	25			
	Total	150			



Central Social Welfare Board(CSWB), New Delhi has also been supporting 2 main Centres(Creches) at BTS School (PathBhavan) Campus. BTS has been utilising the full supports from CSWB besides a part from **Vibha-USA** for other 4 Centres too.

Our main motto is enroll each and every rural working mother's malnourished children into such Pre-School Centres so as to habituate them towards regular schooling and making a part of universal learning under the Campaign of SSA initiated by our Govt.

Joyful Learning Process(JLP) is a medium of spreading this mission of education with ensuring quality education to children of this generation. As a part of JLP, several functions and observation days are observed so as to create an awareness among the children .

Mid-day meals/nutritional tiffins are provided alongwith basic health care facilities by initiating Village Homoeo Clinics with the needed medicines. Besides these, Yoga, Bratachari, Dancing and Singing Clubs have been promoted to attract children's rapt attention. Annual Contest on Sports and Culture are usually held.

our concern for working mothers' children

- ** Ensure protection of Working mothers' children
- ** Ensure right to education, nutrition & healthcare
- ** Develop school-going habit & safe from exploitation
- ** Incorporate National Integration & Cultural interest
- ** Empowerment of Working Mothers to regain social dignity, entitlement, job-opportunities and alternate source of income so as to rehab in the same society with a view to stop/minimize migration to urban cities
- ** Promotion & inclusion into SHG(Self Help Groups)

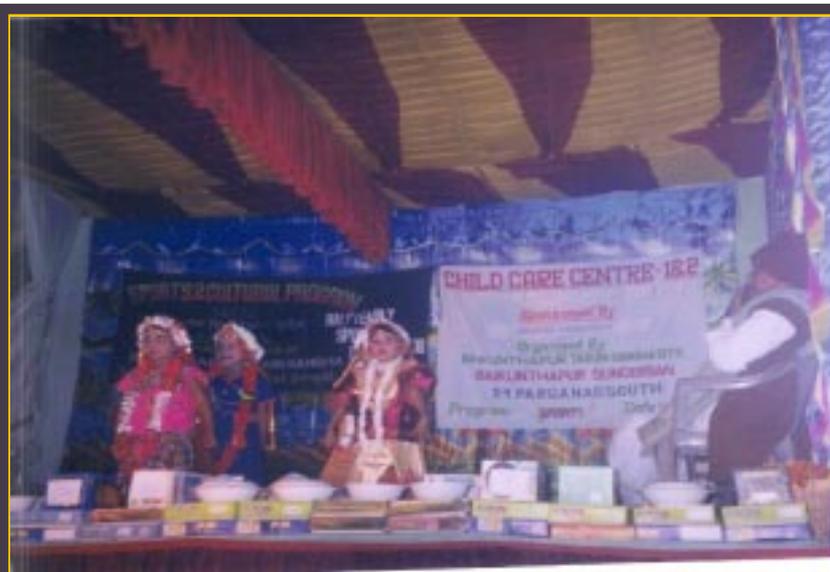
EFFORTS AT A GLANCE

- Pre-School Centres- 6 Units in 6 delta villages
- Children Covered-150(25 in each Unit)
- Trained Sahayika-12(2 in each of 6 Units)
- Nutritional Tiffin/Mid-day Meals provided
- Clinical Healthcare ,ISM in Nature(Homoeo & Yoga)



BTS CONCERN ISSUES TO GO FORWARD

- ** Save Motherhood And Child Survival(SMACS)
- ** Protection and Care of Working mothers' Children
- ** Stop Trafficking and Child Abuse by networking
- ** Child Rights and Quality Education
- ** Reduce Rate of Malnutrition & Stop Child TB
- ** Save Children's Eyesight, prevent blindness
- ** No Child out-of-school campaign



BTS-MICRO CREDIT INITIATIVES:

Perhaps adversity says so...unlike one morning Kanaklata heard her husband's death news due to sudden attack of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban Reserved Forest when he was busy enough to earn for his family by collecting NTFPs..Since started her life of tragedy and acute helplessness with her little child who is now a hotelboy in Delhi city...!

One of our Field Mobilizers came to know this story and went to her hut to motivate and brought her to add as a SHG member in Group No. 95., Lopamudra SHG.

Being a valued SHG member She took loan twice and started Farming in a sustainable way. Successfully she repayed the loan of firsttime and received the second one. She is now earning by selling Vegetable produced in her garden nearer to her hut.

Thus BTS micro-credit project is making a difference here among the 2856 vulnerable women in 187 SHGs covering 8 remote delta villages of Sunderban. More supports can help us to make more such changings.



SHG-MFI Activities	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
No. of SHG/SEG	185	215	224
No. of Members	2468	2760	3071
Total Savings	5,70,100	8,75,670	11,23,540
Total Credit Disbursed	6,91,800	15,13,507	20,17,407
Total Repayment	4,22,442	8,76,553	13,66,583
Total No. of Borrowers	454	416	268

BTS is now taking initiatives to have Bank Linkage of efficient groups(SHG) for further financial supports/credits to promote livelihood opportunities and stop migration to urban cities. NABARD/SIDBI/SBI will be approached.

BTS-BIO FARMING PROJECT: AN ALTERNATIVE



7 years' back BTS entered into strategic implementation of Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP). The major objective of the project is to ensure food security to the poor, minimizing the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides while promoting the use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pest controls under the agro farming technique. The



project gives emphasis on local natural resource optimization. The project has been launched in two phases: Home/Nutrition Gardening by rural poor housewives and Small Farm Improvement Program for small and marginal farmers in the villages. Through this project, it is expected that the farmers will be able to cultivate fallow lands with residual moisture. Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi has funded the project to make it possible through establishment & promotion of an Agro-Resource Centre (ARC)/Krishi Sahayata Kendra(KSK). PPI-USA has recently supported such type of initiative to promote Bio-Farming with country seeds promoting bio-fertilisers or pesticides. Seed Banks and Grain Bank with Farmers' Capacity building towards organic farming are its key source. A-V aids to sensitize the FRC members on different agro issues/problems to be shown in A-V shows. Promotion of Animal Husbandry(rearing of Ducks/Chicks etc.

