Annual Report 2014-15

Ensuring an equitable social, political, economical and cultural order where individuals especially women and children have access to life with dignity.
Preface

Right Track from its own development perspective has been concentrating its intervention following thematic aspects like education, health, child protection, women rights and livelihood through implementation of different projects supported by different agencies. The present Annual Report 2014-15 will provide us a glance of the major activities, initiatives and efforts undertaken during the year 2014-15 and simultaneously issues of challenges faced and learning learnt. Views of different stakeholders and project personnel can also be known from this publication. The Annual report will share with the public domain the key success achieved with citing live examples of different case stories.

We can also understand the strategic partnerships with different agencies and their revised funding pattern. Simultaneously emerging issues for future intervention and strategic preparation for adopting the changed scenario can also be comprehended through this publication.

It is anticipated that the future publication will highlight aforesaid aspects more critically and analytically and the document will prove to be informative.
Executive Note from Hony General Secretary’s Desk

The Annual Report envisages the brief stock taking as well as presentation of programme and finance team efforts in a very systematic manner. The report will update theme wise summarized activities, strategies and achievements which will show a roadmap to the team members to conceptualize and deliver at their best.

Right Track is focusing its intervention towards sensitizing children and people on urban sanitation. Probably in near future the organization will be able to work on the issue rampantly in different wards of Kolkata Municipal Corporation with electronic gadgets, improvised IEC materials etc. That will supplement to the Prime Minister’s Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan (SBA).

The organization has plans to expand its intervention in Minakhan Block in the district of North 24 Parganas. The area is dominated by minority population with alarming situation in education, health, protection of children, rights of women and livelihood. The organization has already started intervention over there through conducting survey and identification of targeted people and organizing community based events by utilizing organization’s own fund.

Last but not the least I on behalf of the organization would like to thank our colleagues for their initiatives and efforts to make the year an eventful year and consolidate our organization.

(Md. Ashraf Ali)
Hony, General Secretary
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Theme: Education

Education is every child’s right and is essential to the development of every country. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) has already come into effect in our state since 1st April, 2010 and to implement this Act in our state, the department has published the State Rule - 2012 against the Central Act.

One of the important provisions of the RTE Act has been free and compulsory education for all the children belonging to the age group of 6-14 years of age as mentioned in the 3rd Section of the Act. This is nowhere implemented in the state. Many of the schools were continuing to demand capitation fees from students during admission and weren't maintaining the stipulated student-teacher ratio. Children from economically weak families were also being denied admission to schools of their choice, making it difficult for the poor parents to admit their children in school. Students even have to buy books and uniforms, at their own expenses. This is a hindrance for the aim of the Government of India that visualized education for all, especially the girls, as mentioned in the Eleventh (11th) five year plan.

Within this context Right Track - a social development organization attempts to contribute in India’s progress towards achieving this Millennium Development Goal - Universal Primary Education.

Initiatives of Right Track -

- Grass root consultation process with various stakeholders like, teacher, student, parents and community people.
- Engaging in studies/research to understand the state situation and to build an informed campaign around Right to education Act, 2009
- Advocacy with the local authorities for mainstream and retention of drop out and never been to school children.
- Engage children groups to ensure pre-school education for children between 3 to 6 years and facilitate them to raise demand for new ICDS centers.
- Forming a network / Coalition among the districts partners and other NGO’s and CSO’s to advocate on Right to Education.
- Develop linkages with SCPCR, DPSC, CWC and other school authorities to address violations and gaps in implementation in schools related to RTE Act, 2009
- Capacity enhancement of community leaders in targeted districts to build RTE Task force as pressure group for improved education system and proactive civil society.
- Two such schools with residential facilities are run by approval of Govt. of India in Kolkata for addressing the issue of ensuring access to schools within the child’s neighborhood, in the milieu of Right to Education Act, 2009 and West Bengal Right to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2012 at elementary level (6-14 years).

Coverage:
Direct Population: Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Mahashtala Municipality under Kolkata and South 24 Parganas district accordingly. Total number of authorized and unauthorized slums is over 150.

Indirect Population: Number of people has been covered during the period in ten districts namely Malda, West Midnapore, Murshidabad, 24 Parganas (South & North), Howrah, Purulia, Jalpaiguri, South Dinajpur through alliance building and networking.

Qualitative and quantitative achievements:

- Due to proactive role of Right Tract, enrollment in primary schools within the intervention areas has increased considerably.
- Continuous campaign & advocacy resulted in two significant development— 126 of 126 schools have started providing Mid-Day Meal and 115 having a separate toilet for boys and girls.
- This year Right Track facilitates to get start 2 new ICDS centers in the operational area and the other existing 176 centers to be functional properly.
- Right Track helped in admission 1327 children, re-admission 152 children and retention 923 children to schools through persistent effort, campaign & advocacy. This has helped to procure birth certificates for more than 562 children from concerned authority.
- Residential facilities provided to 200 no. of children under difficult circumstances including deprived urban children. Govt. of India has approved 15 schools with residential facilities for Kolkata district in West Bengal.

Learning and Challenges:

- Level of awareness regarding education rights is higher in some of the recognized slums than that in unrecognized slums. They are more active in raising their demands before the local authority.
- ICDS centers are run in the local clubs. Absence of toilet and separate cooking space, extremely small space storing space for food grains and no provision of drinking water, water logging in monsoon, closure of center during programmes of the clubs are hindrances.
- There are numbers of drop out cases in the study area, mainly due to early engagement in job. High fees at the time of admission and requirement of birth certificate act negatively in schooling of these almost first generation learners.
- There is discrimination even in the field of higher education those who seek it amidst adversities. Girls are not allowed to pursue and retain in higher studies, due to the prevailing ‘conservative societal prejudices’. Poverty, Child Marriage, Gender Discrimination, Insecurity, Unavailability of female teachers and girl child eccentric infrastructure at schools are the well known barriers of girl child education have been found.
- A feeling of insecurity lies within parents for girl child living in slum areas in lack of nearby schools.
- Problem at schools such as infrastructural inadequacies, corporal punishment, non-formation of SMC, poor standard of education, language barriers etc makes children traumatized for attending school regularly.

Good Practices or replicable models:

Formation of RTE Task Force of Guardian & Children at Village and ward level:
According to RTE Act 2009, a school shall constitute a School Management Committee (S.M.C.), within three years of compliance. But unfortunately no school has constituted School Management Committee in the state yet, and so depriving community people from active participation in school and development activity, which goes to denial of the aforesaid Act. Therefore, district level RTE Task Force has formed at different villages or wards level in Malda, South 24 Parganas, West Midnapore and Kolkata.

**Campaign on RTE to ensure child rights:**

Right Track through SEC initiated campaign in order to ensure the RTE as fundamental right at partnering districts and put effort to ensure its formation through area wise meeting, school based meeting, street corner, puppet show, film screening, mobile promotion through Auto and Handbill distribution.

**Stock Taking exercise on RTE Act:**

In order to capture variety of the state, the School monitoring and Stock taking exercise has been conducted in three of its geographically and socially dispersed districts, namely Malda, South 24 Parganas, and West Midnapore along with Maheshthal under Maheshthal Municipality on the RTE Compliances and Implementation status. The findings of this monitoring and Stock taking exercise gives us a clear indication about some serious lacuna on the part of government to follow the mandate of the Act and ensure its proper implementation. The study has been done on two aspects viz child entitlement and school entitlement, which are the two important factors pertaining to child enrollment and retention.

**State level Consultation Meeting**

State level Consultation Meeting jointly with WB RTE Forum with different organizations and members of WB RTE Forum to develop a meaningful and pro-children political agenda focused on “Systematize Education” and submit the same to all political parties for proper implementation of RTE Act and access to quality education for Children with the strategy is to build pressure on proposed candidates, expecting that they would include the child rights related issues in their party manifesto.

**Training and Workshop of RTE Volunteers:**

It was an urgent need to regularize the activities of the State Education Chapter through collection of information, lodging complain on violation of child rights and expose the status of education in West Bengal. It is also planned to identify the status of RtE implementation status on regular basis, create mass opinion, mobilize people and create pressure with different process for proper implementation of RtE Act. Hence, Right Track in collaboration with SEC planned to develop a team of volunteers / fact finding team with the representatives from the working districts. So a training
workshop is imparted for the selected persons from 11 districts have participated in this workshop, who will work as the RtE Volunteers.

Survey to identify the status of Maheshtala on entitlement:

A survey was conducted within 35 wards of Maheshtala Municipality and selected 5 wards of Kolkata Municipal Corporation covering both authorised (25) as well as (15) slums, to evaluate the impact produced by systematic efforts by Right Track. One of the primary objective of the review process was to ensure especially children have access to life with dignity.

Workshop on Anti Child Marriage:

Right Track in collaboration with State Education Chapter has arranged workshop on anti child marriage and girl child education at community level covering areas under Maheshtala Municipality and Kolkata Municipal Corporation covering 1345 and 400 participants accordingly in two phases in order to discuss provisions of the RtE Act. Along with 265 no. of meetings with adolescent girls have been conducted with representation from existing 20 no. of functional adolescent girls group.

Public Conclave:

During the period, a total of 3 no. of public conclave in three partnering districts as part of RTE campaign have been undertaken with support of district facilitators at Malda, West Midnapore, and South 24 Pargana to create mass awareness related to admission in schools and components of RTE Act.2009, and against RTE non-compliance covering a total of 620 participants.

Success story:- Mainstreaming the victim of Child Labour

"Hello my name is Sohail Mohammad (with school uniform with a bag). I am thirteen years old. I live in Sattyapur. My father is a tailor and my mother the home maker. I have two brothers and one sister. My father is alcoholic and sometimes beat my mother. I do assist my elder brother and father in their tailoring work. My younger sister is in school and when at home helps my mother in household chores and at times even look after my youngest sister.

One day, when my father and elder brother had gone to local market to buy threads, I was doing tailoring alone at home. Ms. Khusnehar Khatun, Community Facilitator from Right Track met me and asked me if I want to go to school. Unhesitant I happily agreed and requested them to pursue my parents to allow me to go to school.

The very next day, Ms.Khusnehar Khatun met my parents and pursued them to send me to school and also informed that with effect of Right To Education Act 2009, education is free and compulsory for all children between six to fourteen years. After much persuasion my parents agreed to send me to school.

I was admitted in class VII at Sarvodaya Hindi Vidyalaya. I thank Action Aid and Right Track for all their support and encouragement they rendered to me in pursuing my right to education."
Health issue has always been a priority in the project area of Right Track, as the organization has experienced that most of the beneficiaries are from the below poverty line, stay in unauthorized slums and are deprived of basic civic amenities. The context of health issues are considered in the purview of Millennium Development Goal.

Immunization, a major component of health for the healthy living of the children residing in several slums of Mahesh Talai municipality and adjacent Chatta GP is always in focus for previous years. The organization is engaged in facilitating Pulse polio and routine immunization programme for the children who comes under the coverage of immunization schedule in accordance to their age.

**Qualitative achievement:**

In Mahesh Talai and Chatta GP earlier social workers were denied entry in the house premises of families who were not willing to get their children vaccinated. They used to create barriers and as a result the project staffs were unable to communicate with the community people properly. Local key persons and stakeholders were motivated to join the campaign and the scenario started changing gradually. Resistant families were counseled by the health workers, doctors and leading personalities of the area. After recurrent interventions XR families understood the importance of Polio vaccination and started cooperating with the health volunteers. In some cases convinced families were motivated to encourage other resistant families.

In the programme religious leaders are cooperating by making announcement in mosque. Presently they are getting involved in the programme as they are coming forward to inaugurate Polio booth, feeding polio drops to the infants and mobilizing resistant families.

**Learning and challenges:**

- Despite efforts to ensure 100% vaccination there are some pockets which are to be addressed with special care because some family remains resistant to the vaccination due to some myths and misconception.
- More and more positive examples should be propagated both in community and mass media regarding ill effects of non-vaccination for both pulse polio as well as routine immunization.
- Lack of supply of vaccine at the scheduled time contributes to the poor number of vaccination.
- In all respect proactive approach by the health department is necessary to ensure targeted number of immunization.
- Awareness in respect to the health issues is necessary to improve the attitude in positive health seeking behaviour.
- Doctors should be motivated to reach the people in difficult circumstances to ensure 100% immunization in Pulse Polio and complete routine immunization.
- Ward Level task force should take active role to increase immunization status of children.
- Local influential persons should get involved to ensure improves status in the Pulse Polio Programme.

**Brief summary of the major social mobilization events:**

**Meeting with Ward/GP level task force:**

51 meetings organized in 14 wards of Maheshtala and 3 sub centre areas of Chatta GP to ensure involvement of local Councillors and other influential persons in influencing families who are resistant towards Pulse Polio and Routine Immunization programme.

**Meeting with guardians/mothers:**

Mothers meetings were organized at each high risk areas to sensitize mothers on the importance of routine immunization and Pulse Polio programme using several IEC materials like flip charts, green booklets.

**Meetings with local key persons:**

102 meetings were organized with local councillors, religious leaders and other influential persons in an expectation of their active participation in the immunization campaign for motivating the resistant families to get their children immunized.

**Social advocacy meeting:**

Social Advocacy meeting is the mega event under pulse polio intervention to sensitize different stakeholders like parents, religious leaders, club members, key persons and medical practitioners. The purpose of this event is to provide information on the importance of worldwide Pulse Polio programme and also to aware on the global scenario.

**Auto Campaign and Talking doll show:**

Auto campaign and talking doll in the community have an impact in enhancing the immunization programme to some extent to reach out community people in the high risk or vulnerable pockets. 6 auto campaigns were organized in this reporting period.

15 talking doll show programme is organized in the community where the families are refusing to receive the service of Pulse Polio programme and resistant to all sorts of immunization. In the show benefits and importance of Polio vaccination and other immunizations are depicted in the form of stories through these talking dolls.
Health camp:

Health camps were organized in collaboration with state health department, South 24 parganas district administration, Indian Red Cross Society, in 3 high risks wards of Maheshtala to conduct health screening to the children up to 5 years and immunize the children who are left out from the scheduled Pulse Polio immunization schedule.

Children’s Rally:

Rallies were organized in several wards of Maheshtala Municipality and Chatta GP with children from school, madrasa and community to create visibility and sensitize the larger population on the importance of immunization using banners, placards, flags carrying information and slogan on Pulse polio

Pre Polio workshop and Social mobilization activities:

Capacity building programme for the team members who are engaged in Pulse Polio programme are is organized before the round to improve conceptual clarity of the staff regarding Pulse Polio, importance of special drive for this immunization schedule.

Health support at Residential Schools:

From April 2013 two residential schools have been started in Kolkata under the supervision of the organization, one at Khidderpore and the other at Bikramgarh. Each school is providing education, healthcare and other necessary support to 100 children. Under health programme each child gets a regular health check up once in every two months. Any other illness is taken care of on emergency basis along with necessary minimum medication. Information on preventive health care is disseminated to the guardians as well as the children. Provision of nutritious food is arranged for the children residing in the hostel. General diseases like fever, cough, cold and shin diseases are mostly found among the children.

KNCLP: Health check up is done for each 50 children who are attending the centre in ward no: 79. The schedule is at least once in every month.
Theme: Child Protection

The ‘child protection’ refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS infection, educational problems, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy and poor parenting skills later in life.

Child protection is a common issue in every country and a high priority for Right Track. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties, all children have the right to be protected from harm. Intervention of Right Track are guided by Millennium Development Goal (MDG – 3: promote gender equality and MDG – 8 develop a global partnership for development) forthcoming Sustainable Development Goal (Goal # 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, Goal # 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and Goal # 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) the existing international normative framework for the rights of the child, decisions and policies agreed in United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

Initiatives of Right Track in child protection:

- Policy and public advocacy on child protection issues before competent authorities.
- Public campaigning and sensitization of child protection issues.
- Identification of children below 14 years and enroll them into Multi Activity Centers for preparing for schools for a period of 3-6 months and mainstream them into formal schools.
- Children above 14 years till 20 years are identified, screened and nurtured through providing comprehensive life skills training. They are enrolled for skill training on various trades and link to placement agencies for income generation.
- Strengthening of community based protection mechanism through Community Support Group, Children’s group, Employers group etc.
- Enhance the capacity building of different stakeholders like police, clubs, employers’ groups, Residential Welfare Association on Child Rights and Integrated Child Protection Scheme.
- Liaison with the DC Port, DC Lalbazar, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, school education department, Kolkata Primary School Council, District Primary School Council, Sarva Siksha Mission, Schools to strengthen the approach of ‘Right to Education’, organizing school orientation programme on child protection and excursion at Science City in aiming to increase the basic interest of learning of the children.

Programme quantitative and qualitative achievements:

- The organization became an invitee member of District Child Protection Society for Kolkata and South 24 Parganas.
- Children’s Group members have taken responsibility to identify the new CDW, street and working children and mobilized them to attend Multiple Activity centre, facilitation centers and for skill development training.
- Club members have taken responsibility to motivate employers and 10 employers have taken a great step to motivate the others employers to send their CDW to MAC.
60 ADWs jointly have formed a platform named "Jagriti Paricharika Sangha" to raise their voice against Child labor.
30 school students joined our programme as volunteer.
Children have raising their voice through wall magazine and Children magazine entitled “Rangin Dana”.
137 child domestic workers and 470 street children accessed to right to participation through their involvement in Multi Activity Centre (MAC) and facilitation centre respectively.
233 child domestic workers have partly withdrawn from their workplaces and 245 street children mainstreamed into formal schools.
43 positive employers who are members of employers group & CPC group have mobilized 13 other employers for enrollment of 10 live-in CDWs in MACs.
DCPO-Kolkata & south 24 Parganas facilitated our School orientation program with Govt. school teachers on ICPS & POCSO-2012 & CPC (Child Protection Committee) members training program on child protection Issues.

Programme Learning and Challenges:

- Due to ineffective implementation of RTE (child friendly school) there is prevalence of Child drop out.
- Initiate advocacy with govt. to generate opportunities of livelihood for adults and consequently reduce child labour on sustainable basis.
- Provisional stipend to candidates during vocational trainings is likely to reduce drop out.
- Children are less interested in the House keeping trade as they deem it as dirty work.
- Employers are denying the engagement of CDWs in their houses & Threats and misbehavior by employers while interaction with them.
- The candidates has become non participative in nature due to lack of economical support system and time taking placement process.

Major Events:

(a) Sensitization workshop with police: As part of interaction with police on issues of protection in port areas an interactive meeting was organized under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Port Division at conference hall of his office and participants were from Ilkalpore, Taratala, South West, West Port, Metiaburuz etc in the month of December 2015. The District Child Protection Officer of Kolkata and South 24 Parganas shared their views on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000 and role of police, District Child Protection Society (DCPS) and NGOs.

(b) Exposure visit to Sandeshkhali: An exposure visit was organized with the Child Domestic Workers attending Multiple Activity Centre (MAC) to understand the strategies, process of children’s group and Child Protection Committee (CPC) in the rural villages of Sandeshkhali in the middle of 2014.
(c) **Celebration of Child Rights Week:** A week long activities were designed to celebrate child rights week (14th November 2014-20th November 2014); the opening ceremony was conducted at Run Chhaya Mancha where several events like sit and draw, theatre for development, cultural programme, talking doll show etc. Rest of days in the week was celebrated through workshop for children group members on child rights, tram ride for children.

(d) **Street Play & Signature Campaign:**
Street play and signature campaign was organized in the middle of 2014 to aware approximately 2700 mass on child domestic work and child labour.

(e) **Rakhee advocacy:** The day of raksha bandhan was celebrated in 8 Multiple Activity Centre (MAC) covering 1500 people where children belong to the centers prepared and distributed among the local key influencers, relevant stakeholders and disseminated messages on child labour through celebration of raksha bandhan.

(f) **Skill Development:** Skill trainings provided to 46, 74, 50, 17, 10 children aged 14+ years till 20 years on trades like beautician, facility management, A/C repairing, driving and tailoring respectively and subsequently 7, 34, 21, 17 and 10 children received placements.

(g) **Education fair:** Two education fairs entitled “Shiksha Utsav” were organized at Taratala Staff Colony and BB Hall covering almost 2000 urban deprived, marginalized street and working children. The fairs consisted of activities like TLM exhibition stalls, puppet show, talking doll show, quiz competition and felicitation of teachers.

**Success stories:**

Name of the Children: - Lulu Shaw  
Age: - 17 years  
Sex: Female  
Fathers Name: - Mr. Parameswar Shaw  
Mothers Name: - Ms. Promila Shaw  
Address: - 51/1A Satish Mukherjee Road, Kol-26  
Date of Identification: - 8th April 2015  
Employers Name: - Mr. Binod Paswan

The father of Lulu was with a heart ailment and a mother who is an Adult Domestic Workers (ADW). Life for Lulu was not the one that a child deserves. Her mother single-handedly could not make both ends meet; hence Lulu too got engaged in domestic labour. Something she detested but was compelled to give in owing to her poor financial conditions.
The CG group of her area identified her and informed Alpona Banik (MAC facilitator from Right Track) about Lilu. Alpona intervened and helped her enroll in our MAC. Easier said than done- it was not an easy task for Alpona to get Lilu in her MAC. She made many efforts to orient and motivate her parents to send Lilu for MAC. Finally her mother gave in realizing that there is no future for her child if she continues to be associated with domestic work. Lilu had the zeal to rise above her situation and aspire for a better living condition for both herself and her parents. After nurturing and grooming Lilu for a month in MAC Alpona helped Lilu to be a part of NH vocational training as she had shown a keen interest in becoming a beautician in future. Presently she has successfully completed the 7 day CLS and is involved in two month of vocational training (MOST) in Lavender Parlor in beautician trade. She is determined to excel and utilize this experience to further polish her skills.

**Jyotsna Paik - A role model for ADWs**

Jyotsna Paik a, resident of KMC Ward no. 140, prince Anwar Shah Road, Kol-45 is currently an adult domestic worker (ADW). But since her childhood she has been doing this same work....... and thus she can relate to the deprivation that a child domestic worker faces. Hence she feels it necessary to object to child labour around her.

Jyotsna had helped in rescuing a child domestic worker. Sometimes back she was employed in a household where there was a child domestic worker too. As days passed she noticed that the child was being abused both physically and verbally by her employers. She was reminded of her past and was determined to safely rescue the child from the abuse. In this context she informed the local club members about this incident. After a close watch she finally got to meet the child’s parents. Finally with the involvement of the local club members she managed to rescue the child.

**Theme: Women Rights**

In context of MDG 3 - Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, the thematic approach towards ensuring rights of women in partner communities represent affirmative change to an extent that women groups are identifying violence cases, playing proactive role in watch committee within the slum, assisting victim women to report their cases and call community meeting on behalf of women, which can ensure temporary security of the victim. However, the ratio of female-to-male earned income is well below parity. In view of this, the MDG 3 indicators track key elements of women’s social, economic and political participation and guide the building of gender-equitable societies.

Existing women groups and adolescent groups at slum level already initiated mechanism to collect information on child marriage incidences and address those within their capacity. They are collectively responding to acts of violence and incidences of child marriage within their communities but such number is very less which shows that situation started to change gradually. In the present day context more than thousand women became member of a larger alliance — Maheshthala Naba Jagaran Manch (MNJM) and actively engage with the work related to ensure women’s rights in all spheres.
Initiatives of Right Track

1. Slum based camps for registration under social security schemes:

During the period a total of 20 slums based camps for registration to entitlements & social security scheme have been undertaken covering a total of 7780 participants in order to disseminate information on entitlements and social security scheme at community level with support of state labour department. From the following camps there were a total of 4356 no. of specific application forms distributed and 547 no. of application forms filled up on spot.

2. Status Report preparation on Civic Amenities:

Jay Prakash Institute of Social Change in consultation with Action Aid and Right Track prepared status report on opportunities for issue based urban campaign. Scope to review slum situation & develop plan collectively for effective intervention has been revealed.

3. Cluster & Alliance Meeting of MNJM:

The meetings generated scope for strategized issue based cluster plan with reference to Plan document 2015 - Organizational strengthening of MNJM - Solidarity and leadership. Knowledge enhancement of MNJM leaders on organizational development & management Cluster level Planning and Strategizing meet of MNJM members and MNJM alliance meet.

4. Integrated Urban People's Alliance & Convention / Maha Sammelan:

KNJM in collaboration with MNJM organized their third annual general convention in Rani Rashmoni Road on 2nd December 2014 and cherished their successes and developed a sustainable plan on Shelter and housing for the urban homeless. Eviction and displacement, Citizenship document (Voter Id Cards), Violence against women and children, Ensuring access to equitable and quality education for the homeless children and children living in different slums.

5. School wise film screening on Anti Child marriage

Children participating in the workshop on anti child marriage reflected on cross cutting issues like child rights, child trafficking etc through group exercise by use of flip-book, leaflets etc. Success stories of addressing child marriage were also shared during session.

6. Celebration of Fortnight Campaign on VAG/VAW

Street Play and Cluster level Meeting were undertaken to observe fortnight campaign on violence against women and girls in different slums under Maheshtala Municipality and Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

7. Interface between children parliament

Existing children parliament continued to strategize area specific need based issue Identification pertaining to school & ICDS in particular, discussion on strategic planning to address identified local problems through group exercise & use of Flip Chart and to undertake advocacy initiative in specific case related to RTE compliance.

8. Exposure visit for Children

A four day’s training cum exposure visit for members of children groups was undertaken at Digha, during 5th-8th June 2014 covering 35 participants to initiate cross learning among children, to develop
leadership skills in children on issues pertaining to child protection & structure & function of assembly and to build capacities of children in a collective way in identifying area problems and initiate necessary plans to mitigate the identified problems.

9. Observation of Global Action Week, 4th – 10th May 2014

Global Action Week on the theme - Equal Right, Equal Opportunity: Education and Disability was observed in the partner community through child centric activities (children’s parliament and sit and draw) in collaboration with State Education Chapter to generate awareness on issues relating to inclusive education – education & disability on 6th May 2014 in Maheshtala.

10. Workshop on Child Protection as part of observation of Child Rights Convention Week

One day workshop entitled "Child Protection by ensuring Child Participation: Together we Decide. Protection is our right" for 45 children was organized on 15th November 2014 at National Library Auditorium (old), Kolkata. The day’s workshop was initiated by Asst. Director of Social Welfare, West Bengal and jointly facilitated with support of representatives from Jay Prakash Institute of Social Change and Child Line.

Coverage

Over the period of time RIGHT TRACK has been able to reach out to a population of all the 35 wards of Maheshtala Municipality and selected 5 wards of Kolkata Municipal Corporation covering a total of 73404 women out of 157560 populations under direct coverage and a total of 198577 women out of 372486 populations under indirect coverage respectively. A total of 40 slums (25 Authorized and 15 Unauthorized) are under its direct intervention.

Programme qualitative and quantitative achievements
- Increased rate of Women participation in people’s collective (78% of women membership and 85% members in the governing body).
- A total of 767 girls have been enrolled as compared to 556 boys in mainstream school.
- 21 cases of child marriage have been prevented out of a total of 54 identified cases.

Programme Learning & Challenges
- Entitlement documents procured in authorized slums represent - 63% & unauthorized slums represent - 37%, 4356 no. of specific application forms distributed and 547 no. of application forms filled up on spot.
- Interface between members of Maheshtala Nabajar Manch (MNJM) has contributed to the emergence of 110 potential leaders (65 women and 45 men) and initiation of cluster level plan on issues related to domestic violence, civic amenities, child protection and education respectively.
- People's alliance and their integration on urban poverty issues have improved rate of case registration and consequently cases of child marriage reported (21 cases and prevented – 06 cases; domestic violence case reported – 48 cases and addressed – 28 cases)
- School sensitization initiates created opportunities for forming children watch groups in schools to replicate the learning to address child marriage. 70% of listed schools represent RTE compliance except that related to SMC formation. 1323 enrolled in this academic session, 167 re-enrolled.
Good practices or replicable model

1. Children Parliament:

Existing 40 children groups follow a structure of parliament continued their local level meetings and discussed their issues related to school, protection and local condition. They drafted their own resolution for the period to act accordingly.

2. Integrated People’s Alliance - Maheshtala Naba Jagaran Manch and Kolkata Naba Jagaran Manch:

Both the alliances’ namely Mahestala Naba Jagaran Manch and Kolkata Naba Jagaran Manch aspires to support community collectively realize that all deprivations and exclusion experienced by them evolve primarily from lack of citizenship rights and thereby seek to extend the people’s struggle to the wider society towards reduction of their socio-economic vulnerabilities and promote for a dignified life.

Success story:

‘Information helped me to change my life’

“My name is Samiyara Begam (39). I live at Khalpara, Sontoshpur area. I’m married and have four children - two daughters and two sons. My husband Md. Ashique (45) is suffering from chronic physical problem since last three years and is unable to go to work. I am the sole earning member of my family. I work as adult domestic help.

Earlier I used to earn rupees two thousand every month and my miseries were countless.

Thereafter, I had the chance to go to a meeting organized by MNJM where they were talking about the issues of unorganized labour sector and I realized that even though I had been able to get work I wasn’t getting enough wage. Moreover, I had to work more than eight hours a day and there was no provision for leave.

My realization helped me to initiate dialogue with my employer on issues relating to wage, working time and leave. Gradually my employer was convinced to raise my wage and became flexible with the issue of working hours and leave. Now, I earn rupees five thousand in a month. I have been able to support my children’s studies and able to pay for my husband’s medical needs. I want to thank our supporters for helping me in bringing changes in my life”.

“I stood up to stop my marriage”

“Hello, I am Neha Khatun and I am fourteen years old. I live with my family in Ainalpara. I study in class VIII at Kankhuli Girls High School. I am happy to tell you that I have stopped my marriage. All this is thanks to your support.”
My father and my step mother secretly arranged my marriage sometime in February 2015. Luckily I realized their plan and shared it among my school peers. I told them I don’t want to marry now, I want to study and become a school teacher.

Within a few days, my father said “I don’t need not go to school anymore because my marriage has been fixed.”

Right Track staff (Action Aid’s local partner organization) helped me to contact CHILD LINE 1098 Service (the country’s first toll free telephonic helpline for children in distress) to stop my marriage. Thereafter, CHILD LINE representatives along with Police Officers from Kolkata, Jinjira Bazar and Maheshtala jurisdiction came to our house and recorded my father’s verdict and also mine. I told them, I will not marry, I will go to school and study. Then I was taken to government run Shelter Home by CHILD LINE representatives and local Police.

Later on, my case was produced in Child Welfare Committee (it is the sole authority to deal with matters concerning children in need of care and protection) and there it was decided that I will go to school regularly, my parents will not inflict any form of physical and mental torture on me and under no circumstance, my parents will arrange my marriage before attaining eighteen years of age.

Now that I have been reintegrated into school I feel very happy now. I got the courage to stand against my marriage for the peer support of our adolescent group and information shared by Right Track.

Thanks again for your support.” The biggest change that you can be proud of is that children are beginning to raise their voice against child marriage.

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**Theme: Livelihood**

In India, officially there are 12.66 million in 2001 children engaged as child labourers in various occupations which has grown from 11.5 million in 1991\(^3\). However the estimation of the actual numbers of children engaged in labour by other development agencies estimate it between 30-60 million. The direct correlation can be drawn from the status of education of the children in the country that states that out of the 226 million children in the country 65.3 million (29 percent) children are out of any education institution\(^3\).
Right Track has taken a great initiative to ensure Child protection and reduce Child Domestic Workers (CDWs), mainstreaming of street and working children into formal schools in different wards of Kolkata & Howrah Municipal Corporation & Maheshtala municipality. Based on our long working experience finally we decide should ensure first alternative livelihood option (training on different trade like Beautician, Facility Management, AC & refrigerator etc.) for working children named “New Horizon Programme” and others community and Govt. stake holders. From last 8 years almost 40% Children from our target group has joined in gainful employment of various trades through skill development training organized by Right Track.

1 Child Labour in India a Selected Bibliography, 1994, Perspectives of Child Labour in India by DR. Mahaveer Jain
2Census of India 1991, 2001
3 Ibid

**Initiatives of Right Track:-**

- Identification & selection process of candidates on the basis of fixed criteria through one to one interview, home visit for cross verification & after guardian consent finally.
- Meeting with different community Stake holders like club members, Parents/ guardians of children & councilors etc.
- Orientation of selected candidates on prospects of vocational Training
- Comprehensive life skill training / pre vocational training for selected candidates on five different skills like communication skill, Leadership development, risk of daily life etc for ensure retention.
- Liaison with different corporates & Govt. departments to create placement opportunities for candidates.

**Selection process of candidates:-**

Through applying different strategies like survey, community Mobilization programme etc. we identify the working children as vocational training candidates from different ward of Kolkata & Howrah Municipal Corporation & Maheshtala Municipality. During the identification process we select candidates on base of fixed selection criteria. One to one interview, home visit & after guardian consent finally we can select the children as our training candidate.
Candidates Orientation:

After selection of candidates we organize a candidate’s orientation programme regarding all the things of Vocational Training (like screening & training process & opportunity of placement etc.) at their own locality. In this programme we specially invite candidate’s guardian to know about the programme.

Comprehensive Life skill Training:

The next element of this process is Comprehensive Life skill Training. During six days after programme orientation we arrange soft skill training on five different skills like communication skills, leadership development, risk of daily Life etc. so that the candidate can complete the training successfully and finally join with gainful employment for a better future.

Community Mobilization programme on Vocational training:

Community Mobilization is a strategy for candidate identification. In different crowded area of Kolkata Howrah & Maheshtala we organize Auto Campaign Talking Doll Show, Street Kiosk and Street Theater etc. Through these programmes we disseminate information regarding Vocational training so that interested candidate can register their name on spot within our programme.

Beauty fair:-

We have taken an initiative or strategy named “Beauty Fair” to overcome the challenge. Every year before Durga Puja we organize the Beauty Fair for those candidates who are not working after training. In this fair we provide so many services by those candidates to all in very minimum cost than market price. Through this strategy those candidates can get customer for freelancing.

Create placement opportunities for candidates:

After the training process we ensure the placement opportunities for each candidate in different trade. Therefore Right Track has developed a strong liaison with different corporate (CCD, Kothari Hospital, ITC Fortune, Subway, RSV Hospital, Khadims, Godrej etc) & Govt. departments (CWC, Department of Social Welfare, Labour Department etc.) so that we can create placement opportunities for those candidates after finishing their institutional training.
Coverage (Direct and Indirect population in different strata like children, women, men)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Coverage of children</th>
<th>Beautician</th>
<th>AC &amp; Fridge Repairing</th>
<th>Facility Management</th>
<th>Driving</th>
<th>Tailoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Direct coverage (2013-2014):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Coverage of parents</th>
<th>Indirect coverage of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>366</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Training received</th>
<th>Placement received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beautician</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC repairing</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph showing trade-wise quantitative achievements]
Qualitative Achievements:-

- We can able to reduce CDWs from our project area through this Vocational Training Programme from last five years.
- The children who are already has joined with gainful employment has working as a peer influencer within their community.

Programme Learning and Challenges:-

- The Ward Councilors are least interested in helping us in identifying children for vocational training due to ongoing similar programmed under their jurisdiction.
- Club members & Ward councilors do not give time to attend in our Meeting.
- Lack of support from the local leaders, political and influential persons.
- Some of the candidates have told that the training centre is far beyond from their house.
- Children are less interested in the House keeping trade as they deem it as dirty work.
- The candidates has become non participative in nature due to lack of economic support system.

Good Practices or replicable models:-

- The “New horizon programme” itself is a model programme. For its outstanding performance this programme has been awarded by international choinix award at Berlin organized by save the Children UK.
- Right Track has been developed a platform of Adult Domestic Workers named “Jagriti paricharika sangha” this group has taken an initiative to motivate children as well as their guardian to join vocational training programme.

Success story:-

From Dream to Reality

Name of the child:- Sushila Koyal
Fathers Name:- Ratan Koyal
Mothers name:- Aroti Koyal
Address: 46 No. Gobindapur Road (Khatal) kol-45

Sushila was a living CDW. Her employer was Rani Nayek of Jodhpur Park. Through survey our MAC facilitator Ms. Alpona Banik has identified her in 2012. Several times the facilitator motivated the employer and finally she were able brings Shusila at JagaranSangha MAC. Shusila dropped out from school when she was in class VII & due to long absence from school she forgot everything, therefore our facilitator nurtured her so that she could cope first. She was regular in MAC and used to participate in our awareness programmes. She is good dancer & performer. In this regard her employer Mrs. Rani Nayek has extended support to her.

Sushila got the vocational training on beautician trade with the support of Right Track & Save the Children in the year 2012. And after getting the training she got a job at Style Parlor (Bansdroni) with good salary. After getting the job she used to come to the MAC Jagaransangha at least once in a month to motivate other children.

On 1st January 2015, Sushila started her own parlor namely “Charulata beauty parlor” at BasantaBahir Flat, 40 no RK Ghoshal road, Kasba, Kolkata-700042. Now she is very happy. She told us “I am really thankful to Right Track & Save the Children to support me and make my dream come true.”
Finance

Expenditure % theme wise

- Education: 41%
- Child Protection: 9%
- Women Rights: 14%
- Health: 19%
- Livelihood: 13%
- Administration: 4%
# Administration

## Management Committee of Right Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Ms. Kajal Chakraborty</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rtd. From Service</td>
<td>5/6, MIGL, Swaranika Housing Cooperative Society, P.O. Sarsuna, Kolkata – 700 061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Ms. Indrani Bose</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>P – 4, Dhakuria, Kolkata – 700 056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Mr. Md. Ashraf Ali</td>
<td>General Secretary</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>15/H/12, Braunfield Row, Kolkata – 700027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Mr. Md. Israfil</td>
<td>Assistant General Secretary</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>12/5, Mominpore Road, Kolkata –700027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Mr. Md. Shakil Haider</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>37A, Hossain Shah Road, Kolkata –700023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Mr. Selva Raj</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>41, Mominpore Road, Kolkata – 700023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Mr. Sk. Sanawar Ali</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>13/H/5, Braunfield Row, Kolkata – 700027</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Ms. Sitara Begum</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>8/H/14, Bhumibolash Road, Kolkata-700023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Mr. Sohail Ahmed</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>43, Hossain Shah Road, Kolkata-700023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Human Resource in Right Track

The staff pattern of the organization is as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>Part time</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ensuring Rights of Women and Children in Urban areas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Social Mobilization support for Pulse Polio and Routine Immunization</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Creating Opportunities for Working Children, New Horizon and Lavasa</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Street to School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Residential School (Bikramgarh High School)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Residential School (Shri Shanti Niketan Vidyalaya)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>National Child Labour Project (NCLP)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total staff</strong></td>
<td><strong>227</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The foresaid table states following staffing pattern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Particular</th>
<th>Status (in %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>% of female staff</td>
<td>86.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>% of male staff</td>
<td>13.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>% of fulltime female staff</td>
<td>72.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>% of fulltime male staff</td>
<td>27.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>% of part time female staff</td>
<td>97.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>% of part time male staff</td>
<td>3.0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partners in Solidarity

(1) Sarva Shiksha Mission, Kolkata

(2) Kolkata National Child Labour Project-Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India

(3) Maheshtala Municipality

(4) Kolkata Municipal Corporation

(5) Chatta Gram Panchayat, Thakurpukur-Maheshtala Block, South 24 Parganas

(6) District administration, South 24 Parganas

(7) Save the Children

(8) Action Aid

(9) UNICEF

(10) Lions Club of Howrah

(11) District Child Protection Society, South 24 Parganas and Kolkata