

THE CATALYST

MAKING IT HAPPEN

A not-for-profit society registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961

Registration Number: S/2L/13991 of 2013-14 dated January 03, 2014



The Third Annual Report: Financial Year 2015-16

Registered Office:

✉ F/6, Ideal Association, CIT Scheme No. VIIM, VIP Road, Kolkata-700054, INDIA



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The Catalyst

Income tax permanent account number: AADAT7092F

Registration u/s 12AA of the IT Act, 1961 - M No. DIT(E)/8E/30/2014-15/S-46/910-12 dated 01/07/2014

Approval u/s 80G (5) (vi) of the IT Act, 1961: No. DIT(E)/8E/30/2014-15/G-101/913-15 dated 01/07/2014

Our objectives in brief

The Society will work in the following areas:

- ✓ imparting non-conventional primary education, especially to first-generation learners,
- ✓ facilitating continuance of education of children through the formal education set up,
- ✓ facilitating training in and providing support to preventive health care, livelihood generating activities, and sustainable rural development activities,
- ✓ rendering scholarships to deserving students,
- ✓ running schools,
- ✓ creating linkages with government departments, international agencies,
- ✓ formulating and executing projects to further the Society's objectives,
- ✓ instilling values of
 - i) empathy for marginalized persons in society; especially children in need,
 - ii) respect for different cultures, and
 - ii) giving and engaging in activities for betterment of society;

The Society will at all times function as a not-for-profit body.

The management and control of the affairs of the Society shall remain entrusted to its Governing Body.

Our values

Each member of the Society will hold on to the following set of values:

- ✓ Making a positive contribution to nation building
- ✓ Giving the best to the society
- ✓ Protecting Nature
- ✓ Building on our heritage a heritage for our progeny
- ✓ Having and showing a positive respect for others
- ✓ Always upholding human dignity
- ✓ Offering equal and non-discriminative opportunity
- ✓ Keeping the trust of all stakeholders at all times
- ✓ Setting high performance standards
- ✓ Creating the environment to deliver
- ✓ Constantly pursuing newer and better ways of functioning
- ✓ Holding on to the highest level of integrity
- ✓ Holding on to impeccable ethical as well as moral values
- ✓ Projecting a positive personal image and a positive image of the Society

All members of the Governing Body shall:

- ✓ know and support the mission of the Society, attend meetings regularly, prepare for meetings in advance,
- ✓ maintain confidentiality,
- ✓ offer informed and impartial guidance,
- ✓ avoid agendas of personal/special interest and conflicts of interest,
- ✓ participate in committees and special events,
- ✓ provide unstinted support to the President/other office bearers,
- ✓ take part in resource development,
- ✓ promote the organization in the community in particular and also to others.

These have been incorporated in the regulations of the Society.

Governing Body for the FY 2015-16

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation in the Governing Body</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Experience</i>
1	Arup Roy	President	F/6, Ideal Association, C.I.T. Scheme No.VIIM, V.I.P. Road, Kolkata – 700 054	Teacher, retired from college service	35 years' experience in teaching physics in colleges and universities.
2	Sujit Choudhury	Vice President	Anurag Apartment., 22C, Lake East 3rd Road, Santoshpur, Kolkata-700 075	Working Professional	A professional in applied geology, ecology and environment, with 25 years' experience in watershed management, natural resource management and Geographic Information System.
3	Amit Kumar Biswas	Secretary	CF-359, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 064	Retired from service	37 years' experience in public and private sector organizations in finance and general management.
4	Jayeeta Chowdhury	Assistant Secretary	72/1, Bagbazar Street, Block 'C', 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700003	College Teacher	Ten years' experience as a researcher and college teacher in physics.
5	Shaswata Mukherjee	Treasurer	132, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Kolkata – 700 006	Retired from service	20 years' experience in energy sector, 20 years' in construction materials business.
6	Sanjib Kumar Bose	Governing Body Member	Bachhurdoba, PS & PO - Jhargram, District - Paschim Medinipur, PIN - 721 507	Retired from service	40 years' experience in the Indian Railways.
7	Bibhuti Bhushan Manki	Governing Body Member	Vill. Amlasole, P.O. Kankrajhor, P.S. Belpahari, Block. Binpur 2, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, Pin – 721501	Teacher in the community primary school for children	A teacher in the Primary School since beginning; first-hand experience in agriculture, rural trading, and community work.
8	Laxmi Kanta Mura	Governing Body Member	Vill. Amlasole, P.O. Kankrajhor, P.S. Belpahari, Block. Binpur 2, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, Pin – 721501	Staff in the community primary school for children	A staff of the Primary School since beginning; first-hand experience in agriculture, community work and liaison with the formal administrative system.
9	Ranjit Kumar Sing	Governing Body Member	Vill. Amjharna, P.O. Kankrajhor, P.S. Belpahari, Block. Binpur 2, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, Pin – 721501	Teacher in the community primary school for children	A teacher in the Primary School since 2009; first-hand experience in agriculture and community work; a tribal instrumental musician.

Activities in the FY 2015-16

The location of our work

Amlasole and its neighbouring villages under the Banspahari Gram Panchayat, Block: Binpur-2, P.O.: Kankrajhor, P.S.: Belpahari, Sub-Division: Jhargram, District: Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India

Nature of the place....

This cluster of small villages is located in the remotest corner of West Bengal, on the border of Paschim Medinipur and Purulia districts and the State of Jharkhand. The place is 250 km away from Kolkata; the nearest Panchayat office is 18 km away at Banspahari; and it is as far as 26 km from the nearest police station at Belpahari. Only one bus commutes once a day from the place. The place is outside the range of mobile towers. Although the rainfall is around 1100 mm annually, over 80% of the rainfall goes out of the area as run off. Very little water conservation measures exist. In summer the village reels under shortage of potable water. Irrigation for agricultural land is very primitive.

... and the people

The villagers are from Munda, Bhumij, and Sabar tribes. Since they were traditionally dependent on the forest for their livelihood, with gradual deforestation their source of income dried out. Only some of the households owned land and had the initiative to start agricultural activities, that too in a rather primitive way. For others the situation became dark and led even to starvation. Today the main occupations are agriculture, working as labour in agricultural and other limited activities, collection of forest produces like kendu leaves, sal wood, babui grass, etc. The landless still depend only on collection of forest produce and physical labour.

Our association with the place and the people

Members of The Catalyst have been working for last several years with tribal children and adults in this place. Five among us are themselves local tribal, stationed there. Others make field-stay of around ten person-days in a month. To facilitate our access and connect, we set up working local offices in Amlasole and Jhargram.

Our focus and the order of priority

- Education of children
- Preventive healthcare of children
- Livelihood generation for adults
- Preventive healthcare of adults, and
- Education of adults

During the reporting year, however, we could work mainly with children.

Activities during the reporting year in EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

This year we

- ✓ Continued with the monthly scholarship of Rs 1,500/- to Ms Laxmipriya Mura, the first tribal girl child from this cluster of villages who is pursuing formal BSc nursing studies. She has set an example for other children to follow in coming days.



Laxmipriya is now in the final year of her nursing course

- ✓ Continued providing active support to the resident tribal children from poor families, in order to enable them to continue with their education and hostel stay:
 - food and nutritional supplements, dresses, and other essential items,
 - coaching, tutoring, sports and games, and music lessons to complement their regular study.
- ✓ Continued with the half-yearly scholarship of Rs 500 each to two resident children, based on academic assessment, to encourage them in their studies. It was important that the selection process was carried out by the hostel staff themselves, according to set parameter.

- ✓ Awarded a token monthly scholarship of Rs 20 to tribal school children, based on academic assessment, to encourage them in their studies.

In these two categories, recipients of this years' scholarships were

- Kuni Mura
- Dhanmani Sabar
- Sibani Munda
- Sanjay Sabar
- Sakuntala Sing

Kalicharan Sabar of Kankrajhor also showed a remarkable overall improvement in the initial months.

- ✓ Established useful connection with people from different professions, like a group of young PhD students from the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science - Kolkata, the Indian Institute of Technology – Kharagpur, teachers from Jhargram Raj College, et al. We facilitated distribution of
 - school bag and umbrella,
 - food-materials, rich in nutrition value, to the school and hostel children,
 - woolen garments to the younger batch of school students,
 - toys,
 - teaching aids, black-boards and chinks, etc.
 - The PhD students expressed their desire to systematically organize training programmes for the teachers of the school.
 - They procured for the school four educational software to impart lessons to the children in health, history, general knowledge and science, in a more interesting way.
 - Smt Basanti Manki, the very first teacher of the local tribal school, was equipped to teach Bengali alphabet through computer.
- ✓ Arranged a number of film-shows for the children on health, animal life, and entertainment topics.

- ✓ Introduced a number of teaching aids and some innovative indoor games, to enhance general knowledge of the children.
- ✓ Gave special attention to physical exercise and development of athletic skill in select tribal children; Sri Birsha Mura was appointed as a local trainer. A stopwatch was bought to record timing of their 100m and 200m run.
- ✓ Courtesy Sri Susanta Chakraborty, Additional District Magistrate, Paschim Medinipur, facilitated admission of three tribal girls - Laxmirani Mura, Lalita Mura and Gulapi sabar - into a government home at Manikpara, for their longer academic career in the formal education system.
- ✓ Gave special attention to regularly update the teachers in order to enhance their teaching skill. They also learnt how to guide the children better for using the teaching aids, and how to measure the academic progress of children at different levels through tests,
- ✓ Organised an annual sports meet for the school children, amidst great enthusiasm, with prizes for the participants.
- ✓ Organised a one-day educational tour for the students and the staff at Mukutmonipur. It was a good learning opportunity for all.
- ✓ Organised a one-day art-workshop on painting and hand-made toys for the school children. The artist Sri Sanjay Mitra of Jhargram, and his team, made it a grand event.



*Participants leaving for
Mukutmonipur*



Art-workshop at Amlasole

- ✓ Purchased, towards the end of the year, the following items for strengthening study and play of the children:
 - a computer with table,
 - a small cycle,
 - flying discs for sports and games,
 - a digital camera for photography training to children; there is a need to have photography facilities as a community service in the area in future.

Activities during the reporting year in PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE OF CHILDREN

In the FY 2015-16 we

- ✓ Continued providing active support to the school and hostel children in sanitary practices like washing of hands, washing clothes, wearing footwear, using hygienic water, etc.
- ✓ Took the help of Smt Arundhati Bose and Smt Soma Hota from Jhargram, to educate and counsel senior girl students of the hostel in menstruation health management. With this the groundwork was done to impart such lessons regularly In future.

This year medical attention was needed by three students - Kuni Mura, Sandhyarani Mura and Mugli Sabar. With the awareness we have been attempting to create among the local villagers, it was possible for them to arrange for prompt and proper service in each case.

Activities during the reporting year in LIVELIHOOD GENERATION FOR ADULTS

During the reporting year, we

- ✓ Continued with our support to enhance the expertise of the local people in running the co-operative of their own.
- ✓ Continued with an active and involved support by our members to the second-year programme of Bose Institute - Department of Science and Technology, Government of India:

- livelihood-generation projects involving individual beneficiaries,
- training,
- economic utilization of first-year's community facilities under the project - kitchen garden, water distribution pumps, rain-water harvesting system for the school toilets, and
- additional community facilities this year – the first-ever mustard oil expeller in the entire neighbourhood, and a small unit for animal and bird vaccination.

For implementing this project, we worked as the collaborators of another NGO. The project outcome is encouraging and we now expect Bose Institute to continue with these activities for a few more years.

- ✓ Arranged, at the initiative of our Vice President Sri Sujit Choudhury, an awareness programme on watershed management. It has taken up an especially critical significance in view of the continuing draught.
- ✓ Equipped the enthusiastic local tribal youth Birsha Mura - who has now become a member of our Society as well - with tools for minor day to day work of various kinds. As a trend-setter among the local youth, Birsha takes a lot of interest in providing such services, otherwise difficult to get in the entire locality.



Report on other activities during the year

During the reporting year,

- ✓ Our strength of membership increased from nine to thirteen.

- ✓ We provided a mobile phone, attended round the clock at a specified location at Amlasole, viz. the hostel for the tribal children. This, we believe, will increase connectivity with the place.

- ✓ We introduced LED bulbs at our Amlasole office. This will set a good example in energy saving.

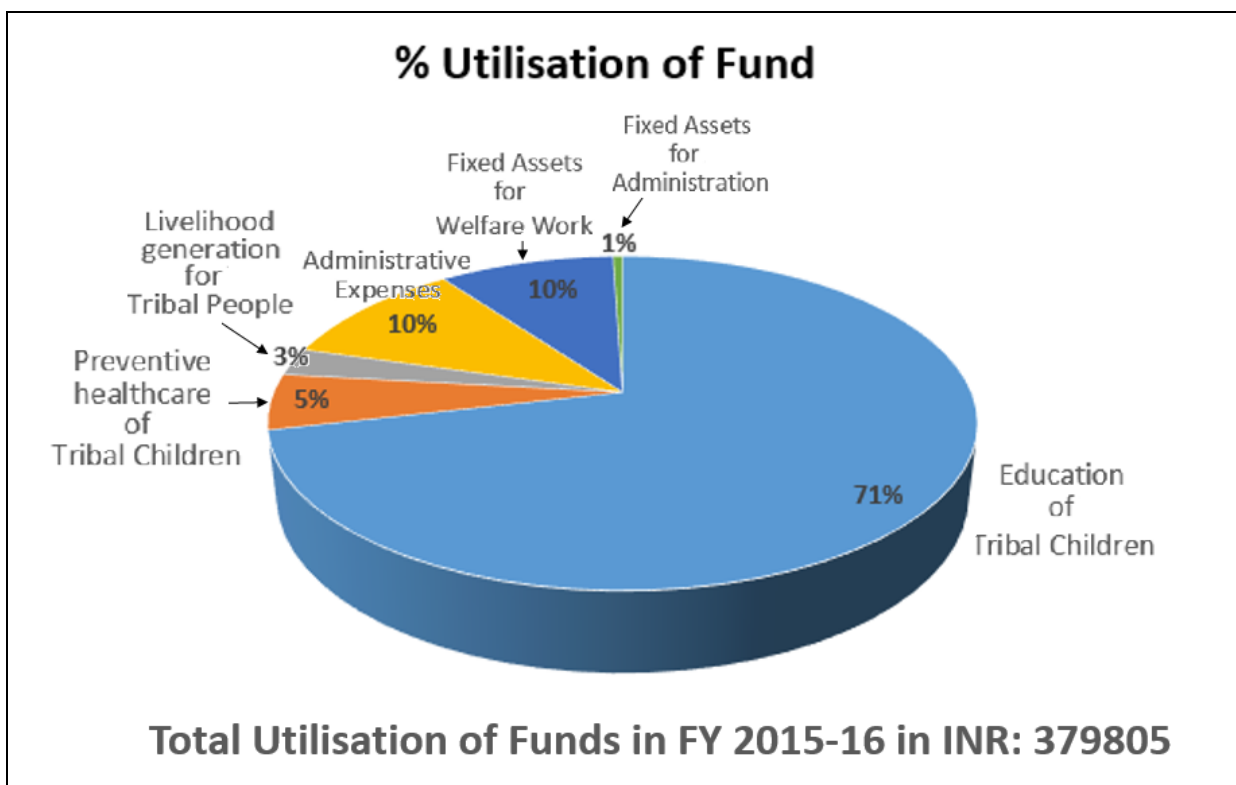
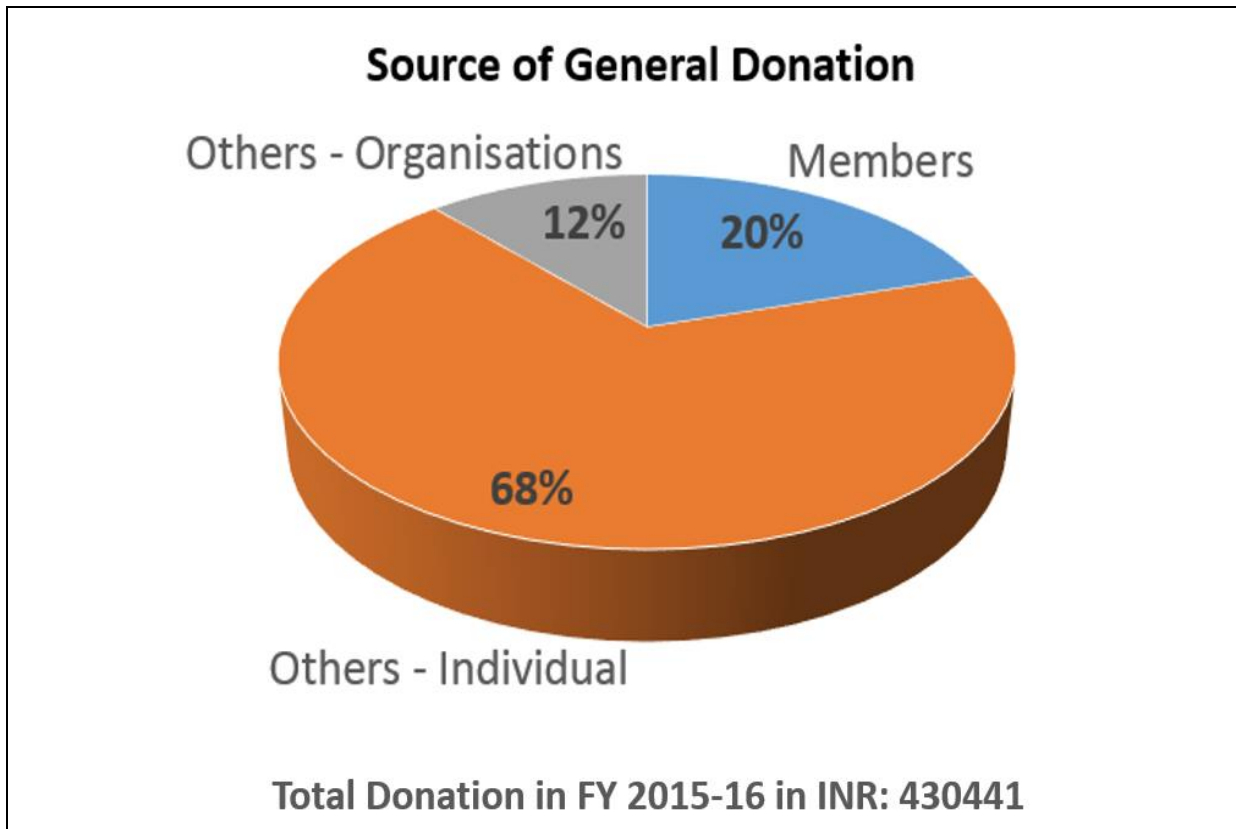
- ✓ We complied with statutory requirements and deadlines in respect of:
 - Holding of AGM,
 - Annual report to the Registrar of Societies for registration renewal,
 - Submission of income tax return.

- ✓ We conducted four governing body meetings, one in each quarter, complying with the requirement under our regulations.

- ✓ We put a working website in place through wordpress.com. It can be accessed from any one of our domain names: amlasole.com, amlasole.in, amlasole.net, amlasole.info, and amlasole.org.

- ✓ We followed up with the Union Home Ministry for prior permission under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, in order to receive committed project-based funds from Al Jisr Charity Association, Sultanate of Oman, and have been informed that the matter is under process.

Source of donation; Expenditure analysis





Our gratitude to...

- All our donors, who generously helped us
- M/s Mookherjee Biswas and Pathak, the Statutory Auditors
- M/s Agarwal Kejriwal & Co, for their professional support
- Friends and well-wishers who kept on creating opportunities
- All our associates and collaborators

