

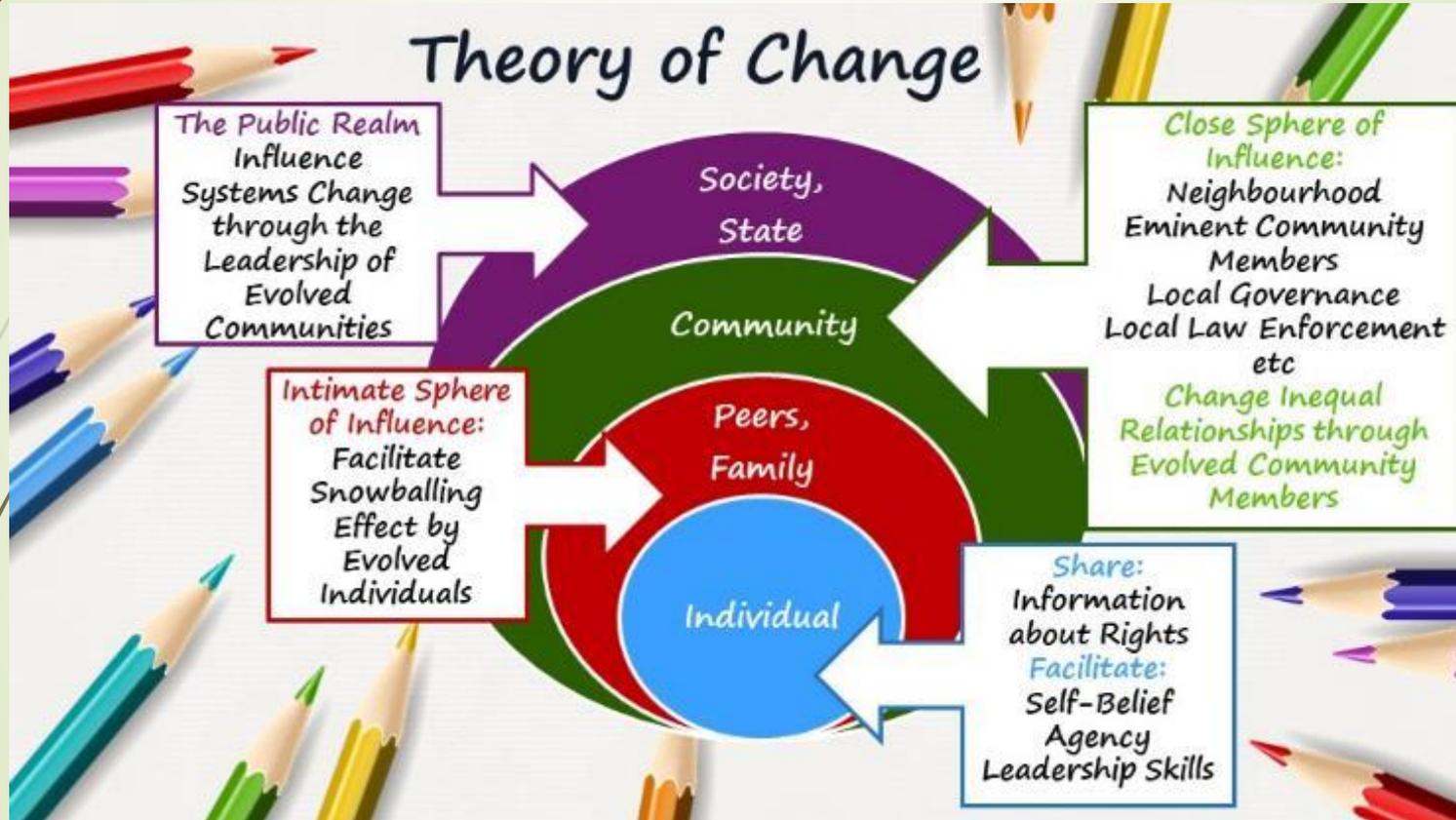
Red-Light Area Initiatives: Implemented in Wards 18, 75, 76, 83, 84 & 89 Kolkata Municipal Corporation



Menstrual Hygiene Promotion
Cum
Income Generation Programme
for Resource-Poor Women

Annual Report: April - March, 2022-23

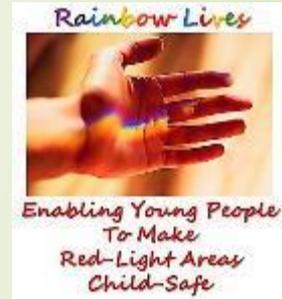
DIKSHA's Theory of Change



Initiatives during April 2022 – March 2023 ...

- **Five Red-Light Area Initiatives: Enabling the Young to Write Their Own Life-Scripts** – to facilitate school enrolment and retention, elimination of all forms of abuse and violence against young people, and preventing FORCED intergenerational dependence on the red-light area economy:

- ✓ **Rainbow Lives: Enabling Young People to Make Red-Light Areas Child-Safe:** implemented at Kalighat, Ward 83, KMC – Since 2004, currently self-funded.
- ✓ **Rongbahar: Vibrant Colours** – Making Red Light Areas Safe for Children – implemented at Khidirpur, Wards 75 & 76, KMC – Since April 2018, funding support from Skychildren Onlus.



... Initiatives during April 2022 – March 2023

- **Five Red-Light Area Initiatives: Enabling the Young to Write Their Own Life-Scripts** (continued)
 - ✓ Rangin: Colourful – Making Red Light Areas Safe for Children implemented at Lakar Math, Ward 84, KMC – Since April 2022, funding support from Skychildren Onlus
 - ✓ Rangoli: Making Red Light Areas Safe for Children – implemented at Tollygunge, Ward 89, KMC – Since November 2022, self-funded.
 - ✓ Rongchong: Colours – implemented at Sonagachhi, Ward 17, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) – Since December 2022, funded mostly through individual donations.



... Initiatives during April 2022 – March 2023

- **Life Unlimited: Empowering Rural Girls through Sports** – implemented in Illambazar block, Birbhum district. Self-funded.
- **Kaam-Kaaj: Income Generation for Resource-Poor Women** - implemented in Illambazar block, Birbhum district; Wards 75 and 84, Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Supported by GOONJ.
- **Padded with Love: Menstrual Hygiene Promotion cum Income Generation for Resource-Poor Women** - implemented in Labpur block, Birbhum district; Lalgola block, Murshidabad district; Phulia block, Nadia district; Ward 13, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas; and Wards 6, 7, and 108 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Supported by GOONJ.



Life Unlimited: Empowering Rural Girls through Sports



Numbers Speak ...

Children, Adults, and Families Served Directly

- A total of 445 children (2-18 years) remained enrolled in DIKSHA Red-Light Area programmes during 2022-2023.
- The 18+ Youth Group had 23 members during the period: 5 women and 18 men. These members are spread between Kalighat and Khidirpur.
- Average regular attendance varied between 250 and 300.
- All attending children in Lakar Math and Tollygunge receive daily nutritional support five days a week. Sonagachhi sessions occur every Saturday, when all attending children receive nutritional support.
- Women's Groups as backup support for youth-led initiatives exist in Kalighat, Khidirpur, and Lakar Math, with 40, 80 and 35 regular members respectively.

Numbers Speak (continued)

- Dry Ration Distribution:
 - ✓ 50 children at Kalighat thrice during the year
 - ✓ 54 children at Lakar Math once during the year
 - ✓ 226 children and youth group members at Munsiganj 4 times during the year
 - ✓ 41 children once during the year
 - ✓ 40 children at Sonagachhi once during the year
- In February 2023 DIKSHA collaborated with GOONJ to organise Community Cleaning initiatives by 450 women at Kalighat, Lakar Math, and Tollygunge. All participating women received a blanket and a floor-rug each.
- 45 women received oral health check-up service at Lakar Math.
- Cervical cancer check-up for 50 women at Kalighat, 31 women at Khidirpur, and 36 women at Lakar Math.

DIKSHA's RLA Strategy

DIKSHA's CBRTs

We empower the youth to evolve as Community-Based Resource Teams (CBRTs). They act as 24x7 watchdogs and crisis interveners to prevent attempted cases of child abuse. They are also enabled to take the steps necessary for legal redress through prosecution.

Our Three-Pronged Strategy



Measurable Impact: Red-Light Area Initiatives

- Total new school enrolments during the year: 2 girls and 7 boys, all fields taken together. Other children are already going to school.
- Reenrolment: 1 girl and 1 boy, all fields taken together. All other children are going to school, though we could not persuade the family of one girl and one boy at Khidirpur to reenrol post the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dropout prevention: 2 girls and 2 boys, all fields taken together.
- Xth standard pass-out: 2 boys and 1 girl. XIIth standard pass-out: 1 girl and 1 boy.
- Underage marriage prevention: 7 boys and 24 girls. DIKSHA achieves this through individual and/or couple counselling of adolescents in romantic relationships. We use both professional counselling support, and peer counselling.
- We could prevent one underage marriage of a 15+ girl on the verge of it being solemnised. This was possible through community support and help from Childline.

RLA Initiatives: Measurable Impact (continued)

- The impact of DIKSHA's work always extends beyond just the numbers and the direct initiatives.
- Since the core strength of our RLA initiatives is the creation of CBRTs (please refer to slide # 8), the continuation of older CBRT members and the emergence of new members is a significant indicator of impact.
- Three new CBRT members emerged during the period: one young man and one young woman in Khidirpur, and one child leader in Kalighat. Currently, we have 40 CBRT members: 25 in Kalighat and 15 in Khidirpur.
- Three women deserve special mention: these three Muslim women aged 19, 22, and 25 have successfully negotiated with their families to delay their marriages. One of them is pursuing graduation. All three of them continue to be active youth leaders in their areas. Two of them are working as field educators at DIKSHA.

RLA Initiatives: Measurable Impact (continued)

- Other notable Stories of Change:
 - ✓ No underage marriage has happened at Kalighat during the year.
 - ✓ Only one underage elopement at Khidirpur, which we could not prevent as this girl never participated in DIKSHA programmes. We mention this as it also indicates that no other underage marriage/elopement happened because of DIKSHA's sustained engagement with the youth and their families.



RLA Initiatives: Measurable Impact (continued)

- Other Notable Stories of Change:
 - ✓ No underage marriage has happened at Kalighat during the year.
 - ✓ Only one underage elopement at Khidirpur, which we could not prevent as this girl never participated in DIKSHA programmes. We mention this as it also indicates that no other underage marriage/elopement happened because of DIKSHA's sustained engagement with the youth and their families.
- Some Other Achievements:
 - ✓ Children at DIKSHA performed twice at the pavilion of the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) during the Kolkata International Book Fair, 2023.
 - ✓ During a steamer ride organised by the WBCPCR on the occasion of Children's Day (November 14), only the DIKSHA children could respond correctly to the question on the legal age of marriage. Children from seven organisations participated in the quiz contest aboard the steamer.

RLA Initiatives: Camera Eye



Measurable Impact: Other Initiatives



Life Unlimited: Empowering Rural Girls through Sports

- **Life Unlimited: Empowering Rural Girls through Sports** – with DIKSHA's help, 15 girls from Kamarpara village in Illambazar block, Birbhum district, have negotiated with objecting village adults to continue nurturing their dream of playing football.



- **Kaam-Kaaj: Income Generation for Resource-Poor Women** - 19 women have received occupational skills training under this new initiative. They are currently producing bags and junk jewellery using recycled fabrics. DIKSHA has just started marketing these products.

- **Padded with Love: Menstrual Hygiene Promotion cum Income Generation for Resource-Poor Women** - 22 women are currently participating in this programme. They have sold 6820 packets so far @ 310 per head between January and March 2023.



Collaborations and Partnerships: 1

Enabling Job-Ready Young Women from Marginalized Communities to Deal with Sexual Harassment at Workplace:

- DIKSHA is a member of the Y-East Network, through which DIKSHA has started a collaboration with LP4Y – a French organisation running a residential job skills training programme for 18-24 year-old women from vulnerable communities.
- DIKSHA trains these young women on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act when they reach the job-search stage.
- During the reporting year, DIKSHA trained three such batches of women.
- DIKSHA also offered two trainings on gender and the POSHW Act to both male and female youth from fringe communities receiving job skills training at a non-residential centre run by LP4Y.

Collaborations and Partnerships: 2

- DIKSHA collaborates with Ma Foundation, a non-profit with a CSR agreement with sanitary napkin manufacturing companies to source unpacked sanitary pads for the Padded with Love project.
- DIKSHA implements the Padded with Love initiative at Birbhum district in partnership with IMSE (Institute for Motivating Self-Employment). In Murshidabad and Nadia districts, this programme is implemented in collaboration with SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) West Bengal.



Collaborations and Partnerships: 3

- DIKSHA is a member of the District-level Network Against Underage Marriage in Murshidabad initiated by SEWA West Bengal.
- DIKSHA collaborated with Rang Milanti, an informal group of college and university students, to organise a day-long cultural programme with the children from all the red-light areas where we work. Rang Milanti members presented drawing kits to all the children.
- Young representatives from DIKSHA participated in the Youth Carnival 2023 organised by Talash.



The Financials

- **During the Financial Year 2022-2023 DIKSHA received the total amount of INR 47,24,274.90 in financial support, as per the details below:**
 - **Foreign contribution: INR 31,17,631.90**
 - **Indian funds: INR 16,06,643.00**
 - **Individual donations: INR 98,121.00**
- **Audit report: Completed**

Photo Gallery ...



Photo Gallery ...



Photo Gallery ...



Photo Gallery ...

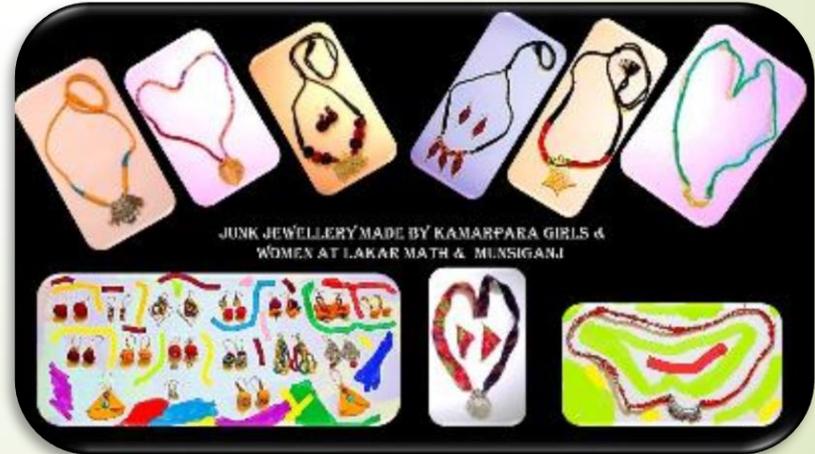


Photo Gallery ...





Roadmap : 2023-2028





For supporting our
Lakar Math & Munsiganj
programmes
& partial support to
Kalighat & Sonagachhi



Sincerely thanks



*For supporting out Padded
with Love & Kaam-Kaaj
initiatives*



For supporting DIKSHA
From 2004 until
December 2022

And ALL DIKSHA
Dosts for their
generosity