

The Inclusive Chronicle:

Stories of impact

January 2024



**Centre for Inclusive
Development
Charitable Trust**

The beginning..

Centre for Inclusive Development Charitable Trust (CIDCT) came into existence with the initiative taken up by a group of few young activists from different parts of West Bengal, who wanted to address the social issues, e.g., Child Rights, Gender Rights, Environment, Education, Health and other basic social issues with pro-active initiatives. After several years of work in association with a few local organizations in the fields of Child education and women's economic self-sufficiency, we are finally in a process of steady development. With tireless efforts, now our organization is running a school for the children of the migrant workers, working in the brick-fields of Nadia district in West Bengal. Apart from that, we have extended our work within the marginalized communities residing at the Indo-Bangladesh border of West Bengal. These border residents are constantly subjected to denial, their rights to life and livelihood are randomly violated and they live a life without dignity. We want to contribute to the substantial development of the people of these border villages in Cooch Behar and North Dinajpur districts with pro-active intervention. Our initiatives have also extended to conducting authentic research and community development programs for a section of people, who have resorted to unsafe migration caused by climate change. The changing climate has changed the morphology of the rivers in West Bengal to a great deal. The direct consequences of this phenomenon has been bore by the fishermen communities across the state as they have taken a serious hit rendering huge losses. Thus they are migrating elsewhere leaving their homeland. Our initiatives in community development programs are directed towards playing our part in countering this wave of unsafe migration.

Our goal is to create a just and equitable society where every person in the world can live and realize their potential to the fullest. The world we are living in today is plagued with multiple social inequalities. The United Nations has declared 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to fight these social inequalities. We are working on the ground to reinforce and endorse these 17 Goals.

We have initiated our journey with very limited capacity but with huge determination and hope. We hope to change the way of things around only with our strong dedication to do so. We also urge for your generous support to help us with our intervention in order to better the lives of the people in need.

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Due to our already established credibility in the field of social work, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) of Cooch Behar District invited us to organize a program at Swadhar Greh Home at Baneshwar, Cooch Behar. In that program, we provided new cloths to the residents of the shelter home during the occasion of the festive season.



Pic 1: Meeting with the volunteers of Haldibari block of Cooch Behar district to identify the issues faced by them.



Pic 2: Meeting with the volunteers of Tufanganj block of Cooch Behar district to identify the issues faced by them.



Pic 3: Meeting with the volunteers of North Dinajpur district to identify the issues faced by them.



Unveiling the Challenges Faced by Brick Field Workers in West Bengal - A Call for Change

Brickfield workers in West Bengal face challenging conditions that underscore the broader issue of labor exploitation. Often hailing from impoverished backgrounds, these workers engage in strenuous manual labor under grueling circumstances. The nature of their work involves molding and baking bricks in kilns, subjecting them to long hours of toil in hazardous environments.

These workers confront various hardships, including inadequate safety measures, meager wages, and limited access to healthcare. Many live in makeshift settlements near the brickfields, lacking basic amenities and proper sanitation. The transient nature of their employment further exacerbates their vulnerability, with job insecurity prevailing.

Moreover, child labor remains a prevalent concern in these brickfields, as families often involve their children to supplement income, compromising the youngsters' education and future prospects. The absence of effective regulatory mechanisms contributes to the perpetuation of these dire conditions.

Addressing the plight of brickfield workers in West Bengal necessitates a multifaceted approach involving stringent labor regulations, enhanced safety protocols, and initiatives promoting social and economic upliftment. Raising awareness about their struggles is crucial in fostering empathy and garnering support for comprehensive reforms to improve the living and working conditions of these marginalized workers.

CIDCT is working among these brick field workers in Krishnanagar, Nadia, with a goal to better their living standards and providing them with basic support.



Education for all has been a long standing goal to achieve among the national and international community. In a country like India, it is not a cake-walk to achieve the same. Since, Independence the literacy rate has been increased significantly. But, the dream of 100% literacy is yet to be a reality. We, the members of civil society must come up with a full proof plan to play our part to solve this problem. There are many individuals and organizations working tirelessly for the same. Through exchange of ideas and networking we can upscale our modus operandi in our fields of work, and serve our beneficiaries better than ever. Let's join hands for this initiative!

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