



ANUBHAB

ANNUAL REPORT
2016 - 2017

KULPI-ASTHA

AT & P.O. KULPI
DIST. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS
PIN 7433351
WEST BENGAL, INDIA

**REPORT FROM THE DESK OF
SECRETARY**

To our development partners and well-wishers.....Being a grass-root non-government organization, Kulpi Astha has passed 15 years in the service to rural poor and underprivileged people. It has resource crunch and its man-power is limited. With all their zeal and enthusiasm, its members, staff and volunteers try heart and soul to give their best service to bring positive change in the lives of its target group population.



In the words of Swami Vivekananda, "Our mission is for the destitute, the poor and the illiterate peasantry and labouring classes and if, after everything has been done for them first, there is spare time, then only for the gentry." In Kulpi Astha, we have taken it as the principle of work. We do serve our target group population, irrespective of gender, caste, community and religion.

"It would be better if the people got a little technical education, so that they might find work and earn their bread, instead of dawdling about and crying for service," said Vivekananda. Kulpi Astha emphasizes on technical education and training to enable rural youth and women to find out suitable work and to earn their livelihood.

Self-help Group for Self-reliance is a step taken up by Kulpi Astha for women empowerment. It mobilizes rural women from low income-group families to form their own self-help groups so as to mobilize their meagre savings collectively in group funds and use the same for any productive purpose or to meet emergency / future needs.

I take the privilege to introduce our Annual Report of 2016-2017

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to those benevolent individuals and development agencies, both govt. and non-govt. whose co-operation and support have enabled us to keep our drive on-going.

I do feel pride for all our numbers, staff & volunteers for their tireless efforts to the service of needy people in our quarter. I convey my heart-felt thanks to all of them.

Kulpi
March 31, 2017

Ashis Kumar Pramanik
Secretary

KULPI ASTHA : A PROFILE

A Look Back:

Origin of Kulpi Astha lies in voluntary involvement of a group of like-minded youth in rescue and relief operation to save lives and belongings of cyclone-affected hapless villagers in their quarter. Their efforts to save the people from the ravages of nature drew attention of the common people to the group. This led the youth to come closer to the villagers. They developed sound rapport with the people. They often discussed among themselves to do something beneficial to the people living in utter destitution, poverty, illiteracy and ill-health. They decided to form a voluntary platform to organise different welfare and development activities. Their decision came into effect in 2002 when they established Kulpi-Astha. Kulpi is the place of origin. The connotation of Astha is confidence. The youth have stepped in promoting a bond of confidence among themselves and also with the people whom they serve. Owing to its commitment and dedication to serve the most needy people, children, youth, women, adults, & aged, Kulpi Astha has drawn acceptance of the people as a committed friend to them. It is now a well-known organization in the area, dedicated to the service of living God.

This is all about the background of Kulpi Astha.

Legal Frame:

- Registered NGO under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act XXVI of 1961.
- Registration No. S/1L/10250 Date of Registration 26/06/2002 Annually renewal.
- FCRA Number 147110784
- Income Tax Exemption under 12(A) and u/s 80 (G)
- PAN : AAATK8409K

Our Mission

To promote comprehensive development of village people, priority to those who are socially disadvantaged and economically underprivileged, irrespective of gender, caste, creed and religion, for attaining 'quality of life and living'

Core Objective

To ensure people's development through advancement in social, educational, cultural, physical, economic, environmental and other spheres of rural life and living.

Physical Set-up

Kulpi Astha is housed in its own building at Kulpi. Its operational spread covers around 35 villages in 04 Blocks, namely Kulpi, Mandir Bazar, Kakdwip and Magrahat-I in South 24-Parganas district.

The operational area of the organization is characterised as alluvial plains on the river-basin of the Hooghly river, being a part of Sundarban delta, not far away from the Bay of Bengal. It is a cyclone-prone area. The people here largely belong to SC, OBC and Muslim minority families. Its rural economy mainly depends on agriculture. During agricultural lean period, there is large scale migration in search of menial and manual jobs to adjoining urban areas; even in Kolkata and Howrah.

Kulpi is connected with Kolkata by the National Highway No. 117. The main Railway stations that connect Kulpi with Kolkata are-Kulpi in Namkhana - Sealdah Section, Diamond Harbour and Magrahat in Diamond Harbour - Sealdah Section of Eastern Railway.

Governance

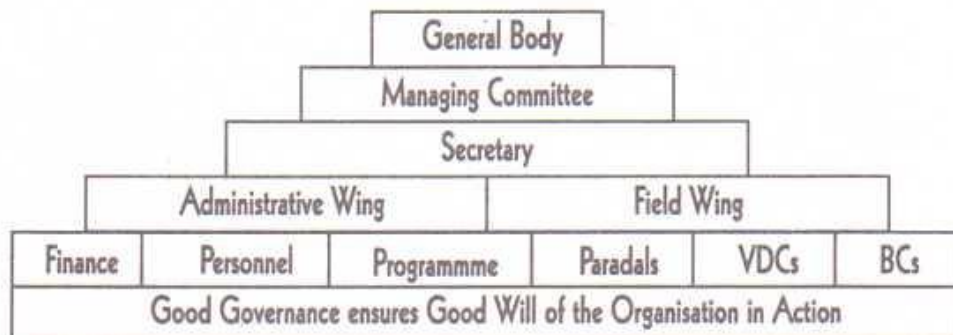
The General Body is an apex nucleus, comprising of all members of Kulpi Astha. It is the supreme authority to critically examine the programmes implemented and the funds utilized during the last financial year and to approve the Action Plan and Budget for the next financial year at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The main executive body is the Managing Committee consisting of 9 members elected from among the general members. The Secretary of the committee is the chief executive who remains responsible for all financial, programme and personnel matters to both the General Body and the Managing Committee.

Under the leadership of the Secretary, the day-to-day programme management is being done by a core team of paid and voluntary staff in different wings.

At the village level, the programmes are being executed involving Paradals (Groups functioning in parts of a village) and Village Development Committee.

To ensure good governance, the organization maintains transparency and social accountability in all aspects.



Programme Intervention

Kulpi Astha has so far made the major programme interventions in the following fields:

- Child Centric Programme
- Astha Health Programme
- Environment Promotion and Conservation
- Vocational / Skill Training
- Women Empowerment
- Awareness Generation Programme
- Age Demand Programme (for elderly persons)
- Games, Sports & Cultural Exposition

Resource Support

In carrying on its different programme interventions, Kulpi Astha has received the financial support from different sources as shown below:

- Community Contribution
- Individual Donation
- Government Grants
- Sitaram Jindal Foundation
- Shamdasani Foundation
- NGO Own Resources

Our Contact

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Website : kulpiastha.org.in

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE: 2016-2017

Child-Centric Programme

1.0 Per-School Education:

In the age-cohort 03-06 years, 30 boys and girls are on roll in a per-school education centre run by Kulpi Astha. Of the children, 12 are boys and 18 are girls. With joy, the children express-We play, We learn. We are in joyful learning. The programme relates the following activities:

- Care of personal hygiene and habit formation
- Basic health care
- Elementary education
- Drawing & Painting, recitation & dance
- Nature study
- Indoor games & free-hand exercises

Impact:

- Care of personal hygiene and cleanliness among children influences their parents to follow the same
- Joyful learning has developed the mental make-up of the children
- Frequent illness among them almost controlled
- The parents, especially mothers, have become more conscious for better care of their children.

2.0 Study Centre

To overcome weakness in studies, the centre enrolls 30 boys and girls from Standard V to Standard VIII. The remedial coaching is given to them in the study centre. The centre is being voluntarily run by four members of Kulpi Astha. The enrolled students made progress in their last class examination as graded below:

Performance	Very Good	Good	Moderate	Total
Number	07	15	08	30
%	23.3	50.0	26.7	100.0

Story of Change

Mitali-a Self-employed Woman



Mitali D/o Sujit Halder is from Paschim Gopalnagar village of Kulpi Block, South 24-Parganas district. She is 24 years old.

For economic hardship of the family, she wanted to do something to support the family income but she had no skill in any trade.

Meanwhile she came in touch with Kulpi Astha. She applied for the skill-training in Beautician Course organized by Kulpi Astha. She toiled hard to complete the course successfully from 01/03/2016 to 31/05/2016.

Owing to dearth of sufficient capital, she is not able to open a Parlour of her own. She is running a home-unit in beauty culture & bridal make-up. On an average, she earns Rs. 3000/- per month.

She is happy. She adds that the quest to income has brought her to the struggle for existence. It is on. It has empowered her to live with dignity and self-respect.

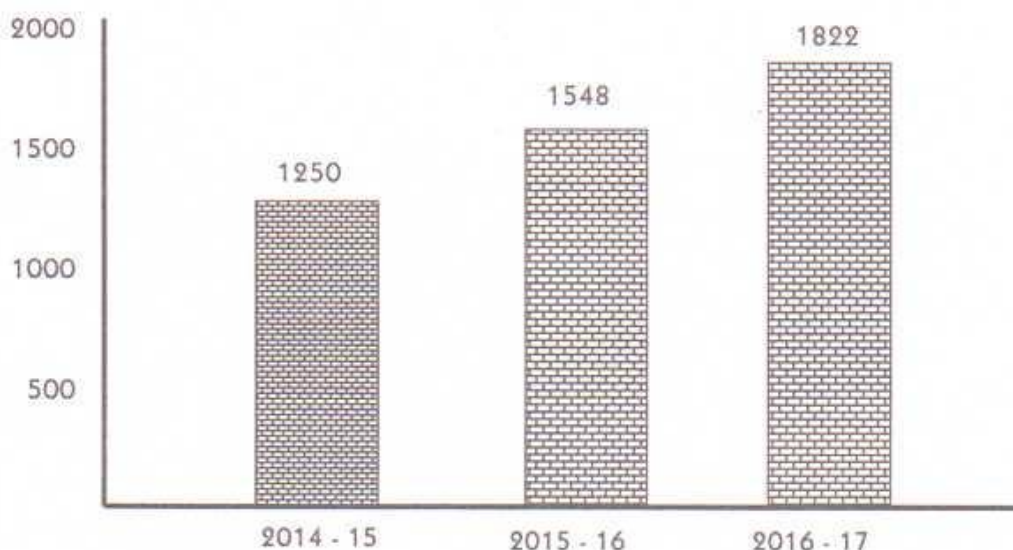
Astha Health Programme

Since its inception the organization is running a Homeopathy clinic in its premises. The clinic renders the services viz. diagnosis, treatment and medical advices to the patients, especially children, women and aged persons.

Having no cost, easy access to homeopathy treatment, many poor and needy villagers have been benefitted from the clinic. In the words of a patient, "After treatment in the clinic my painful suffering from gout is much controlled." Another is in view that she is almost cured from hyper acidity.

Along with community contribution and local individual donation, Kulpi-Astha receives the financial support from SITARAM JINDAL FOUNDATION to run the clinic.

Every year, the number of patients is increased. The trend is shown for last 3 years in the bar chart below:



During the reporting year, besides running the clinic, Kulpi Astha organised health education camps covering 836 participants, health counseling to 456 persons and hospitalization of 117 at risk patients and 67 pregnant women.

Astha Environment Drive-READ

For promotion of rural environment and motivation of village people to perform their civic responsibility to boost rural environment clean and green, Kulpi Astha has introduced Rural Environment Awareness Development (READ) Programme in its operational area. Like previous years, the organization made the following interventions during the reporting year (next page):

Story of Change

Tailoring Unit enabled Pratima to live with dignity



Pratima W/o Utpal Mondal of village Kulpi in South 24-Parganas district is 23 years old. Her husband faced much hardship to maintain the family with his meagre income. To support her husband financially, Pratima came out of home and hearth. She received the training in Tailoring from 01/10/2015 to 31/12/2015 at Kulpi Astha. She successfully completed the course.

She somehow arranged to purchase a sewing machine and started her home unit in Tailoring.

Pratima toils hard to collect orders from individual users and local ready-made garment shops. Apart from her household chores, she remains busy with her unit. Her Present monthly income is nearly Rs. 8000/- From a state of misery and penury she has promoted herself to a state of dignity and self-esteem. No member in the family passes a day in starvation, not for observing a social / religious ritual but for want of adequate food. She is happy.

Intervention	No. of Participants
AGP on Promotion of Herbal Garden & its maintenance	46 Villagers
Workshop on Conservation of Biodiversity	50 Villagers
Orientation on Non-chemical methods of weed control	65 Farmers
Orientation on Vermi composting	75 Farmers
AGP on Maintenance of Community Water Sources	86 Villagers
Orientation on Safe use of Pesticides	50 Farmers
Social plantation-1650 seedlings	165 Villagers
Sit & Draw Competition on Greenery of Rural Environment	105 Children
Total	642

Message

READ is on stride with alarming voice : Environment that is being poisoned to-day, will not support a life of progress to-morrow. Protect environment. Promote it.

Vocational & Skill Training

Since its inception, Kulpi Astha accords priority to Vocational / Skill-development training in different need-based trades as a part of livelihood support to rural unemployed youth and women in its quarter. It has developed its own training building to organize multifarious training activities.

During the year under review, it conducted the following training courses :

Sl. No.	Course	Duration	No. of Trainee	Financed by
1	Refrigeration Course for Unemployed SC	6 Months	30	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of West Bengal
2	Beautician Course	3 Months	90 in 3 batches	W.B. Swarojgar Corporation Ltd.
3	Computer Application	6 Months	60 in 2 batches	Individual Donation and Own Resource
4	Tailoring	2 Months	30	Society for Self-employment of Unemployed Youth, West Bengal
5	Computer Basic	2 Months	30	Society for Self-employment of Unemployed Youth, West Bengal

Kulpi Astha has developed its experience and expertise in organizing capacity building training activities as a drive towards income generation and empowerment of rural unemployed youth and women.

Story of Change

Upon the Ladder of Success



Biplab Adhikary S/o Prabhas Adhikary is from the village Kulpi in South 24-Parganas district. He is 39 years old.

After completion of Graduation he was in search of a white-collar job. But his search was in vain.

To do something on his own, he completed the skill-training course in T.V. and Audio Repairing from 01/07/2013 to 31/12/2013 at Kulpi Astha. He somehow managed to start a small shop for T.V. and Audio Repairing at Kulpi Bazar.

Biplab toils hard to establish himself as an efficient technician in the concerned trade. He maintains good relation with his customers and gives them service on time. Bit by bit he has made his shop well-equipped. He is running his shop smoothly.

Biplab is now earring around Rs. 20,000/- per month from sale & service in T.V. and Audio Repairing. He has forgot to search a white-collar job. His dream to live with dignity is fulfilled. He is happy. He expresses his gratitude to the organizers of Kulpi-Astha to give him an opportunity of undergoing the training in T.V. and Audio Repairing.

Women Empowerment

Self-help group for self-reliance is a step towards women empowerment. With this motto, Kulpi Astha has taken initiative to organize rural women from low income-group families to form their own self-help groups. In the group fund, they mobilize their meagre savings in a collective way. They utilize the savings, on loan basis, mainly for productive purposes and also to meet their emergency needs.

The drive has brought some positive changes in them viz.

- Co-operation and trust among the group members strengthened.
- Improvement of their decision-making capacity
- Development of leadership capability
- Access to and control of assets as well as increased incomes and control over incomes to fulfill income security.
- Improvement of standard of living
- Dignified in their families as well as community for their active participation in Self-help Group(s).

Many of the group members in different groups are involved in small businesses taking loans from their group funds and earn around Rs. 8000/- per month each. The Self-help groups beckon the light of hope in their minds to live well.

Age-demand Programme

Kulpi Astha does not forget its responsibility to stand beside the elderly people who live in utter destitution and misery. During the reporting year, with humane support and donation from Shamdasani Foundation, Kulpi Astha provided the blankets (one each) to 350 elderly men and women who suffered much in chilling cold of winter because they financially were not in a position to purchase a winter garment.

These hapless elderly persons expressed their gratitude to both Shamdasani Foundation and Kulpi Astha.

Games, Sports & Cultural Exposition

- Football Tournament
- Annual Sports Competition
- Annual Cultural Meet-ANANDALOKAY
- Observance of Important National and International Days.



**Inauguration of
Beautician Training**



Trainees in Computer



Trainees in Tailoring



**Distribution of Kits
to trainees in Refrigeration**



**Local MLA, Block Social Welfare
Officer & Manager UCO Bank amidst
the trainees of Beautician Course**



**Beautician Training Inspection by
Sri Partha Pratim Santra
W.B. Swarojgar Corporation Ltd.**

Awareness Generation Programme (AGP)

Sl No	Programme	No. of Participants
1	Awareness Generation against Early Marriage & Motherhood	40 women & young girls
2	AGP on Use of Low Cost Household Sanitary Toilet	55 villagers
3	AGP on Civic Responsibility to save a person at stake	60 villagers
4	AGP on Gender Equality	42 young boys & girls
5	Orientation on Hazards of Pesticides	55 villagers
6	Orientation on Maintenance of Soil Health	50 farmers
7	Workshop on Man & Environment	40 villagers
8	AGP : Safe Drive, Save Life	55 youth
	Total	397

YOU CAN HELP US*Fund Support**Material Support**Moral Support**Extend your helping hand to the aged in distress**Visit us to boost our drive*



READ-Seedling Distribution



**Participants in
AGP-Safe Drive, Save Life**



**Participants in AGP on
Early Marriage & Motherhood**



**Distribution of Winter
Garment to Aged by
Kulpi Block Welfare Officer**



**Joint B.D.O., Kulpi Block in
Certificate Distribution**



**Sit & Draw
Competition**

OUR THANKS

We do appreciate active co-operation, generous resource and moral support extended by different organizations, Government and Non-government, benevolent persons to keep our endeavour on-going for the well-being of the people-in-need in our quarter. We extend our sincere thanks and regards to all of them.

1. Ministry of Textile, Government of India
2. Ministry of Culture, Government of India
3. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Govt. of India
4. Central Social Welfare Board
5. West Bengal Social Welfare Board
6. West Bengal Women Development Undertaking
7. West Bengal State Council of Technical Education
8. Department of Science & Technology Government of West Bengal
9. West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Limited
10. SHG & SE Department, Government of West Bengal
11. Department of Sports & Youth Service, Government of West Bengal
12. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
13. Sitaram Jindal Foundation
14. Shamdassani Foundation
15. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly, MP, Rajya Sabha
16. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation
17. District Administration, South 24 Parganas
18. Panchayat Raj Institutions, South 24 Parganas
19. Nehru Yuba Kendra, Diamond Harbour
20. Block Development Office(s). Kulpi, Mandir Bazar, Kakdwip, Magrahat-1
21. Block Primary Health Centre, Kulpi
22. Bani Mandir, Khordanala, South 24 Parganas
23. UBI, Kulpi Branch
24. State Bank of India, Kulpi Branch
25. State Bank of India, Mandir Bazar Branch
26. U.C.O. Bank, Kulpi Branch

...and many others who have extended co-operation with their moral support, and all those well-wishers who prefer to remain behind the curtain.

Kulpi Astha acts as a catalyst for development of poor and marginalized people in rural milieu. Its efforts are for the well being of the meanest and the most downtrodden, socially and economically, attaining a quality life and living. In this venture it has still miles to go. And it deserves that likeminded people and development agencies will be with Kulpi Astha and provide immense co-operation and assistance for ameliorating the suffering humanity.

To conclude with the words of Swami Vivekananda.

"Arise ! Awake ! Stop not till the goal is reached"

METROPOLITAN CITY OF KOLKATA

