



Hope for the Poor

Bandhan-Konnagar

Helping Communities Blossom



Contents

01

Message from the
Founder

02

Message from the
Secretary

03

Executive
Committee

04

Management
Team

05

Organisational
Structure

06

At a Glance

08

Development
Programme
Highlights

09

Development
Programmes

10

Targeting the
Hardcore Poor
(THP) Programme

13

Bandhan Health
Programme
(BHP)

17

Bandhan Education
Programme
(BEP)

21

Employing the
Unemployed
Programme (EUP)

25

Bandhan
Financial Literacy
Programme (BFLP)

29

Visitors

30

Donor Support

31

Newsroom

33

Auditor's Report

35

Balance Sheet

36

Income &
Expenditure Account

37

Receipt and
Payments

Message from the Founder

Dear Readers,

At Bandhan-Konnagar, every day is a fulfilling journey. A journey of impacting lives, bringing about large scale societal transformation and thereby empowering communities. The team has done exceptional on field and the impact is only growing.

Each programme of Bandhan-Konnagar has been devised to bring about far-reaching effect in the fields of education, health, livelihood promotion, enterprise development, financial literacy, skill development and employment generation. The varied development interventions are aimed at empowering lives and uplifting livelihoods of the deprived communities. Through its presence across 12 states in the country, the organisation has brought 2.5 million beneficiaries under its ambit. Bandhan-Konnagar remains steadfast in its endeavour of consistently broadbasing the scope of services.

Bandhan-Konnagar is fortunate to have garnered the support and co-operation of various governments as well as national and international donors. We are growing from strength to strength, owing to the trust they have reposed in us. I would also like to express special gratitude to the Executive Committee of Bandhan-Konnagar for their counsel.

More than 2,800 committed employees of Bandhan-Konnagar work dedicatedly to run the programmes successfully and achieve the desired results. I would like to thank them for their relentless efforts towards making the organisation reach more people on a sustained basis. The impact created by the programmes and the lives touched are the team's best reward. To be able to ensure self-sufficiency of the less privileged, and to see them overcome adversities not only motivate but also inspire the team to strive even harder.

With each passing year, Bandhan-Konnagar is not only helping the communities to blossom but it is also strengthening internal capabilities. It is with your blessings and support, I am convinced that we are poised to reach bigger milestones in the times ahead.

Warm regards,



Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
Senior Ashoka Fellow

Message from the Secretary

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019-2020. It has been a successful year, and we hope to continue with the groundbreaking work.

Since its inception, Bandhan-Konnagar has played an active role of a catalyst in mobilising and empowering the marginalised communities through our diverse range of development programmes. The interventions address the inherent problems of lack of financial avenues and amenities, lack of awareness and lack of opportunities. The organisation has taken noteworthy strides in the fields of education, health, livelihood promotion, enterprise development, financial literacy, skill development and employment generation.

As always, our efforts have borne fruit because of the unfailing contributions and immense support of the various governments, and national and international donors. Further, with the able guidance of the Executive Committee, we have seen wide-ranging impact. With the collective support of all, we have remained on our path of transforming lives and helping emancipate the needy.

Our employees are our strength. The remarkable work done by them on field is unparalleled. Without their selfless dedication, we would have not been able to make such an impact that we have created. So, I thank them for their commitment, and I am sure they will continue to work hard and change the lives of our millions of beneficiaries.

Finally, I would like to place on record my deepest appreciation to all our collaborators, and well-wishers for their continued support in our growth. It inspires us to keep making a difference in the lives of our beneficiaries. Though we have traversed a significant path so far, we are confident to expand and grow stronger, every step of the way.

Thanking you,



Jayanta Biswas

Executive Committee

Ms. Ambalika Das
President

Prof. Jayanta Biswas
Secretary

Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee
Treasurer

Dr. Smita Premchander
Member

**Mr. Ramsebak
Bandyopadhyay**
Member

Prof. Ashoke Kumar Dutta
Member

Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das*
Member

*ceased to be member due to sudden demise on February 8, 2020





Management Team

Mr. Arijit Dutta
Executive Director

Mr. Debasish Ray Choudhuri
Programme Director -
THP & EUP

Dr. Uttam Kumar Ghosh
Programme Director - BHP

Mr. Rama Prasad Mohanta
Programme Manager - THP

Mr. Mohiuddin Mollah
Programme In-Charge - THP

Mr. Alok Kumar Mondal
Programme Manager - BEP

Mr. Subhadip Roy
Programme Manager - BHP

Mr. Santanu Poddar
Programme Manager - EUP

Mr. Baman Dutta
Programme In-Charge - BFLP

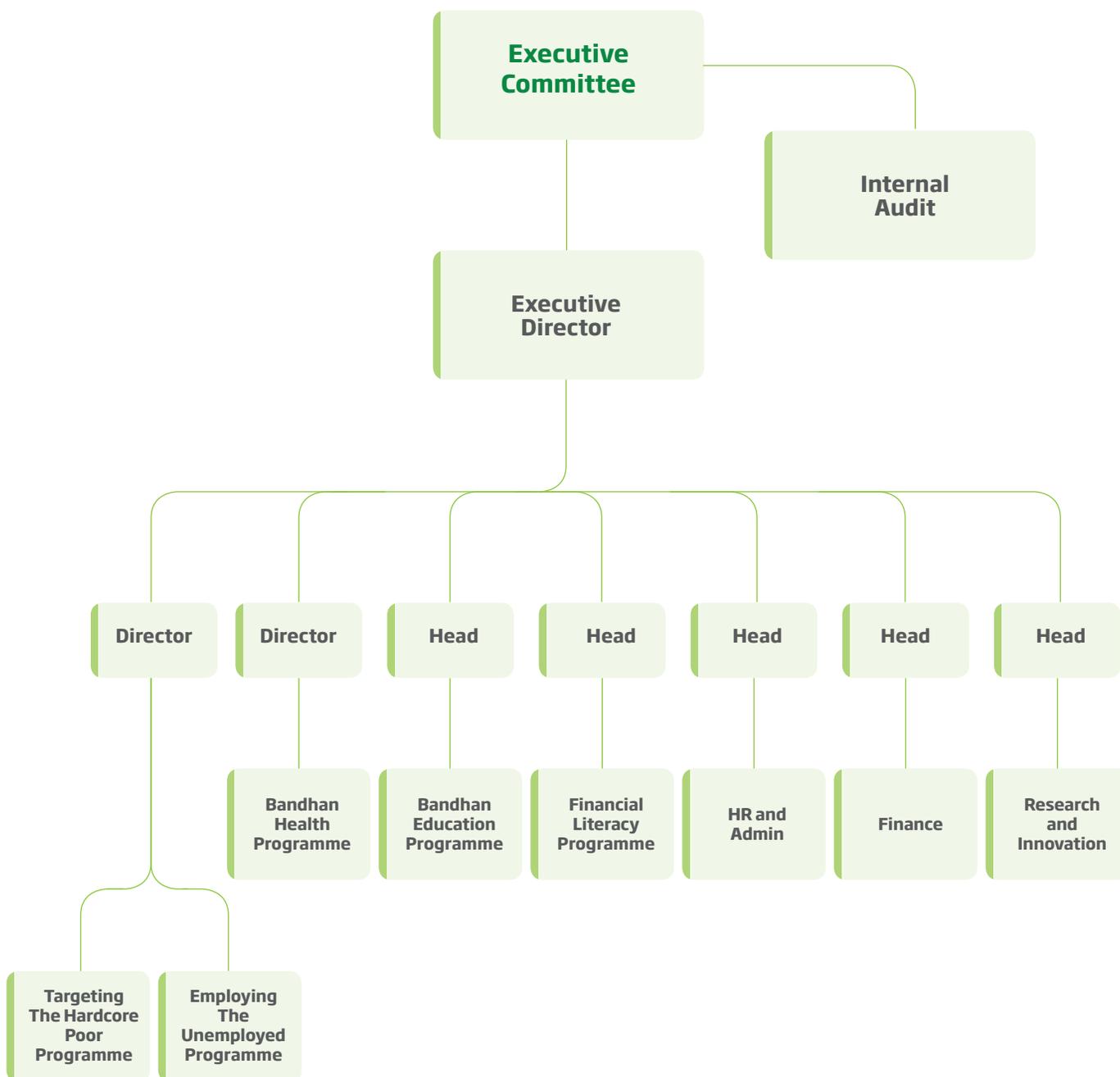
Mr. Sujoy Mukherjee
Manager - Accounts

Mr. Rajdeep Mukherjee
Manager - HR & Training

Mr. Shirsendu Mitra
Asst. Manager - Internal Audit



Organisational Structure





At a Glance

Bandhan was conceptualised in 2001 as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) to meet the dual objectives of women empowerment and poverty alleviation. The organisation started with delivery of microfinance and development services. As microfinance activities grew, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) was acquired. This NBFC went on to acquire a universal banking licence and set

up Bandhan Bank, without losing its core values. The NGO, meanwhile, continued to focus on development work and does so, even today, with the aim to better the lives of the underprivileged. It shares similar values, ethos and philosophy with which Bandhan was born. Bandhan-Konnagar, the NGO endeavours to broad-base the scope of services and provide holistic support to the deprived community.

Our Vision



A society free from poverty, illiteracy, ill health and where rights and opportunities of everyone are ensured.

Our Mission



To facilitate socio-economic development of the disadvantaged communities through programmes and services in health, education, livelihood, environment and empowerment of the disadvantaged groups and communities.

Our Values

C

Cost-effective and Simple

R

Respect for All

E

Exemplary Governance

A

Accountability, Professionalism & Discipline

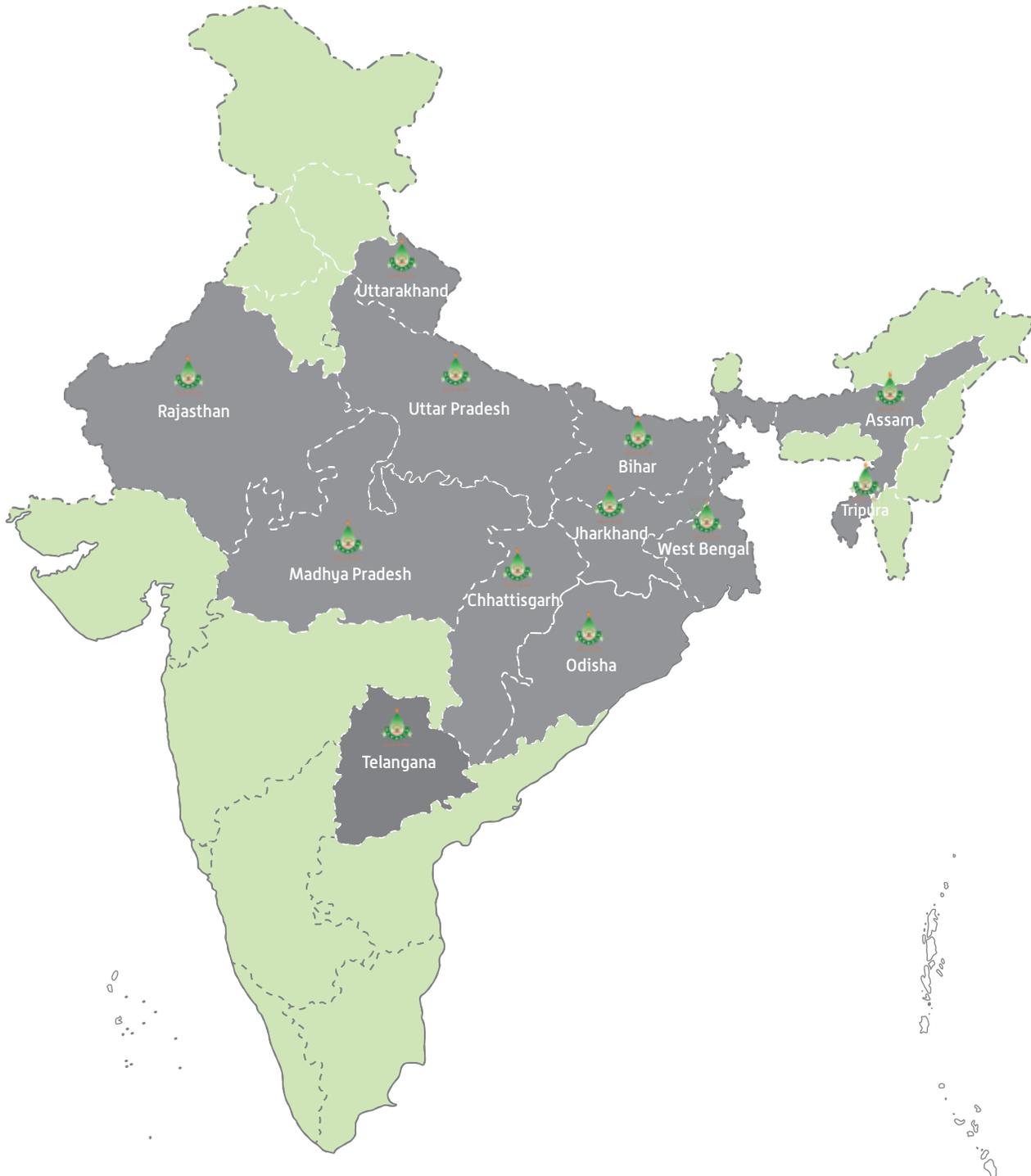
T

Transparency & Integrity

E

Effective Teamwork & Commitment

Operational Areas



(Map not to scale. Indicative representation only)



Development Programme Highlights

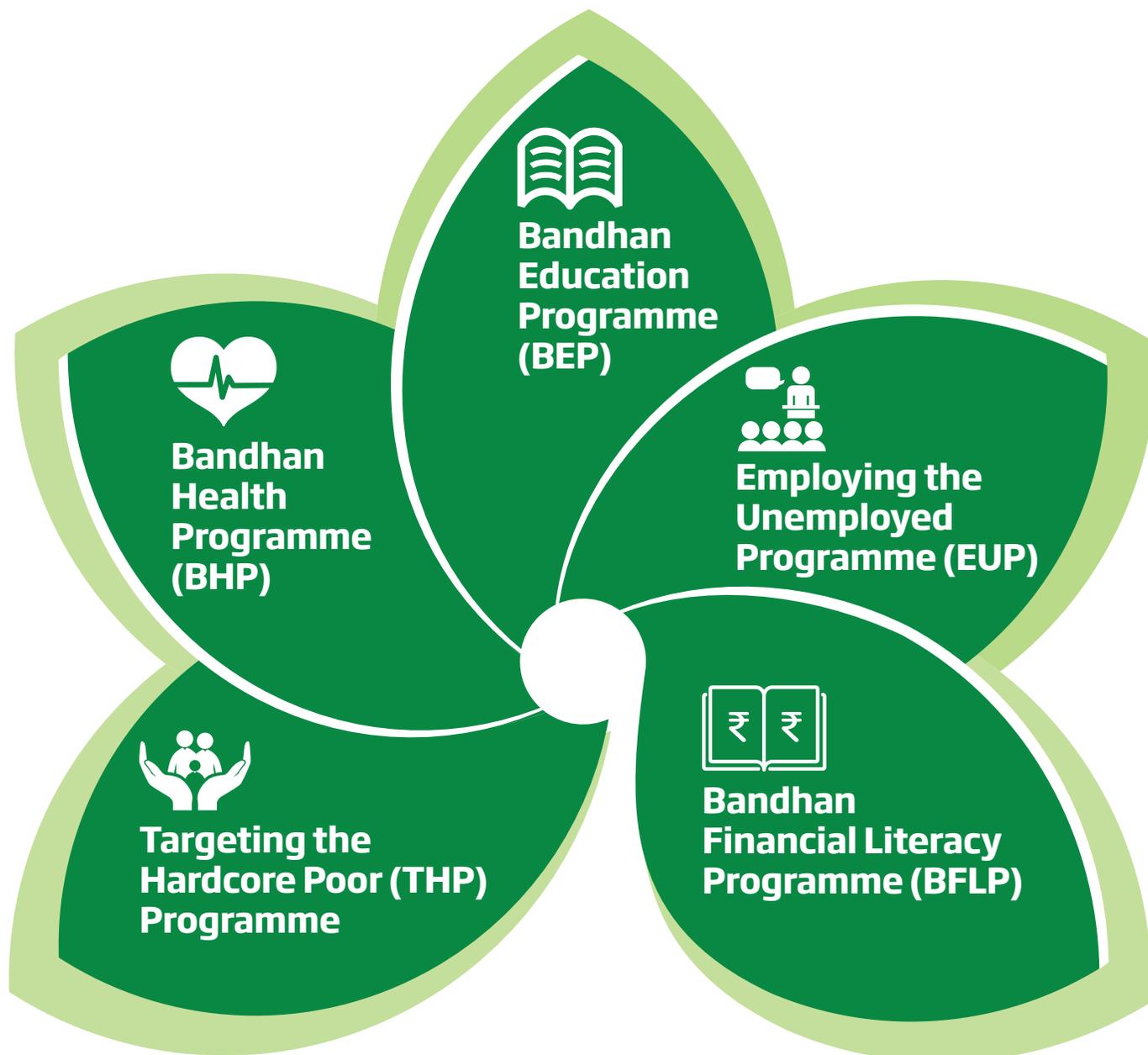
as on March 31, 2020

Particulars	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19
States	12	11
Villages/Wards	12,900	11,423
Staff	2,882	1,887
Total Households Covered	25,22,953	17,99,532
Hardcore Poor Families	1,08,842	82,873
Bandhan Education Centre	4,445	3,332
Education Facilitators	3,313	3,041
Students	1,42,756	1,05,065
Health Volunteers	9,760	7,139
Beneficiaries Under Health Programme	18,54,779	13,81,460
Youth Employed	23,808	17,457
Beneficiaries Under Financial Literacy Programme	3,84,249	2,07,958

Data other than for States and Staff are cumulative numbers.



Development Programmes





Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme



This is a unique programme designed for the poorest of the poor. Grants (in the form of free assets, not cash) are offered to destitute women. They start generating income out of this asset and are consequently able to sustain their livelihoods. It is seen that within 24 months of this grant intervention, these hardcore poor beneficiaries start to graduate, uplift themselves from extreme poverty and get linked to mainstream society.

This programme follows a 360-degree approach. Besides providing free assets, consistent counselling and mentoring support is also extended. A weekly consumption stipend (considerable amount of cash) is also given to these women to meet their daily basic expenses until the assets begin to yield returns. Financial literacy is imparted so that they can make informed financial decisions. Education on socially relevant issues is also offered to increase their awareness and help them live better lives. Overall confidence building is done so that they don't fall in the poverty trap again.

Over the years, it has been seen that there is a positive impact of this intervention in the lives of many. There are certain beneficiaries who have moved from a stage in life where they were even contemplating suicide for want of money to a position where they earn reasonable monthly income, have a healthy life and are able to support their families.

Challenge

Even though there is no universally accepted threshold for being “ultra-poor,” however as per the World Bank and United Nations threshold for extreme poverty, a large number of the world’s population live on USD 1.90 a day or less (World Bank, 2015).

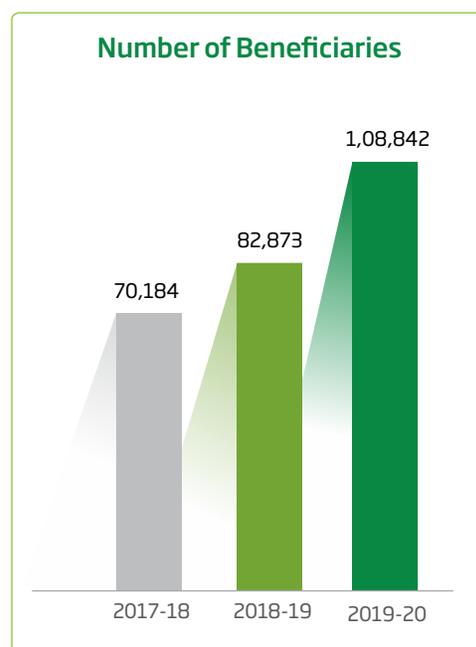
Thus, even in the context of India, there is a large section of India’s population that lives without sustainable sources of income, so much so, they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of food, clean drinking water, and medicine. Such impoverished communities find it difficult to transform their lives and consequently, the lives of their families. They lack the basic opportunity to break away from the shackles of poverty.

Solutions

To address this huge challenge, Bandhan-Konnagar devised a very apt programme called “Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme” which has proved effective in different areas and regions of India. The programme aims to empower the extremely poor women who depend on others or casual wage labour for their means of earning. The programme equips them with relevant training, confidence building, hand-holding, continuous mentoring, coaching and enterprise asset support.

This 24-month THP programme covers: beneficiary selection by participatory rural

appraisal and verification, provision of a productive asset, a temporary consumption stipend, mandatory savings at bank, short term training on enterprise management and confidence building, 18 months of weekly mentoring & monitoring and graduation training just prior to programme completion. This multi-dimensional approach empowers beneficiaries with confidence, enterprise development skills, and grant necessary to transform their lives and the lives of their families.



Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand state governments have shown keen interest in the THP Programme and have collaborated with Bandhan-Konnagar to implement this programme in select districts.

Districts
53

Blocks
252

Panchayats/Municipalities
1,225

Villages
4,002

No. of beneficiaries/
households
1,08,842

No. of women graduated
out of extreme poverty
69,940

12 States

Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Madhya Pradesh	Odisha	Rajasthan	Telangana	Tripura	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand	West Bengal
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Case Study



Nayanalata Behera

Bhadrak, Odisha

Nayanalata is an inspiration. She has lifted herself from abject poverty to being self-sufficient. Most importantly, she has built a dignified life for herself.

However, fate has not always been kind to her. Since her early days, her life was dotted with one mishap after another. She was born into poverty and used to live with her parents and brother. The family's single source of income was lost with the demise of her father. To make matters worse, her brother deserted them, shortly after. All of a sudden, the responsibility of managing the household fell on her shoulders. She was not at all prepared for it.

Given their dire financial condition, she picked up work of a daily wage labourer. She also started cultivating vegetables at home and sold them in the market. However, they were barely able to sustain themselves.

It was at this juncture, that officials of Bandhan's THP programme rightly recognised her need for guidance and support. They conducted multiple rounds of counselling and mentoring her. To help her gain financial independence, Bandhan extended asset support to her, as part of the



My mother and I would have probably died out of hunger if Bandhan had not come in as a guiding force in our lives. I wholeheartedly thank Bandhan for reposing trust in me, and instilling confidence to pave the way for my secured future.

unique THP initiative. Using the grant assets, she set up a utility store with a variety of items such as biscuit, snacks items, toffee, chocolate, soap, shampoo, among others. Besides the grant, like other THP beneficiaries, Nayanalata was also entitled to a consumption stipend until her newly set up store started generating income. What was a game-changer for Nayanalata, was the handholding training, appropriate guidance, consistent motivation and mentoring support that she got from Bandhan, apart from the grant. The staff held regular sessions on confidence building, enterprise expansion and market-linkage avenues, which proved immensely helpful for Nayanalata. It improved her interpersonal skills and decision-making capacity.

Thus, through the programme's systematic course of 24 months, she is now a transformed woman; in fact, she is a capable entrepreneur. Besides her utility store, Nayanalata has also developed alternate sources of livelihood; she purchased one cow and started a secondary business of a fruit shop at the market. These have enhanced her income and secured her financial position further. With her steady income now, she has opened a savings account in a bank.



Bandhan Health Programme (BHP)



This programme aims to increase health awareness with the goal of improved health and wellbeing of underprivileged families. It gives special focus on children under 5 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls regarding safe motherhood, child nutrition, personal hygiene and sanitation issues. Under this initiative, health volunteers are developed by selecting interested women from the villages and providing them adequate training. These health volunteers are called Swasthya Sahayikas (SS) who work in the villages.

Bandhan Health Programme (BHP)

Districts
56

Blocks
198

Panchayats/Municipalities
626

Villages
6,710

No. of health volunteers
9,760

No. of total beneficiaries
18,54,779

The organisation identifies enthusiastic women from the community and motivates them to work as health volunteers after providing adequate training. They are popularly called as Swasthya Sahayikas (SS). The core aspect of the health programme includes health education which is imparted during health forums and doorstep counselling by the SS and staff members. SS distribute commonly used medicines, sanitary napkins at the doorstep and also provide linkage/referral services. While emphasising on availability of safe drinking water to the community at low cost, the organisation has set up 23 water treatment plants in this financial year, taking the total number to 42.

Health initiatives undertaken

1. Creating health awareness amongst mothers and their adolescent daughters regarding safe motherhood to protect the mothers from problems related to delivery of babies.
2. Educating families on the necessity of healthy nutrition for the mother and child.
3. Spreading the message of sanitation and hygiene to control diseases and reduce health expenditure of underprivileged families.
4. Stressing on the importance of hand washing especially among school-going children for keeping good health.
5. Emphasising the importance of clean drinking water to remain healthy.
6. Organising awareness sessions with adolescent girls in high school regarding menstrual hygiene management.
7. Motivating the households of under-5 children for kitchen gardening.
8. Participating with government initiatives in polio vaccination.



8 States

Assam	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Odisha	Rajasthan	Tripura	West Bengal
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Holistic Approach

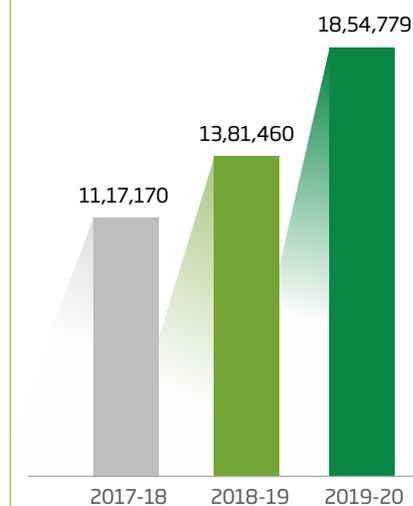
To improve maternal and child health, our programme significantly enhances health awareness and provides other services like safe drinking water, household sanitary latrines and linkages to health services. This addresses the challenge of poor understanding of healthcare needs that often prevent rural women from seeking or utilising available health services. The rural, less developed communities respond better to the importance of healthcare in their specific village environment.

The team works closely with families to make a real and lasting change in their behaviour. Evidence has shown that through this programme, women

are now increasingly patronising health services, thereby improving their lives and the well-being of their children. A visible change is seen in the economic stability of their households.

The results of Bandhan-Konnagar's sustained efforts are remarkable, as reflected in Institutional delivery (93%), Completion of Antenatal Care (ANC) (92%), Child Immunisation (94%). These statistics rank better than the National and State level data of National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4). The services of SS were found to be very effective in bringing about healthy habits among the communities.

Number of Beneficiaries



Case Study



My life would have been completely different without the timely and valuable guidance of Bandhan. Bandhan's health volunteer and staff came into my life as angels and helped turn my fate around. 

Mousumi Bauri

Bankura, West Bengal

Mousumi's life is the testimony to the importance of self-awareness about health and one's well-being. It is also the proof of how one can turn their lives around with the correct guidance and motivation.

Mousumi's father was a poor farmer, whose meagre earnings barely made two ends meet. Due to financial constraints and lack of guidance from her parents, she dropped out of school and her parents decided to get her married, in spite of her tender age of 14.

It was during this time, that Sima Das, Health Community Organiser, from Bandhan's Health programme identified her and recognised the need of the hour. Sima, along with a Swasthya Sahayika, Bappa Ghosh, started counselling Mousumi and her parents. They explained to them that untimely marriage would not only be incorrect for her future, but it is illegal, and it would also impose unwarranted health conditions on her. Through multiple household visits, they instilled in them, the criticality of recognising the different health hazards of early marriage as well as the legal aspect of marrying before attaining the right age. Even though there was initial hesitation, slowly and steadily through concerted

efforts, they were successful in convincing her parents to postpone her wedding and enrol her back to school in class VIII, for completing her studies. This way they would not only be able to secure a formidable future for Mousumi, but they will also safeguard her health and well-being.

Sima and Bappa also guided her parents about applying for Kanyashree scholarship from the government for Mousumi. This useful guidance would address the concern of lack of finances for her education.

Over time, Mousumi and her mother's engagement with the health forums began to increase. They attend the forums on a regular basis; they find it extremely informative since they gather knowledge about safe motherhood, family planning, menstrual hygiene management, child-care, child nutrition, water, sanitation, among other such topics. Owing to the health forums, both of them are now well versed with the importance of appropriate healthy practices. Health education imparted by Bandhan has had such a great impact on Mousumi that she hopes to study at least up to graduation, and thereafter get a job. She wants to ensure that her future is bright and wholesome.



Bandhan Education Programme (BEP)



This programme encourages a diverse age group of underprivileged children to begin and sustain academics amidst a congenial environment. A unique, low cost, innovative model has been adopted to ensure these children are able to receive quality education. Education centres have been set up in rural areas. These aim to reach out to the children from economically constrained families with special focus on the girl child.

Bandhan Education Programme (BEP)

Districts
38

Blocks
202

Panchayats/Municipalities
811

Villages
2,106

Education centres
4,445

Total students
1,42,756

Bandhan Education Centre (Non-Formal Education)

A large number of the rural population still remain illiterate. Simultaneously, a big percentage of children enrolled in primary schools are dependent on private tuitions, thereby leading to significant financial burden on the poor families. Taking a step ahead, the organisation has tried to address the issue through setting up education centres, thereby aiming to ensure that all poor children in the community receive quality primary education. Education Centres provide underprivileged children the opportunity to study and practice cultural activities, giving them a chance to make a strong foundation for themselves.

1,40,373 children have been supported by these non-formal

education centres. They have been able to acquire good reading, writing skills and numerical skills, learn sports and participate in cultural programmes. About 70,045 children of the Bandhan Education Centres have already been mainstreamed by securing admission in class IV in formal schools. They are enjoying the learning process and most of them are excelling in their studies obtaining good grades. Cultural programmes are organised every year at the Annual Day function. The performance by children range from songs, dance, recitation, short plays - either in solo or in groups. Annual sports are also arranged to encourage the children to participate in activities other than studies. The local authorities, elites of the village, community members and parents are cordially invited to grace the programme.



5 States

Assam

Bihar

Jharkhand

Tripura

West Bengal

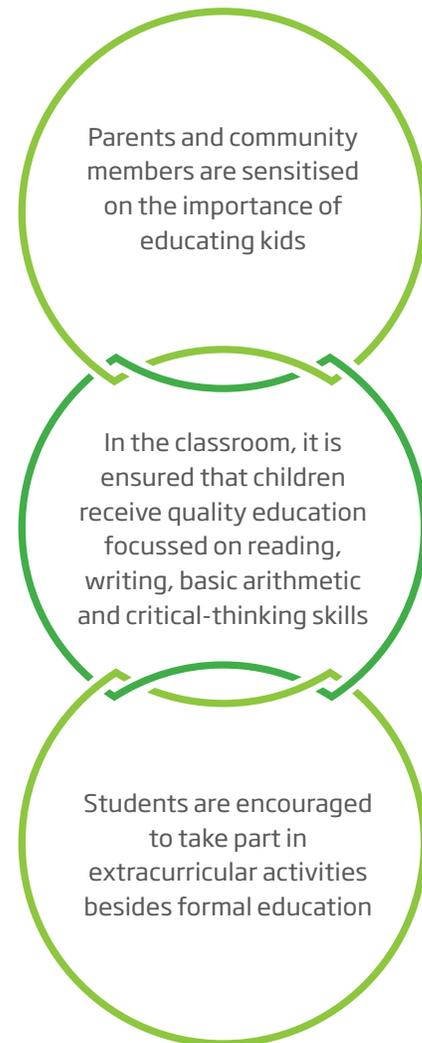
A big turnout is seen at these events and this serves as a great encouragement to the children. These activities lead to character-building of the child and bring to the forefront their inner talents in their respective areas of creativity. The school also celebrates important occasions like Independence Day, Teacher's Day, World Environment Day and holds sit-and-draw competitions and the like, on such occasions.

Bandhan Academy (Formal Education)

These are formal schools that are dedicated to offer quality primary education to the children in low-income communities.



Bandhan-Konnagar has adopted a unique process of educating children:



Presence of Bandhan Academy in West Bengal

West Bengal					
North 24 Parganas			South 24 Parganas		
Maslandapur	Kholapota	Awalsiddhi	Falta	Ghatakpukur	Taldi
Nadia			Howrah		
Aranghata	Haringhata	Bagnan	Panchla		

Case Study



With systematic education at Bandhan's school, I am hopeful that my daughter's life will be better than mine, said Anjum's mother.

Anjum Khatun

Sahibganj, Jharkhand

Anjum was born into a life of poverty. Her father is a daily wage labourer with erratic income. And her mother is a homemaker trying to make two ends meet, albeit barely.

Anjum is a specially-abled child; she doesn't have all the fingers on her hands. She was conscious about it and was growing up to be a quiet and reserved child. However, her mellow demeanour did not dim her determination.

Bandhan's Education Programme has been the requisite fuel for Anjum. Ever since, she was enrolled in class one of Bandhan Education Centre, her parents have seen a marked difference in her. With each passing day, she is growing up to become a poised yet passionate girl. Anjum's teacher has been closely watching her blossom into a sincere and intelligent girl. She added that Anjum is attentive and intently adheres to the instructions. She has also developed a keen liking for recitation.



Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP)



This programme is aimed at addressing the issue of unemployment in India. Vocational centres known as Bandhan Skill Development Centres (BSDC) are set up which provide training to unemployed youth. They can choose from an array of domains such as sales, hospitality, ITes-BPO, computerised accounting, refrigerator and air conditioner repair, etc. After successful completion of these skill development courses, candidates either generate self-employment or find themselves employment with reputed companies.

Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP)

Districts
29

Blocks
36

Panchayats/Municipalities
52

Villages
114

Skill Development Centres
24

Youth trained
30,991



Bandhan Skill Development Centre (BSDC)

This is a skill development initiative that equips unemployed youth with numerous industry relevant skills. Its primary objective is to build a skilled workforce and provide equal access for skill development opportunities to underprivileged youth. The vocational education centres named Bandhan Skill Development Centres (BSDCs) increase employability of youngsters in the realms of Sales, Hospitality,

ITes-BPO, among others. Skill Training covers classroom and on-the-job training.

The BSDCs provide functional training to the aspiring youth for seeking employment in emerging sectors and industries. Upon successful completion of the course, the candidates find themselves reasonable employment with corporates or generate self-employment.

5 States

Assam

Bihar

Madhya Pradesh

Odisha

West Bengal

Approach

Bandhan-Konnagar has its own pool of experienced skill development trainers who are specialised in imparting training on standard courses or subjects. The trainers conduct the courses in a comprehensive manner and also interact with industries, communities, parents of the youth, organise on-the-job training, assist in placement and monitor the progress of the trainees.

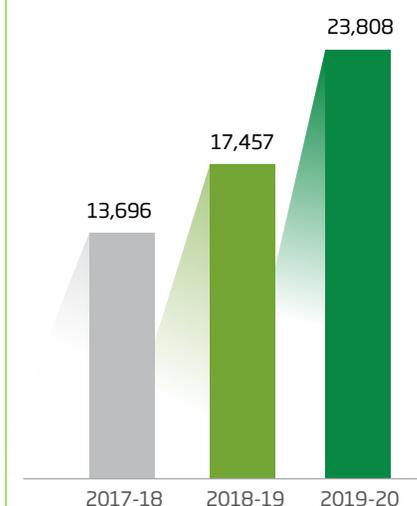
Each course has distinct objectives, contents broadly categorised as core skill, professional knowledge, professional skill and technical skill development. Sector specialists are consulted to refresh skills of the trainers and prepare course contents to make them up-to-date and relevant to industry environments. On-the-job training is organised at industry outlets/branches where participants learn practical work skills relevant to specific jobs.

Generally, the team encourages skill development in the popular sectors like Hospitality, Retail, Electronics, Banking & Finance, ITes & BPO, and Beauty & Wellness. Six months' post-employment, the team tracks and monitors the employment status and help the participants for their adaptability in the job. This procedure provides useful feedback and motivates other young trainees at the centres. At least 80% of the trained youth are successfully placed and they are performing well at their jobs.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Sector Skill Council (SSC) approved curriculum is followed in each course. Experts from the sectors are invited to share their knowledge, experience and ideas with the trainees, to enrich them with global and national experience. Upon successful completion of the course, they find reasonable employment with brands like Compass Group, Muthoot Finance, Teleperformance,

TVS Credit, Vibrant BPO, NCR Corporation, Pace Setters, Reliance Cash & Carry, Annapurna Finance, IIFL, Future Lifestyle, Peanut Retail, Manappuram Gold, Landmark Group, Barbeque Nation, Value Retail Plus, PC Jewellers, Gargya Toyota, Mileage Footwear and others.

Number of Youth Employed



West Bengal

South 24 Parganas

Garia

Behala

Kulpi

East Midnapore

Kanthi

Tamluk

Haldia

West Midnapore

Kharagpur

Midnapore Town

Hooghly

Uttarpara

Chandannagar

Murshidabad

Berhampore

North 24 Parganas

Barasat

Nadia

Chakdah

Darjeeling

Siliguri

Jalpaiguri

Jalpaiguri

Dhupguri

Maynaguri

East Burdwan

Burdwan

Malda

Malda

Bihar

Patna

Patna II

Madhya Pradesh

Indore

Odisha

Bhubaneswar

Assam

Guwahati

Case Study



I do not have parents, but I guess Bandhan fills that space for me. I am thankful to Bandhan for transforming my life. 

Sk Kowsur

Behala, West Bengal

Since the beginning, life has been harsh on Sk Kowsur. Early in his childhood, he lost his mother and to add to his woes, in his youth his father too passed away due to a heart attack. Needless to say, living the life of an orphan is not only tough, but also fraught with challenges. Given his situation, he had to start living at her sister's place who is married in an underprivileged family, who themselves struggled every day to make two ends meet.

As he grew up, he felt he was becoming a burden for his sister who was already suffering from lack of finances. He became desperate to earn his own living. When he heard from his maternal aunt about Bandhan's vocational development courses, he immediately got himself enrolled in the Hardware and Networking course. He was determined to make the wheels of fate turn in his favour with this course. He strongly hoped to find himself a decent employment

upon the completion of the course. He attended the course with utmost dedication and resolve. He passed the course with flying colours. He bagged a respectable job with a decent pay package. He was elated that he would now be able to kickstart his career and thereby become financially independent. This was like a dream come true for Kowsur. He began to perform exceptionally well at his job. So much so, he was elevated to a more responsible job role just within five months.

Kowsur's determination is the reason for his success; it is the reason for his capability of turning his life around. He feels along with Bandhan's support, his sister and her family have also been a pillar of support for him through his days of struggle. He misses his parents and wishes that his parents were alive to see him stand on his own feet.



Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP)



11% of the world's adults without bank accounts are Indians. Further, India has the world's highest share of inactive accounts, about twice the average of 25% for developing economies. Half of India's bank accounts are, in fact, rarely used. Around 40% of the country's bank accounts have seen no transactions in the last one year, as reported by the World Bank in its Global Findex database report.

In the crusade to ensure holistic development of people and communities, financial literacy and inclusion is the tool that assists them to move from sustenance to a sustainable growth path. This programme is aimed at deepening financial inclusion in rural communities. The objective is to increase awareness among rural and disadvantaged women about financial matters thereby empowering them to plan their personal economies.

Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP)

Districts
12

Blocks
45

Panchayats/Municipalities
142

Villages
1,293

Total no. of beneficiaries
3,84,249

Financial Literacy: Why & for Whom

For the disadvantaged people, good money management is a daily challenge as they live and think on a day-to-day basis. Financial Literacy is important to help the less fortunate to:

- Make their buying habits more responsible - think of long-term needs and savings.
- Change their habit of making impulsive financial decisions - like going to the moneylender or buying an expensive TV or any other item without thinking or understanding terms and conditions for its purchase, and their capacity to repay loans.

- Differentiate between the productive and consumptive use of money - assess their ability to repay loans especially when borrowing.

- Increase their self-esteem and confidence - as a result of incremental successes in achieving their financial goals and plan for their future needs.

In keeping with the financial literacy guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India, Bandhan-Konnagar has adopted the following aspects of financial management in West Bengal:

- **Money Management:** To proactively manage money
- **Debt Management:** To control debt and avoid over-indebtedness



2 States

Assam

West Bengal



- **Managing Savings:** To save regularly and prudently
- **Financial Negotiations:** To strengthen women's bargaining position vis-à-vis input suppliers, dealings with household members and financial institutions
- **Use of Banking Services:** How banks work and impose charges; to interact with banks to maximise use of banking services for themselves

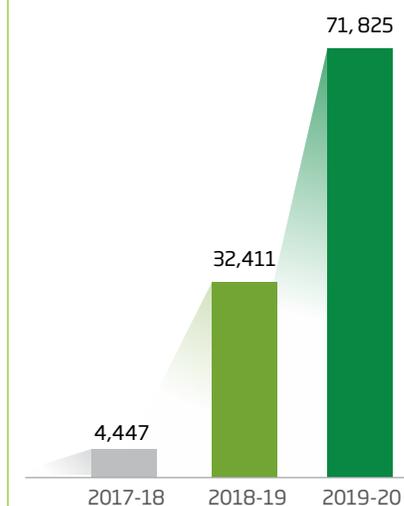
It is observed that in the current financial year, a large number of women availed banking services. 44,883 women opened new savings bank accounts. In addition to, new recurring deposits and fixed deposits accounts were opened by 19,618 and 2,259 women respectively.

Another 5,065 women availed of insurance and pension products.

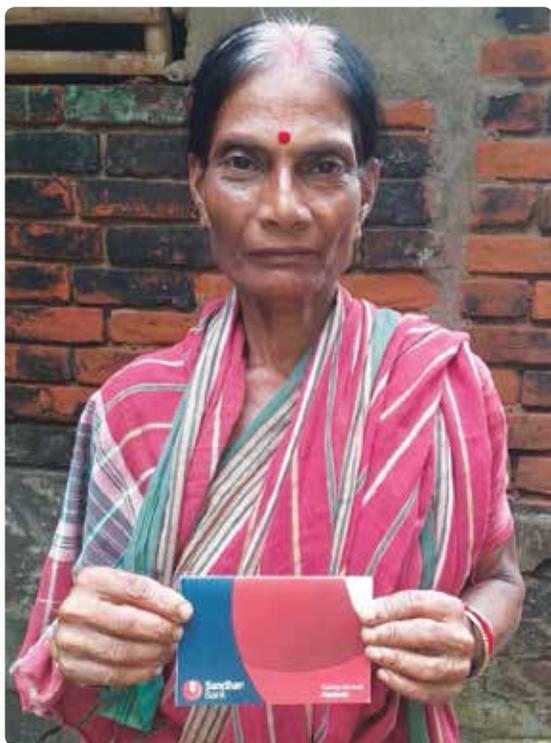
Positive results were observed in terms of empowerment of beneficiaries including:

- Enhancement in knowledge about existing financial services/products
- Interested to enrol/open/buy any financial products or services
- Handling independent financial transactions, negotiation skills and ability to choose the right products and services offered by financial institutions
- Confident to take financial decisions
- Improvement in access to financial services/products

Number of Beneficiaries Financially Included



Case Study



Bandhan introduced me to the world of finances. I am now confident of planning my personal economies better. 

Sandhya Malik

Uluberia, West Bengal

Sandhya Malik's story resembles the life of many rural poor women. Belonging to a deprived family, Sandhya could not complete her education. She was married at an early age and became a mother of three soon after. Her husband, Niranjana worked as a labourer whose meagre earnings were insufficient to sustain a family of five. Since they had five goats, they opted for goat rearing as source of livelihood. To ensure that her children do not go to bed hungry, she started selling milk in the villages nearby. But, it only got tough with time. When her three sons grew up, they deserted their ageing parents. They were left to fend for themselves. They had spent all their savings, however meagre, in bringing up the sons. More than materially, the grown up sons moving out, shattered them emotionally.

Seeing the couple's unplanned financial condition, Sandhya was identified by Shefali Mondal, an educator of Bandhan's Financial Literacy Programme. Sandhya, just like many other women in her village, was not financially aware. She was not only unaware about financial products and facilities; she did not even have a bank account. However, as part of the

programme, she started attending financial literacy forums and that introduced her to a whole new world. She learnt about the avenues for savings, she understood at length, the varied services offered by a bank and post office. She took keen interest to learn about managing finances better. She would share her learnings and insights with her husband too. Thus, empowered with financial knowledge, without any delay, both of them opened a savings bank account. They decided to regularly save, even though small amounts.

Owing to her age, Sandhya had become frail and therefore unable to manage five goats, thus she sold one goat. She used that money to invest in a Fixed Deposit with the bank. She also opened a Recurring Deposit from her earlier savings. She made these investments with the hope that these will come in handy in their old age. She has taken little steps to secure her future.

The couple is better off now. Sandhya certainly feels more confident than ever before; she feels financially empowered too.



Visitors

During the financial year 2019-20, Bandhan-Konnagar was privileged to host the following visitors:



Mr. John Alex, ED & CEO, Equitas Small Finance Bank and Dr. CR Gariyali, IAS (Retd.), Former Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and Founder Trustee, Equitas Development Trust visited two key programmes on January 22, 2020.



The dignitaries travelled to the district of North 24 Parganas and visited Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme and Health Programme. They had the opportunity to understand the nuances of these initiatives. By observing the programme at the field level, they derived first-hand insight about the interventions and witnessed the transformation brought about in the lives of the underprivileged. They attended the health forum and found it informative for the deprived community. They appreciated the efforts of the health volunteers (Swasthya Sahayikas).

Mr. Rafey Eajaz Hussain, State Programme Manager, Save the Children, India visited the Bandhan Skill Development Centre in Patna on January 16, 2020 to observe the Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP).

He interacted with the participants of the various skill development courses and the faculty members. This helped him gauge the importance of training in various domains. It was evident how these sessions play a significant role in helping the youth secure a reasonable employment.





Donor Support

Bandhan-Konnagar has been fortunate to receive grant support from prominent national and international donors. The organisation has been able to effectively create impact and reach out to the deprived strata of the society because of the significant support of the various donors, past and present, over the years. We are thankful for their consistent assistance.

Programme	Name of the Donors
Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bajaj Finance Ltd. 2. Bandhan Bank Ltd. 3. Bandhan Financial Services Ltd. 4. Founders Fledge 5. Govt. of Jharkhand 6. ITC Limited 7. INDIGO 8. SIDBI 9. Co-Impact - New Venture Fund
Bandhan Health Programme (BHP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bajaj Finance Ltd. 2. Bandhan Bank Ltd. 3. HDFC Life 4. Water.org
Bandhan Education Programme (BEP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bajaj Finance Ltd. 2. Bandhan Bank Ltd. 3. HDFC Life 4. INDIGO 5. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bandhan Bank Ltd. 2. Bandhan Financial Holding Ltd. 3. Bihar Skill Development Mission (Kushal Yuva Program) 4. Citibank 5. HSBC 6. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. 7. Sundarban Police
Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bandhan Bank Ltd. 2. Bandhan Financial Services Ltd.

Newsroom



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Villagers in Barupur recall how Abhijit Banerjee helped them out of poverty



BARUPUR: Busy village farmers in a village about 10km from Kolkata, 50-year-old Bharati Bishnoi have a clue what Nobel Peace means. She is also slightly ashamed that she Abhijit Banerjee Banerjee is now the head of the town.

Six years before the Swedish academy conferred the award on Banerjee, she and other residents of Whitestone village in South 24 Parganas had been saved by the mere words of a bare-bare who had taught them the importance of saving and inspired them to quit odd jobs and run enterprises.

It was in 2012 that she too had met Bharati Banerjee in Barun Bank, MPB Banerjee and French national Bharati Datta had easily mingled with the villagers, never making them feel as though they were any different. The duo were put to the test. They asked the village folk on a CDF programme that a microfinance institution, that offered poor villagers a means of livelihood.

"He came across as a simple person. He and a bearded man entered the hut, sat on the floor, had tea with much character and spoke to us in Bengali. The address between him and us was apparent not in his behaviour but in the things he said. He would have been by meeting on the road for banking and what he learned about capital into village matters. It is because of what he said that I got up the job of a daily labourer and started my own business of stitching garments. Whitestone has today I owe it to him and the others who had accompanied him," said Bharati, a mother of three.

Back then, Bharati was work-day in debt. Satisfied with a monthly chundered husband, she was struggling to make ends meet and had now stopped sending her kids to school. But Banerjee and Datta directed her and the others towards a better way of life. The NGO — Banerjee Konaraj — provided her with a stitching machine that gave her the impetus to start a garment business. She now employs six women from the village and sells her garments at markets in West Bengal and South Bengal in Kolkata.

"I can't forget his generosity, they village." Banerjee and Datta had persuaded Bharati to apply for a loan. Combined this (NGO) in village of Bengal, Bihar and Rajasthan. Bharati and her family in 2012, Banerjee travelled to multiple villages in South 24 Parganas, championing the model and inspiring its adoption by villagers.

"I remember how (Banerjee) visited. I was attending a meeting when he asked me why I looked upset. I told him that my daughter was suffering from an ailment since the second day. He asked me if I was taking any medicine. When I told him that I was not taking any medicine, he immediately gave me some of his colleagues who thought I had and gave it to me. I can't forget his generosity," said Bhagwati Mishra, 50, a resident of the same village, who sells fish and other items a garment business.

The model Banerjee and Bharati were then working on focused on identifying the poorest of poor to assist villages, helping them start their own businesses, teaching them tricks of the trade, inspiring them to become entrepreneurs and telling them that the road to save to increase their assets.

दैनिक भास्कर

22-Dec-2019
null Page 2

खेलकूद • श्रीकृष्णा उच्च विद्यालय के मैदान में वार्षिक खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन खेल से होता है बच्चों का मानसिक व बौद्धिक विकास

खेलकूद विभाग की ओर से आयोजित प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों का मनोरंजन और शारीरिक विकास के लिए खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से मानसिक व बौद्धिक विकास के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। प्रतियोगिता में 100 से अधिक बच्चों का भाग लेना था, जो कि खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं। प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं। प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं।



प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों का मनोरंजन और शारीरिक विकास के लिए खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया।



हिन्दुस्तान

राष्ट्रीय कीर्ति का नमूना

स्कूली बच्चों ने दिखाई अपनी प्रतिभा

खेल-कूद

प्रतिस्पर्धी प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन

बच्चों का मनोरंजन और शारीरिक विकास के लिए खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से मानसिक व बौद्धिक विकास के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। प्रतियोगिता में 100 से अधिक बच्चों का भाग लेना था, जो कि खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं। प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं।

खेलोधूला

22 December, 2019

वार्षिक क्रीड़ा प्रतियोगिता अनुष्ठित हल शीतलखुचिते

विद्यार्थी शीतलखुचिते में आयोजित प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों का मनोरंजन और शारीरिक विकास के लिए खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से मानसिक व बौद्धिक विकास के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। प्रतियोगिता में 100 से अधिक बच्चों का भाग लेना था, जो कि खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं। प्रतियोगिता में बच्चों को खेलकूद के माध्यम से अपने-अपने प्रतिस्पर्धी को चुन चुके हैं।



Hope for the Poor

Bandhan-Konnagar

Financial Statements as on March 31, 2020



Hope for the Poor

Auditor's Report

L B Jha & Co
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

B2/1, GILLANDER HOUSE
8, NETAJI SUBHAS ROAD
KOLKATA-700 001
TEL : +91-33-2242 5858/4277
FAX : +91-33-2242 0650
E-mail : lbjha@lbjha.com
Website : www.lbjha.com

Ref: SA/B/24R

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BANDHAN KONNAGAR

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **BANDHAN KONNAGAR**, a society registered in India under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961 and operating as a Non- Government development Organization (the Society), which comprise the balance sheet at March 31st 2020, the receipts & payments account, the income and expenditure account, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at March 31, 2020, of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the aforesaid Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.



ALSO AT : 405 Yogeswar, M-2 Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001 • Tel : +91-011-4151 0956 • Tel / Fax : +91-011-4151 0952 • E-mail : lbjhade@lbjha.com
Flat No. 311, Lok Centre, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059 • TEL : +91-022-2920 3183 • Tel / Fax : +91-022-2920 3184 • E-mail : lbjhabom@lbjha.com

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Company has in place an adequate internal financial controls system over financial reporting and the operating effectiveness of such controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Place : Kolkata
Date : 14th August, 2020



For L. B. Jha & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No : 301088E

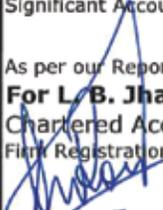
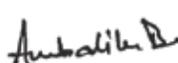
(D. N. Roy)
Partner

Membership No. 300389
UDIN: 20300389AAAAEL5043

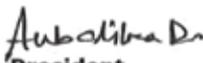
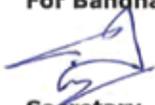


Hope for the Poor

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2020

BANDHAN - KONNAGAR			
Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2020			
	SCH	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-19
		₹	₹
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Gross Block	1	94,63,13,557	82,24,65,393
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		16,14,80,595	12,22,58,589
Net Block		78,48,32,962	70,02,06,804
Capital WIP		24,94,74,917	11,13,08,715
		1,03,43,07,879	81,15,15,519
Loans & Advances			
Long Term Loans & Advances	2	1,91,81,139	3,77,47,782
Short Term Loans & Advances		16,70,13,759	13,58,44,542
Current Assets			
Other Current Assets	3	17,10,04,547	8,24,89,837
Cash & Bank Balances	4	52,02,80,442	63,11,63,023
Fixed Deposits		65,48,20,908	41,42,33,088
		1,53,23,00,795	1,30,14,78,272
Total Assets		2,56,66,08,674	2,11,29,93,791
LIABILITIES			
Grant Unutilized	5	48,02,84,253	48,06,50,845
Capital Grant	6	31,98,17,716	20,65,57,048
		80,01,01,969	68,72,07,893
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	6,93,98,509	5,22,07,327
Other Current Liabilities	8	1,25,24,527	1,52,43,222
Short Term Provisions	9	86,36,745	25,07,426
		9,05,59,781	6,99,57,975
Corpus Fund	10	1,67,59,46,924	1,35,58,27,923
Total Liabilities		2,56,66,08,674	2,11,29,93,791
Significant Accounting policies & Notes on Account 16			
As per our Report of even date annexed herewith			
For L. B. Jha & Co.			
Chartered Accountants			
Firm Registration Number:- 301088E			
D.N. Roy Partner M.No - 300389		For Bandhan Konnagar For Bandhan Konnagar	
			
		President Secretary	
Place : Kolkata			
Date : 14/08/2020			

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2020

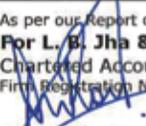
BANDHAN - KONNAGAR			
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2020			
	Sch	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-19
		₹	₹
INCOME			
Donors Grants	11	51,26,03,380	28,91,02,563
Other Income	12	35,24,50,300	31,61,03,674
Total Income		86,50,53,680	60,52,06,237
EXPENDITURE			
Administrative Expenses	13	19,69,90,644	14,38,54,434
Subscription & Donation		26,21,024	6,06,73,500
Training and Capacity Building expenses		33,75,841	1,99,41,327
Distribution of Farm and Non Farm Assets		14,38,31,636	8,37,87,286
Expenses Incurred for Development Activities		5,30,55,172	3,82,69,306
Personnel Cost	14	24,78,64,019	16,57,75,700
Donors Grants Utilized	15	51,26,03,380	28,91,02,563
Depreciation		3,89,33,036	3,57,02,161
Total Expenditure		1,19,92,74,752	83,71,06,277
Surplus/(Deficit)		(33,42,21,072)	(23,19,00,040)
Significant Accounting policies & Notes on Account 16			
As per our Report of even date annexed herewith			
For L. B. Jha & Co.		For Bandhan Konnagar	
Chartered Accountants		For Bandhan Konnagar	
Firm Registration Number:- 301088E			
D.N. Roy		President	Secretary
Partner			
M.No - 300389			
Place : Kolkata			
Date : 14/08/2020			





Hope for the Poor

Receipt and Payments for the year ended March 31, 2020

BANDHAN - KONNAGAR		
Receipt and Payments for the year ended		
Particulars	31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2019
	₹	₹
Opening Cash & Bank Balance	63,11,63,023	46,59,00,687
RECEIPTS :		
Grant Received		
Freedom From Hunger	-	2,45,654
Friends of Women's World Banking	-	31,86,265
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	31,72,490	-
Water. Org	2,05,02,130	1,90,06,900
Swades Foundation	6,38,649	-
Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited	3,94,741	-
Bajaj Finance Limited	20,76,17,961	18,50,00,000
HDFC Life	5,13,79,960	9,15,47,467
H T PAREKH FOUNDATION	4,75,615	-
Interglobe Aviation Limited	1,44,54,905	6,59,09,739
Rajhasthan Govt	-	1,38,00,981
ITC Limited	10,70,41,304	9,88,67,499
CITI Bank	2,62,47,907	-
Citicorp Services India Pvt Ltd	18,70,454	-
Citicorp Finance India Pvt Ltd	2,85,693	-
Jharkhand Govt	6,00,42,923	1,86,55,194
SIDBI	-	33,89,294
Bihar Govt	-	6,66,020
PSI	-	14,99,400
NABARD	-	11,00,939
Kotak Mahindra	477	1,00,00,000
New Venture Fund	5,56,27,159	-
Founder Pladge	2,23,98,715	-
Other	50,000	-
Bank Interest on Fixed Deposit	5,04,89,106	4,49,88,667
Bank Interest on Savings account	57,31,449	2,40,61,733
Rent Received	4,11,34,550	3,99,77,564
Other Income	25,50,95,195	20,70,75,710
Corpus Donation Received	66,43,40,073	33,70,00,000
Fixed Deposit Matured	52,80,00,000	64,52,85,000
Other Current Liabilities	2,06,01,806	19,54,042
Total Receipts	2,77,67,56,285	2,27,91,18,755
PAYMENTS :		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	26,20,14,366	25,77,51,974
Corpus Donation Paid	1,00,00,000	12,00,00,000
Investment in Fixed Deposit	76,85,87,821	41,98,50,000
Loans & Advances	1,26,02,574	4,79,61,767
Personnel Cost	24,78,64,019	16,57,75,700
Administrative Cost	19,69,90,644	14,38,54,436
Subsription & Donation	26,21,024	6,06,73,500
Training & Development Cost	20,02,62,648	14,19,97,919
Grant Utilized	51,26,03,380	28,91,02,563
Other Current Assets	4,29,29,367	9,87,873
Total Payments	2,25,64,75,843	1,64,79,55,732
Closing Cash & Bank Balance	52,02,80,442	63,11,63,023
As per our Report of even date annexed herewith		
For L. B. Jha & Co.		
Chartered Accountants		
Firm Registration Number:- 301088E		
 D.N. Roy Partner M.No - 300389 Place : Kolkata Date : 14/08/2020		
For Bandhan Konnagar For Bandhan Konnagar		
 Anubalile D. President		 Secretary



Hope for the Poor

Bandhan-Konnagar

Head Office

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