

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October - December, 2023



SJY-ILE Programme:

The SJY-ILE (Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana – Immersion and Learning Exchange) Programme was launched on 4th October 2023 in collaboration with Bandhan-Konnagar, JEEViKA, and BRAC International, in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. Ms Heidi, Global Lead for Policy and Partnerships, Ms Shweta Banerjee, Country Lead, Ms Anu Kumar, Manager of Digital Communications, Ms Afsana Islam, Policy Consultant, and other team members from BRAC International were present as dignitaries. Additionally, Mr Rahul Kumar, CEO of BRLPS, representatives from Bandhan-Konnagar including Mr Ronendra Chowdhury, Program Director, Mr Arijit Dutta, Advisor, and Mr Ramaprasad Mohanta, DVP- THP, along with other delegates, also attended the launch. In addition, delegates from partner organizations such as Population Concern India (PCI), Mobile Creche, QuickSand, and others participated in the event, to explore the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. The global team also visited identified immersion sites under the ILE program. The field visit focused on comprehensively understanding the SJY programme implementation.

World Toilet Day:



On 19th November 2023, Bandhan Health Programme organised activities such as seminars and rallies across its 20 branches in Odisha and West Bengal supported by HDFC Life on the occasion of World Toilet Day. The theme of this mass awareness campaign was “Accelerating Change”. The emphasis of these activities was to create awareness regarding sanitation and hygiene concerns. Many local stakeholders and community people along with staff members and local volunteers participated in the seminars and rallies organized for the event. These activities were graced by the presence of the Chief Medical Officers of Health (CMOH), Block Medical Officers of Health (BMOH), Block Development Officers (BDO), Assistant Block Development Officers, Sub-Divisional Officers (SDO), Panchayet Pradhans, and other eminent people of concerned locality witnessed the efficacy of these initiatives.

Launch of ENHANCE:

A new Maternal and Child healthcare project named ENHANCE (Effective Nurturing Helps in Attaining Nutrition, Cognition & Excellence) was launched on 1st October 2023 in Rajasthan with funding from Kotak Mahindra Bank. This project aims to address the concerns related to safe motherhood and child nutrition among under-5 children in 3 blocks under Sawai Madhopur and Tonk district in Rajasthan for 3 years.



Career counselling events:



On 19th October 2023, Yuva Shakti Club-Ranihati Howrah and Uttarpara Bandhan Skill Development Center hosted a career counselling session. A total of 35 job applicants attended the counselling session. The goal of the placement-linked training programme offered by Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) and its advantages for their professional path were explained by representatives from the BSDC-Uttarpara.

In the final week of December 2023, Berhampore Skill Development Center under EUP organised another career counselling event in Krishna College in Berhampore. Mrs. Sujata Bagchi, the Principal of Krishnath College, Mr. Pranab Kumar Halder, the Head of the placement cell, and other distinguished guests graced the occasion with the presence of 60 candidates.

Inauguration of Mangrove Plantation:

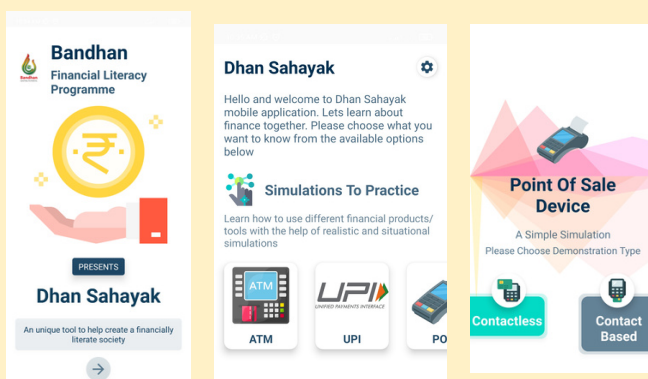
Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) launched the Mangrove Rejuvenation Project at Harekrishnapur Village, Jotishpur Gram Panchayat in South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal on 7th December 2023.

20,000 saplings were planted on this special day. Mr. Ronendra Chowdhry, Programme Director of Bandhan-Konnagar was present at the event. This effort was a move in the right direction to prevent soil erosion, shield the community from flooding, especially in the wet season, and support preserving the environment.



Launch of Simulation App:

On 1st November 2023, a Simulation App (Dhan Sahayak) was launched for Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP) developed by the in-house IT team of Bandhan-Konnagar. The App will be used as a training tool for digital transactions to educate the beneficiaries that can simulate usages of three features including ATM, UPI and POS transactions.



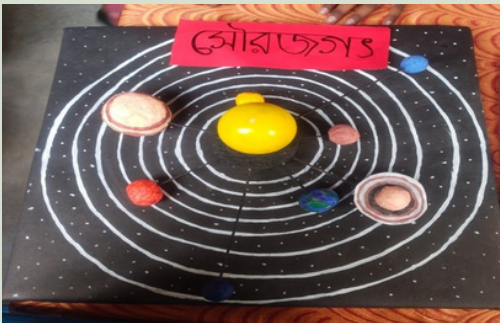
Annual cultural programme in Bandhan Academy:

As a co-curricular activity annual cultural programmes were organised at all 10 Bandhan Academies. It witnessed participation of more than 2000 students and 129 teachers in various cultural activities namely dance, drama, song and recitation. Many local dignitaries were present and they appreciated the school authorities for arrangement of such colourful programmes.



Science exhibition and art gallery:

On 8th November 2023, a children’s art gallery and science exhibition were organized at Haringhata Academy in Nadia district where around 150 students participated. In addition, such children’s art gallery was also organized at Maslandapur Academy in North 24 Parganas on 22nd November where around 200 students participated



Children’s Day celebration

The Bandhan Education Programme observed "Bal Divas," or Children's Day, on 14th November 2023. More than 35000 students have participated with great enthusiasm in various competitions including painting, singing, dancing, and recitations.



Annual Sports in BEC

The annual sports at Bandhan Education Centres were organized with large numbers of its students participation. The students participated in various sports competitions such as run, frog race, ball throwing, biscuit race, go as you like, etc. All winners were greeted with prizes. Local high school headmasters, assistant teachers, and local administrative personnel were present as special guests.



International Day for Girl Child:



International Day for Girl Child was observed on 11th October 2023 in 4 branches of West Bengal under the “Take Care to Dare-Phase I” project of Bandhan Health Programme (BHP). The theme was "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being” and received support from HDFC Life. Seminars were organized in all the branches which were attended by many local stakeholders and around 200 adolescent girls. Managing Director of NAKSHI Creations Pvt. Ltd. Ms. Nilima Ghosh graced the seminar held at the Nikarihata branch as Chief Guest. Local stakeholders were also present at these events.

Cultural Programmes organised at The Bandhan Schools (TBS):

The Bandhan Schools in Aranghata, Taldi, and Chakdaha organised various cultural programmes on different festive occasions such as Diwali, Pre-Durga Puja, and Christmas during the quarter. Various events such as dance, drama, and singing were organised in those occasions. These colourful events witnessed the participation of around 850 students. Also, students were observed to be engaged in certain special cultural proceedings such as performing in the drama "Akal Bodhon" and "Mahisasur Mardini" on the occasion of Pre-Durga Puja. Besides, students exhibited their artistic abilities in the Rangoli competition during Diwali. Again a heart-warming Special Assemblies were organised in these schools on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 2023 and Christmas on 25th December 2023. The students participated in enactments based on the story "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens on the occasion of Christmas and "Dandi March" portraying the roles of freedom fighters on Gandhi Jayanti.



International Olympiad Exam:

The Bandhan School in Taldi collaborated with the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) to host the International Olympiads in November and December. On 2nd November 2023, the International English Olympiad was organised which witnessed the participation of 75 students from Class 1 to V and among them 19 students received International Gold medals, Zonal medals and Medals of distinction. Simultaneously, the National Science Olympiad Exam was held on 21st November 2023 in which 15 out of 57 students received a Gold Medal of Excellence. The International Mathematics Olympiad Exam was held on 18th December 2023. In which more than 100 students took the exam.



Graduation Ceremony:

Graduation ceremonies under the Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme were organized in Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, and Telangana. In Uttarakhand, the Graduation Ceremony was held on 6th October 2023 for the Bajaj – IV project. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Subham Mittal, Deputy General Manager from Bajaj Finserv Ltd, local Mayor, and Ward member.

Simultaneously, the graduation ceremony was arranged in Maharashtra for Bajaj –V project on 13th December 2023. This event was held in the presence of the District Magistrate, Project Director – DRDA, Addl. CEO –Zila Parishad, other dignitaries and project beneficiaries.

On 27th December, the graduation ceremony was arranged in the Telangana Bajaj-V project in the presence of Addl. DRDO, MPP, Addl. GM- District Industrial Development, District Addl. Panchayat Officer, Mission Director, Branch Manager and Addl. Div. Manager from Bandhan Bank Ltd.- Khammam.



Visitors

- Mr. Eric Arndt, Director of Rockefeller Foundation and her team paid a visit to JEEViKA's SJY programme on 1st October, 2023. They had a brief and extremely productive talk with the team of Bandhan-Konnagar, about JEEViKA's technical assistance support and direct implementation of the Ultra-Poor Graduation Intervention. They were informed about the BK intervention and the programme's impact since its beginning during the conversation.



- On 19th October 2023, Mr L. Prabhakar, Executive Vice President and a team from ITC Ltd visited THP intervention areas in Saharanpur UP for better understanding of the growth journey of a few project beneficiaries.

- Mr. (Md) Asghar Ali and Mr Ashish Gupta, Programme officers from ITC Ltd. visited intervention fields in Haridwar, Uttarakhand and interacted with a few of THP beneficiaries on 7th November 2023, to gain insight into their progressive journey.



- Mr Mahyeldi Ansharullah, Hon'ble Governor of West Sumatera along with his team of senior officials from the Indonesian government accompanied by a team from BRAC India and Indonesia visited Gaya, Bihar from 29th November 2023 to 2nd December 2023 to attend a workshop organised by the SJY-ILE programme. Additionally, they met Shri. Shrawan Kumar, Rural Development Minister, Bihar and Dr N Saravana Kumar, Secretary of the Rural Development Department.

- On 6th December 2023, Mr. Arvind Agarwal, Managing Director and Mr. Amrit Daga, CFO along with 3 Board Members namely Ms. Hulya Kefeli, Mr. Subrata Mondal, and Mr. Arindam Banik from BFSL visited project areas in Bainan-Howrah. They interacted with a few project beneficiaries who shared their development journey with the visitors.



- Mr Shubham Mittal, Deputy General Manager of Bajaj Finserv visited the project areas in Assam. He met with a few project beneficiaries to understand their development journey on the 21st and 22nd December 2023.

News Clippings

