Bandhan
IGNITING POTENTIAL

Empowering Lives
Building a Stronger India

BANDHAN-KONNAGAR

Established: April 11, 2001

Our Thematic Areas

#Targeting the Hardcore Poor - Women Empowerment

#Inclusive Education

#Healthcare and Wellbeing

#Sustainable Livelihood

#Environment Climate Action Programme

#Employing the Unemployed Youth Through Skilling

#Financial and Digital Literacy

#WASH-safe Water

Our Presence

- *Assam*
- *Bihar*
- *Chattisgarh*
- *Jharkhand*
- *Karnataka*
- *Maharashtra*
- *Meghalaya*
- *MP*
- *Odisha*
- *Punjab*
- *Rajasthan*
- *Telengana*
- *Tripura*
- *UP*
- *Uttarakhand*
- *West Bengal*

OVERVIEW

Bandhan was established in 2001 as a pro-poor development organisation to meet the cardinal goals of poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. The organisation is actively engaged in the development space for the socio-economic progress of the poor. It extends all necessary support through its various development programs with an aim of bringing about the holistic development of the underprivileged. The organisation is presently engaged in the delivery of services in crucial fields viz. education, health, livelihood promotion, employment generation, market linkage, etc.

Over the years, new initiatives are being taken to cater to their changing / various needs.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, the Founder & Mentor backed up with extensive experience of more than 25 years in the Microfinance and Development sector conceptualized Bandhan.

Since the objective is poverty alleviation, Bandhan – Konnagar works closely with people who live in the lowest echelons of the social system. The organization constantly tries to broad base its scope of services and minimize areas of income leakage in the poor families.

Values:
C - Cost Effective and Simple
R - Respect for All
E - Exemplary Governance
A - Accountability, Professionalism & Discipline
T - Transparency & Integrity
E - Effective Teamwork and Commitment

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

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 & communities.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS (as of March 2025)

16 States	**34,426** Village/Wards	**1,644** Staffs	**42,08,353** Total Households Covered	**1,98,081** Hardcore Poor Families
4,770 Bandhan Education Centres and Bandhan Academies	**4,893** Education Facilitators	**1,50,162** Students	**13,247** Health Volunteers	**24,28,623** Beneficiaries Under Health Programme
1,409 Beneficiaries Under Climate Action Programme	**43,608** Youth Employed	**13,72,954** Beneficiaries Under Financial Literacy Programme	**15,545** Financial Literacy Facilitators	**131** Beneficiaries Under Sustainable Livelihood Programme

Founder & Mentor : Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

A visionary leader and social entrepreneur, he established Bandhan-Konnagar in 2001 with the mission of poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. Under his leadership, Bandhan-Konnagar has grown into a reputed development organization, implementing impactful programmes in education, health, livelihoods, financial literacy, and climate action, touching millions of lives across India.

OUR PROGRAMMES :

Bandhan-Konnagar implements a range of integrated development programmes designed to address poverty in its multiple dimensions. Each initiative is focused on a specific area of intervention, while collectively contributing to our overarching goal of holistic and sustainable community development. By empowering individuals and communities, these programmes aim to create lasting social impact and improve quality of life for generations to come.

Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP):

Commenced in 2006

Bandhan-Konnagar's flagship initiative focused on uplifting ultra-poor households and helping them achieve self-reliance through sustainable livelihoods. Rather than providing direct cash transfers, the programme equips beneficiaries with productive assets—such as livestock or trade tools—tailored to their context and capacity. This is complemented by comprehensive training, regular handholding support, and small stipends to sustain households until the assets begin generating income.

Key Features:
- Targets women-headed households living in extreme poverty
- Provides productive assets (e.g. livestock, trade tools)
- Confidence building, and enterprise development trainning
- Promotes business literacy and saving habits
- Beneficiary linkages with Government Social Security Schemes

Impact:
- Most participants graduate from extreme poverty within 2 years
- Shift from survival mode to sustainable income generation
- Builds financial discipline, and long-term stability

Bandhan Health Programme (BHP):

Commenced in 2007

Bandhan Health Programme (BHP) works to improve health awareness and access among poor households, with a special focus on women and children.

Key Features:
- Swasthya Sahayikas (Community Health Workers) provide door-to-door outreach
- Linkages to formal healthcare systems for better access
- Focus on safe pregnancies, institutional deliveries, and child immunisation
- Promotes preventive healthcare and hygiene practices
- Encourages healthier, more resilient communities
- Water treatment plants are established to ensure safe and cost-effective drinking water for local communities.

Impact:
- Improved maternal and child health indicators
- Increased uptake of institutional healthcare
- Stronger health-seeking behaviour in underserved areas

Bandhan Education Programme (BEP):

Commenced in 2008

BEP aims to bridge learning gaps for children from low-income families by offering free education through community learning centres and Bandhan Academies. The programme provides remedial and primary education, school kits, co-curricular activities, and mentoring. It focuses on improving literacy and numeracy, promoting school retention, and empowering first-generation learners to pursue higher education and better opportunities.

Key Features:
- Focuses on underprivileged children, especially girls and school dropouts
- Runs free non-formal schools with flexible timings
- Provides free books, stationery, and learning kits
- Builds foundational skills in reading, writing, and numeracy
- Engages children in sports, cultural and community activities
- Operates Bandhan Academies for affordable quality schooling

Impact:
- Thousands of children supported
- Improved literacy, numeracy, and school retention
- Pathways to higher education and better futures

Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP):

Commenced in 2009

Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) by Bandhan is a strategic initiative aimed at tackling one of India's pressing challenges—youth unemployment. Recognizing that lack of skills and access are major barriers to employment, EUP focuses on equipping young individuals from low-income households with job-oriented training and real employment opportunities.

Key Features:
- Skill Training in Retail, Hospitality, ITeS-BPO, Finance & Accounts, Phlebotomy
- Guidance to identify suitable job paths
- Workplace readiness support
- Connections with employers for real opportunities

Impact:
- Thousands trained and employed
- Increased income for low-income households
- Youth empowered with confidence and career direction

Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP):

Commenced in 2015

Bandhan Financial Literacy Programme (BFLP) is a key initiative aimed at promoting financial awareness and responsibility among underserved communities. Recognizing that financial empowerment is critical to long-term development, BFLP equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to manage money wisely and make informed economic decisions.

Key Features:
- FLearn how to manage income and expenses effectively
- Build financial discipline and avoid debt traps
- Understand and access banking & digital financial services
- Practical Training – Easy-to-understand sessions for first-time learners

Impact:
- Reduced reliance on informal credit
- Improved economic decision-making
- Greater financial security for families
- Increased confidence in using banking services

Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP):

Commenced in 2021

Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) marks a significant step in Bandhan's commitment to holistic development by addressing the urgent challenges of climate change. Recognizing that vulnerable communities are often the most affected by environmental disruptions, BCAP focuses on building local resilience while promoting sustainable practices that benefit both people and the planet.

Key Features:
- Climate-smart farming for changing climates
- Renewable energy through solar and clean solutions
- Rainwater harvesting for water resilience
- Disaster preparedness training
- Green initiatives like mangrove plantations and eco-friendly practices

Impact:
- Improved community resilience to climate change
- Enhanced water and energy security
- Sustainable livelihood opportunities
- Protection and restoration of local ecosystems

Bandhan Sustainable Livelihood Programme (BSLP):

Commenced in 2021

Bandhan Sustainable Livelihood Programme (BSLP) to strengthen income generation and entrepreneurship. It provides vocational training, market linkages, and business development support to individuals, with special emphasis on women-led enterprises. By encouraging self-employment and micro-enterprise creation, BSLP enables families to diversify their income sources, achieve financial independence, and build long-term resilience.

Impact:
- Increased household income
- Growth of women-led enterprises
- Diversified livelihood sources
- Stronger community resilience

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International Donors & Partners:

National Donors & Partners:

MEL Impact Partners:

Awards and Recognition

A Journey of Honour and Impact

India CSR Award

2025

Excellence in rural development

ET Bengal Corporate Award

2014

Best CSR Idea

SKOCH Financial Inclusion Awards

2011-13

For THP, Education, and Health Programmes

Senior Ashoka Fellowship

2007

CGAP (World Bank affiliate)

Pro-Poor Innovation Challenge Award

2006

CGAP (World Bank affiliate)

Head Office: Shrachi EK Tower, 7th Floor, Action Area- IID, New Town, West Bengal- 700161
Phone: 033 6670 0909 | Email: info@bandhan.org | Website: www.bandhan.org

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