

Kolkata Trust for Human Development

Annual Report

2020-2021



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Registered under Public Charitable Trust Act 1950 (GOI) and under Income Tax Act 1956 for 12AA and 80G.

KTfHD_Annual Report_20-21_Page 1 of 7

Kolkata Trust for Human Development

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Annual Report for the Financial Year 2020-2021

VISION: Kolkata Trust for Human Development has a vision to contribute for better living on Earth by improving life components of children in a just, equitable and sustainable form as a commitment for future generations of human society and Mother Earth.

MISSION: Our mission statement is to facilitate permanent and positive changes in social behavior towards children in aspects of education, health, nutrition and security for children under socio-economically marginal population in India and also to sensitize every section of society on sustainable living with respect to nature and environmental factors.

ABOUT THE TRUST: Kolkata Trust for Human Development (hereon referred to as “KTfHD”) is a non-profit initiative by few professionals from different walks of the society who came together to render their professional expertise, service, time and emotion in improving life situations of socio-economically marginal section and also to advocate for social changes in order to secure a just and equitable living for all cast, creed, sect and religion of our country. KTfHD is aiming towards providing support to the vulnerable sections of the society mainly focusing to the children and mothers in line with 17 Sustainable Development Goals under Agenda 21. The organization is registered under Public Charitable Trust Act 1950 (GOI) in December, 2014 while formulation and services started from end of 2013. KTfHD also got registered under Income Tax Act 1956 for 12AA and 80G in November, 2015.

KTfHD works with the target group of children under a structured plan for intervening into respective families, engineering changes in respective communities and securing the changes as permanent social behaviour. Mother and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC) and Shishumela - the celebration of childhood are the two major projects undertaken by KTfHD along with event wise advocacy on child rights.

While working with families and communities, KTfHD has also been intervening in other human development issues what collectively exert positive or negative impact on growing up of children within that society. The Trust is committed to continuing doing so in future and thus a holistic approach will be always inherent in action or program under the body.

The financial year 2020-21 saw the severity of Corona pandemic globally and faced the burden of lockdown following the outbreak of Corona virus leading businesses to stop, people to lose their jobs and millions of jobless people to migrate back home from their workplaces in other states of India. The year, in India, also witnessed one of the most severe cyclones ‘Amphan’. West Bengal being the epicenter of the extremely severe cyclone received widespread and deadly damage. The dreadful effect of the storm on the environment and the civilization, collapsed the capital city of West Bengal, Kolkata completely, for almost a week affecting the water supply, electricity and connectivity in all ways.

In the testing time of ever increasing Covid pandemic and the post Amphan devastation, KTfHD tried to work for the benefit of the affected people. They worked with an aim to help the people in distress and for their development. Mode of operation became changed during the FY 20-21 with modified staff pattern and different thoughts which were contributed towards regular advocacies, online awareness generation, partnering and net-working etc.

Achievements:

- ✓ Effective decision was taken about future of the MCWC project - By the end of FY 2019-20 when the FCRA Permission was still not obtained by KTfHD, the Board of Trustees (BoT) decided to request Indienhilfe e.V to adopt MCWC project and handover to a Kolkata based partner NGO so that the sustainability of the project didn't get hindered. It was proven extremely precise when India has witnessed the pandemic situation. The decision was taken based on the professional skill of appropriate situation analysis. IH promised to extend their future support to KTfHD once they received FCRA approval.
- ✓ As courtesy, IH invited KTfHD as a friend of IH in all of their Partners-Meet for knowledge and experience sharing between the local Indian NGOs working hand in hand during the pandemic.
- ✓ Successful organization of online awareness generation platform and meetings with like-minded NGOs
- ✓ Development of Covid 19 Resource Network as knowledge sharing platform as well as learning platform for children, through the initiation of developing a webpage on the Trust's website.
- ✓ Networking for relief distribution to the people in distress

- ✓ Circulation of and Training using KTfHD Early Childhood Education (ECE) Module benefitting Creche Educators working with small children
- ✓ Online learning guidance to children in the community because of the school, ICDS centres and Creche closure due to Covid pandemic
- ✓ Guidance to the parents in the community to maintain proper hygiene for all in the family and to take proper care of the children in the challenging time of Covid pandemic

The list of activities that were taken up in the reporting financial year were as follows:

Activity 1: COVID support in the community- KTfHD worked continuously for awareness generation activities mainly in the community at Khalpara, Kolkata where KTfHD used to run their MCWC project in the previous financial years. The mode of work was direct communication, virtual workshop, telephone communication with most vulnerable families. The people have been sensitized on COVID related protocols, safety measures, proper method of hand-washing, nutritious food intake which are low cost and locally available. Maintaining community hygiene was one of the bigger aspects in all communications since the community living pattern was dense and toilets are common for at least four to five families.

KTfHD also maintained regular communication with COVID positive families so that they get proper support from local municipality health-centers and ASHA workers.

KTfHD had developed a spread-sheet having the consolidated data on special support provided by Govt. of West Bengal and India. The sheet was regularly updated and distributed to the families so that they can claim their social entitlements.

Special support and care were given to the families who came back from the other parts of India or West Bengal. Through ASHA workers KTfHD staff had taken regular update on their health during their quarantine period.

KTfHD strongly advocated with the community against the arbitrary and unscientific use of medicines and rumours related to COVID. Besides KTfHD had kept their continuous eye on fake news, accordingly community people were intimated.

During this pandemic period, KTfHD started keeping news bulletin where they gathered the important COVID related news and articles. The important news, alert, announcements were regularly shared with the team and community.

KTfHD kept regular liaison with local ICDS workers and schools thus the enrolled children received their dry ration from ICDS and schools. Mothers of the children who previously attended our creche were kept informed and updated always about the gathered information related to Covid protocols and benefits offered by the Govt. in the Corona situation.

Almost 85 numbers of families at Khalpara and Madurdaha settlement were directly benefitted through various programmes by KTfHD during this special time. It was greatly acknowledged by the local people and authority.



Pic 1 & 2: Mothers of the children attending MCWC crèche under KTfHD till 2019-20 were distributed dry ration as relief during lockdown period due to Covid pandemic.

Activity 2: Relief distribution - Besides awareness related work and campaigns, KTfHD felt the need to provide some direct support to some most needy families who were badly affected with the country wide lockdown started from end of March 2020. The families were selected with no livelihood and income source, they were left with no

money to buy food and other basic necessities. Hunger and starvation had emerged as major threats to these families living on the fringes.

KTfHD with their limited resources started approaching the potential individuals and organizations to help people in distress in the Khalpara community with food and/or other necessary daily life items. On the 6th of April 2020 the children previously attending the Mother and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC) including their families, were distributed dry ration for 15 days in form of puffed rice, biscuits, eggs, rice, potato.

Another dry ration (for 15 days) distribution camp on the 10th of May 2020 was organized for a neighboring needy settlement named as Anandapur, Madurdaha of Kolkata. 75 families of that community received the necessary dry ration in the form of rice, dal(pulses), soyabeans and biscuits and a hand-washing soap.

Linkage was made with Ramakrishna Mission so that the community people at Khalpara settlement get free daily cooked food at their door step during lock-down.

Activity 3: Creating COVID 19 Resource Network and associated activities: The network building was one of the main targets of KTfHD in FY 20-21. KTfHD had actively participated in the weekly partners meet organized by Indienhilfe e.V Herrsching, Germany. Based on the collective sharing of experiences and knowledge KTfHD started working on developing “COVID 19 Resource Network”. KTfHD took the role of moderator in this network, where all IH like minded partner NGOs decided to join and contribute. The other NGOs in the city also intimated about this network. After having several discussions and analyzing the situation in West Bengal, on behalf of the network, KTfHD had decided to concentrate on four major issues. These were:

- i. Information: where people will receive all possible scientific and relevant information about COVID 19
- ii. Child care and Well-being: Children are the central focus of KTfHD, thus this special section was designed keeping all possible aspects related to children, such as how to present COVID crisis to the children thus they do not get panicked, what are the child-friendly activities to engage the children at home, appropriate behavior of parents or care givers etc.

In FY 20-21 KTfHD developed the materials for the two sections of Information and Child care and Well-being. Representatives of partner NGOs provided some materials for the content but members of KTfHD Board of Trustees who have in-depth knowledge on this sector mainly worked as content writer.

Few steps were taken:

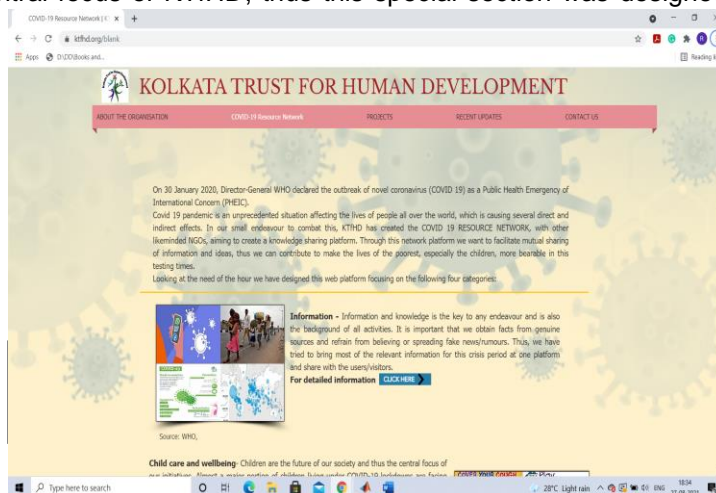
✓ Up-gradation of the website- at first KTfHD admin team took responsibilities to upgrade the website of KTfHD. <https://ktfhd1.wixsite.com/ktfhd>,

was upgraded to www.ktfhd.org, in order to have more space to hold more content and act as the knowledge sharing cum learning platform for the children in the time of long school closure due to Covid pandemic based on the content they had prepared.

✓ Creating page named “Covid 19 Resource Network”- A page called ‘Covid 19 Resource Network’ was included in the KTfHD website and developed aiming to create a knowledge sharing platform. Through this network platform KTfHD wanted to facilitate mutual sharing of information and ideas with other likeminded NGOs, so that they can contribute to make the lives of the poorest, especially the children, more bearable in the difficult times of Corona pandemic. Another objective of the page was also to act as an online learning platform for the children with the guidance of the facilitators

✓ Self-learning- the web-design part was done by the KTfHD BoT to save the cost required for it. KTfHD is a Trust who believes in simplicity in publication by using minimum cost or no cost, with meaningful relevant information. The team worked hard to learn the simple web-design and had done a successful job within a very short time period.

✓ Promotion of the page: after launching the demo version it was shared with likeminded organisations for acquiring information from them and also thus the content of the page could be useful to as many people as possible.



Activity 4: Successful future plan for the project Mother and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC): KTfHD’s brain-child project MCWC was planned for four years for the selected community at Khalpara. Following the plan, FY 19-20 was the end year of the project. Meantime, in FY 2018-19 KTfHD received FCRA Prior approval for the project (INR 13,000,00) from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and accordingly Indienhilfe e.V Herrsching, Germany started financial supporting. After the sanctioned financial support from IH ended, project was continued by KTfHD’s own fund. But at the end of the project period in FY 19-20 when KTfHD did the end-line survey, it was observed that some

more support was still required for the community. Meantime in the year 2019 KTfHD had applied for FCRA permission which is still under the process of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, which was yet to be approved.

Accordingly, in the last month of FY 19-20, KTfHD approached to IH for taking over the charge of MCWC and handing it over to any of their partner NGO who has the capacity to run this kind of child-centric project.

This decision was taken in the board meeting of KTfHD to ensure the regular fund flow to the project, thus the life of the children do not get endangered as this project was closure to its success. KTfHD comprehended the upcoming possible paucity of funds because of the COVID 19, and the possible change and difficulty in the dynamic of fund-raising for any particular project in near future.

Consequently, IH informed KTfHD to hand-over the project to one of their project partner Lake Gardens Women and Child Development Centre (LGW&CDC), a Kolkata based organization who works with fairly common objective, where KTfHD will support as main stakeholder where and when necessary. Upon acceptance by LGW&CDC management, it was decided to include the activities of MCWC into their ongoing project 'The Vulnerable One'.

The official hand-over was decided in beginning of April 2020, but due to lock-down the actual process got delayed. Under, this circumstance LGW&CDC and KTfHD together had decided to continue the community support programme through the existing project staff under direct guidance of KTfHD seniors who have experience of dealing in the project.

Additionally, KTfHD had restructured its staffing pattern to meet up the cause. A local lady was appointed as Community Mobiliser cum Office Assistant to work full time with aim of tracking all creche attending children and their families. She had worked to keep up regular communication, community visit etc.

The decision taken by KTfHD about the flawless extension of MCWC project was proven right when the pandemic situation occurred.

The below activities were continued till September'20 under direct guidance of KTfHD BoT.

✓ Online learning guidance- The schools and ICDS centres were closed for long due to the pandemic and the children were being devoid of any learning environment which is much required for their development. Some selected children in the Khalpara community along with creche children were provided online learning guidance by the community volunteers and MCWC existing staff. For the purpose the android mobile phones of the parents were used. Work sheets were developed and shared online for the children to do writing work. It was obvious that not all the parents had android (Smart) phones. The parents were advised to request their immediate neighbours who had Smart phones to help them out in the situation. Accordingly work sheets were send to their neighbours' phones and they showed the screen to the parents to note down the writing work in the notebooks of the children.

✓ Guidance to the mothers- The mothers in the community were provided with guidance by the community volunteers under KTfHD and MCWC staff for taking care of their children in appropriate manner during the Covid crisis, in terms of maintaining hygiene and trying to eat nutritious food.

✓ Counseling the community members against domestic violence- The family members in the community were talked to and counseled, maintaining physical distance, against domestic violence on the women and children by the male members of the family. The cases of existing domestic violence in the community were followed up by the community volunteers in terms of interaction with both the men and women. The families were made aware of the legal provisions for domestic violence and child abuse.

✓ Staff capacity building: special emphasis was given for staff capacity building. Thus they were capable to continue with the new medium of work.

✓ Documentation: KTfHD team took care about the daily record keeping and documentation of the regular activities in this intermediate period, till September'20 thus the tracking of the children was not got lost. The hard copies of these data and records were officially handed over to LGW&CDC on 30.9.2021.

KTfHD team had prepared a detailed Closure Report of MCWC for the period November 2015 to April 2020, when KTfHD was the legal holder of the project along with all relevant spreadsheets and lists like 'Children data Base', 'Health Record Analysis', 'Family Development Status' and 'Progress Record of Children' Mothers' Employment Summary, Summary of the meetings with community, Summary of the meetings with the Staff, List of neighbourhood schools where the children from the community get enrolled into, List of neighbourhood schools and ICDS where the children under MCWC got enrolled into, Progress Report of Children, Daily Schedule of the Creche, Summary of Regular Home Visit Report, Follow up report of school enrolled children. The report has significant analysis of the data collected during end-line survey.

Finally, post lock-down on 30.9.2021 MCWC project was physically handed over to team LGW&CDC. The support was given by KTfHD in this intermediate period was against no-cost. This has been appreciated and acknowledged by the community, IH and LGW&CDC.

Activity 5: Organizing Capacity-Building training: It is an aim of KTfHD to prosper as an organization who will work in the area of Capacity Building and Training of social-workers. Volunteers having specialization in different professional skills have helped KTfHD through their skill and expertise in different occasions. Thus, KTfHD have been able to conduct An Early Childhood Education (ECE) training of the staff of 'The Vulnerable Ones' Project under LGW&CDC. The programme was conducted over five days using the Early Childhood Education (based on Montessori approach) Module developed under KTfHD. The module was circulated to the trainees as handouts.

Activity 6: Fund raising - Along with other activities fund raising was always an important activity for KTfHD. For the purpose different concept notes have been developed and potential donors, individuals as well as organizations, were approached for funds to run development activities under KTfHD. A concept was developed to work with the children who were being detached from any physical learning environment because of the long school closure due to Covid pandemic, and provide them with an interactive learning environment. Added to this, fund was collected by the Board members of KTfHD from different sources, to meet the expenses during FY 2020-21. It'll be worth mentioning that friends of Indienhilfe e.V who were supporting the project under FCRA prior permission showed their eagerness for the FCRA permission of KTfHD in order to finance more projects of KTfHD.

Activity 7: Supporting Town-Twinning Activities between Herrsching am Ammersee and Chatra Gram Panchayet, W.B - Since October 1995, Indienhilfe e.V. is accompanying the "Town twinning" programme between Herrsching Municipality (a town near Munich in Germany) and Chatra Gram Panchayat, Baduria Block, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The friendly association between the people of Herrsching and Chatra is sustaining since 1995.

KTfHD have been actively supporting the initiative through its capacity and understanding. Founder member and Managing Trustee of KTfHD. Mr. S. V. Raman is the key person to promote this initiative in several national and international forum through his excellent communication (fluent in Bengali, English and German), advocacy skill and with deep understanding for German culture and behaviour. Before retiring in 2010 he was Programme Director of Kolkata's Goethe Institute for 35 years. He maintains regular liaison with German Consulate at Kolkata. KTfHD representatives (Trustees) participated in Online Asia Conference,2021 and shared the journey of the Town-Twinning Partnership development since its inception via a storytelling mode.



Picture 4: Story Telling by KTfHD representatives in Online Asia Conference on 02.03.2021

KTfHD representatives also supported in school letter exchange programme between the students of Herrsching schools(one primary and one higher secondary co-education) and Chatra schools(One Primary and two Higher secondary-Girls and Boys separately). Regular basis they kept continuous communications with partner schools at Chatra and Herrsching.

Besides, KTfHD actively participate as an important stakeholder of Safe Drinking Water Project (SDWP) for some selected villages of Chatra Gram Panchayet, under Adelphi Research, Berlin, which is financed by IH. KTfHD members participated in Community Meeting at Burobottola, Ghoshpur, Chatra on mobilizing the local people towards implementation of Safe Drinking Water Project in December. Additionally, team supported on advocacy with Panchayat officials and other major stakeholders in support of further development of SDWP.



Picture 5&6: Community Meeting with local stakeholders at Burobottola, Ghoshpur (6.12.20 and Paruipara, Rasui respectively on 6.12.20 and 14.1.21 to mobilizing towards Safe Drinking Water project

This year KTfHD representatives also participated in Online Exchange Programme Online Exchange Programme with Two Municipalities (Hersching and Chatra) where KTfHD members supported on communication and advocacy (1.2.21)



Picture 7: Online Exchange Programme with Two Municipalities (Hersching and Chatra) where KTfHD members supported on

Brief about the Trust

The office of Kolkata Trust for Human Development has been functioning at C/22 Nabapally, 1st Floor, Rajdanga, Kolkata 700107 with the members of the Board of Trustees of KTfHD, supporters of KTfHD (mainly the old project staff) and the Community Mobilizer cum Office Assistant whose job profile has been restricted with the changed mode of KTfHD’s functioning. All members jointly contributed towards tracking children of MCWC till September 2020, related documentation for project handover, other regular advocacy programme, fund-raising, online awareness generation, web-site designing etc.