



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022

NEW ALIPORE PRAAJAK DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

ABOUT PRAAJAK

Praajak, meaning 'charioteer' began its journey in 1997 with a commitment to securing a better present and future for children and youth living in historically disadvantaged communities, in confined custodial milieus and those who find themselves surviving on their own.

The organization works with the government, civil society and community-based actors to provide an enabling and secure environment for children, adolescents and young people.

Praajak works to address gender inequalities and challenge traditional notions of masculinity and patriarchy thereby working with boys and young men in creating a gender equitable society.

Praajak works on a range of child protection issues including preventing and addressing unsafe migration, child trafficking, child sexual abuse, early/child and forced marriages and child work and labour.

Praajak believes in a child centric approach, which implies that the organization makes all efforts to ensure that the child is put first before anyone else. This approach also puts the concept of child agency at the centre of all our interventions and advocacy. When children have a sense of agency, they are able to make choices and decisions to influence events, and to have an impact on their world.

At a Glance: 2021 - 2022

- Praajak continued its work with the adolescents and youths through the programmes *Antariksha: Empowering children & youth to transform their worlds by transforming themselves* and *Muktangan: Ensuring Child Protection* reaching out to 3200 children, adolescents and youth (1699 females and 1501 males).
- Praajak's continued its work of strengthening the collectives of boys and girls and worked with 174 collective groups (79 groups of boys and 95 groups of girls).
- Working towards strengthening the community ecosystem to ensure child protection and gender equality led to series of advocacy initiatives along with participation of collective members.
- The year saw Praajak expand its work with children in conflict with law, implementing the principle of diversion as laid down in the Juvenile Justice Act. We worked with the police, juvenile justice board, district child protection systems to divert CCLs from the system and ensure their community-based rehabilitation. Praajak worked with 12 CCLs this year.
- The Railway Childline of Asansol and Malda worked in rescuing and rehabilitation of 388 children from the railway platforms, adjoining areas and worked with the stakeholders in the railways.
- Praajak has initiated working in the Sundarbans through the project *Amplifying Community Voices*. A consortium of 8 NGOs is part of this process where Praajak has been identified as a resource organization to impart training on child protection and gender to other consortium partners.

Significant Achievements



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Collectives address issues of child protection and gender-based violence and discrimination within their families and communities.

Prevention of child marriage	301
Prevention of child labour	3
Prevention of domestic violence	129
Re-admission of drop out children	369
Preventing sexual harassment	138

282 girls from the collectives delayed their own marriages through negotiations

with their parents. They were able to convince families of the negative impacts of child marriage and why it was important for them to continue education.

The leaders of the collectives advocate with panchayats, administration and child protection systems at the village, block and district levels for ensuring presence of child protection committees at the grassroots level to strengthen the safety nets.

20 collective members were instrumental in forming Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) in Basbari, Michel and Ambikanagar in Fulbari-I Gram Panchayats.

2 collective members were made part of the Village Level Child Protection Committees

13 collective members made part of the Ward Level Child Protection Committees

Collective members emerge as resource for community people as they assist community members in getting their identity cards, access various schemes and entitlements.

Opening Bank Accounts	38 children and 28 adults
Identity Cards – Adhaar Cards	25 children and 56 adults
Linkage to government schemes	147 families

Collective members organize awareness campaigns on issues of child protection and gender-based violence and discrimination



522 collective members took part in awareness campaigns within their communities on issues of early and forced child marriage, drug addiction and its impact on children reaching out to almost 4200 people.

400 collective members participated in the Suraksha Bandhab Utsab to raise voice against domestic violence in their communities

Collective members raise voices against sexual violence of boys through extensive campaigning on the Blue Umbrella Day.



180 collective members were involved in the process.

Collective members take up issues of access to civic amenities by community members.

23 collective members successfully advocated with officials from local administration at the Block Development Office to ensure installing new drinking water taps and repairing of the older ones.

Strengthening community ecosystems to ensure child protection and prevention of gender-based violence and discrimination



Members of Basanta Utsab Committee (formed with women from communities) and collective members organise and celebrate Holi through cultural activities across 103 villages of Murshidabad. 800 collective members were involved in this process.

OUR INTERVENTION DISTRICTS



OUR DONORS

American Jewish World Service
 Terre de homes
 UNICEF
 CRY
 Oak Foundation
 Childline India Foundation
 Paul Hamlyn Foundation

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

President	Ronita Chattopadhyay
Secretary	Savarni Purkayastha
Treasurer	Joydeep Sen
Member	Nandini Ghosh
Member	Veena Lakhmalani
Member	Ramaditya Ray
Member	Himalini Verma
Member	Ranjana Dasgupta

Acknowledgement

- Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking
- District Child Protection Units: South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Malda, Paschim Bardhaman, Jalpaiguri
- Juvenile Justice Board, South 24 Parganas
- Child Welfare Committee: South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Malda, Paschim Bardhaman, Jalpaiguri
- Police Officials: South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Malda, Paschim Bardhaman, Jalpaiguri
- RPF, GRP and Railway Staffs: Asansol and Malda Railway Stations
- Adolescent and youth groups
- Basanta Utsab Committee
- Team members of Praajak