

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019-20



RUPAN LARAN



# SECRETARY'S NOTE

2019 – 20 has been particularly significant year for recognising youth leadership. A 16 year old Climate Activist Greta Thunberg was recognised for her effort and was invited to UN Climate Action Summit 2019. And to walk the talk, she sailed to North America avoiding the flight. She is the youngest “Time Person of the Year” and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Being an organisation focussing on Youth development and promoting youth leadership this has been quite encouraging and motivating.

This year has brought Rupantaran to another landmark. Rupantaran has completed a decade of service to humanity and contributing our bit towards making the world more equitable. A journey of 10 years has been quite memorable. Our work is getting more and more recognition. On one hand, we are part of a PAN India Campaign – Goal pe Bol, a campaign to engage youth around Sustainable Development goals, while on the other hand Rupantaran's is now a technical resource providing organisation as well as an organisation having strong grassroots quality work and experience.

It gives me immense please to present you another annual report of Rupantaran Foundation and I am hopeful that with every passing year we shall be able to enhance the depth and scale of intervention.

Towards the end of the year the whole world has been affected by COVID 19 pandemic and is facing an unprecedented situation. The night is always darkest before the dawn and I am sure the human race will fight it united manner and will succeed in overcoming the difficult times.

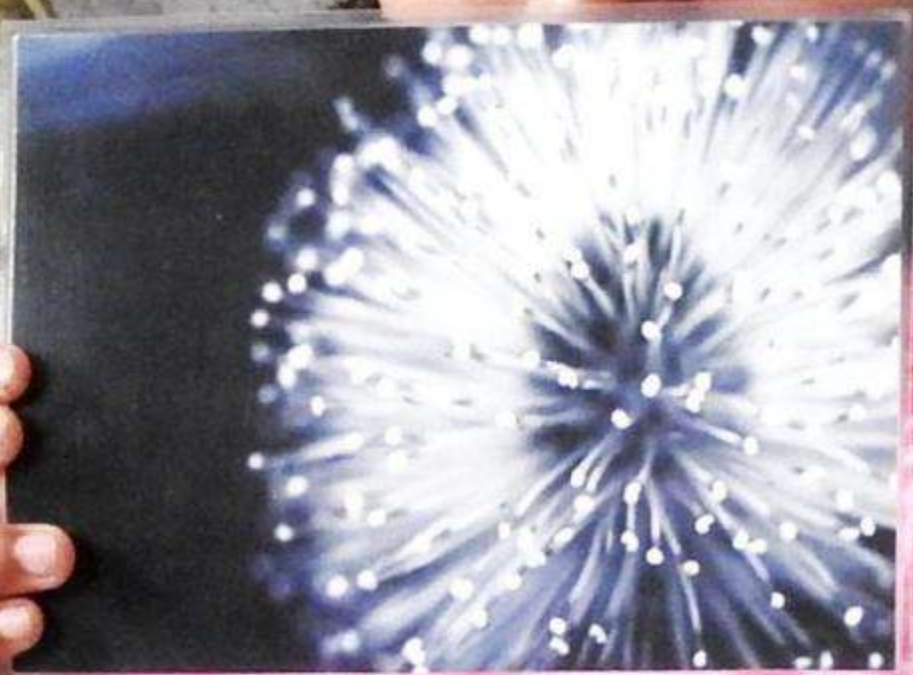


Abhishek

Secretary, Rupantaran Foundation

## VISION

A transformed society built on equity, dignity and peace.



## MISSION

Enabling social justice in communities through active citizenship by promoting youth leadership, catalysing opportunities and access to rights & entitlements.

Rupantaran Foundation was formed in 2009 with an aim to promote responsive citizenship among communities focusing on engaging with youth and adolescents. At Rupantaran, we work on the issues of gender, health, education, child protection, livelihood promotion and disaster management. Rupantaran also works as a resource and capacity building organization.



Child protection committee

Education Institution

Government

Community

Creating safe space



Building Perspective

Enhancing Skills

Instigating Passion

Facilitating Actions

Enabling environment

## THEORY OF CHANGE

We believe that engaging youth and adolescents through a structured life skill and perspective building processes connected to their passion will enable them to emerge as active leaders of social change. If the vibrant cohort of youth in India is constructive and aware then they can shape a just, equitable and nonviolent world.

# ISSUES

## ADVOCATING GENDER EQUITY

Rupantaran constructs a safe space for adolescent and youth to promote dialogue, enhance understanding and facilitate actions to challenge the patriarchal norms and gender construct.

Rupantaran enables the creation of safety net by conducting series of social and behaviour change communication with children and communities, strengthening the child protection committees to safeguard children from child, early & forced marriage.

## PROHIBITING CHILD MARRIAGE

## PROMOTING SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Rupantaran works with adolescents (both adolescent girls and boys) and their parents on adolescence, reproductive and sexual health, breaking the taboos around menstruation and promoting menstrual hygiene.

Rupantaran provides quality supplementary educational support to children in rural areas who are economically underprivileged as well as academically poor performers, hence more vulnerable to drop out of school.

## ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION

## PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Rupantaran enables the community cognizance about trafficking and facilitate formation of safety net by promoting adolescent collectives as peer educators, strengthening child protection committees and linking vulnerable families to government support system.

Rupantaran enables the creation of safety net by strengthening the child protection committees, engaging with community and key actors in the area to safeguard children from child protection related vulnerabilities.

## ACTIVATING SAFETY NET

## ENHANCING LIFE SKILLS

Rupantaran facilitates a process to enhance life skills of adolescent and youth ranging from understanding self, coping with emotion to effective communication and interpersonal skills.

At Rupantaran, we see youth as an “Actor” of development and nurture their leadership skills through a process of perspective and skill building, mentor youth to take actions to gradually evolve as leader amongst their peers and community.

## NURTURING YOUTH LEADERSHIP



*“Here our emotions are valued, we become courageous. To me the relationship with every member makes the place more special.”*

- Mousumi Mandal, 18 years

*“This is such a space in my life where I can talk freely without any fear and definitely a place to work together with elder people.”*

- Gauranga Mandal, 17 years

# QUALITY EDUCATION & DROPOUT PREVENTION

Rupantaran Foundation is working with the economically and academically vulnerable children to support in their education through supplementary education classes for them. We also did awareness campaigns in the villages of South 24 Parganas to prevent drop out, ensure education for all. Our youth leaders joined our hand in this endeavour and they did survey cum awareness in their locality with the children to know the current situation regarding drop out and sensitize them to go back to school.



*"When you learn, TEACH / When you get, GIVE."*

During the time for admission in schools, our youth leaders took initiative to meet the vulnerable children in their locality to ensure their admission and regularity in school.





A 16 years old girl, Sushila Naskar belongs to a very poor family. She stays with her mother, brother & sister. The sudden death of her father made them more vulnerable and became financially unstable. Her mother was the only earner in their family, who used to work at a brickfield. In her school test, Sushila did not qualify for giving her board examination, which reduced her interest from education. Since her brother & sister were too small to earn money so she joined her hand in the brick field with her mother to overcome their financial difficulties and dropped out school.

After knowing the incident, her friend Debosmita, who was associated with Rupantaran's youth programme visited Sushila's house. Debosmita talked to Sushila & her mother on the importance of Education and Child rights, she learned from the sessions conducted by Rupantaran. She also gave information about the Kanyashree scheme and its facilities because Sushila's financial strength was not so strong. Debosmita inspired Sushila to continue her education and helped her a lot and made her leave the work so that she could re-join school. After a few days, Sushila took admission to the school and continued her study. This year she not only qualifies for giving the board exam, also passed Madhyamik Examination successfully.

In picture interface with parents of dropped out children with and teachers of local school around better future of these vulnerable children and possible way out to restart their education.



# COURSE FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS



## *Child Protection and Responsible Citizenship Course*

This year Rupantaran Foundation has initiated a child protection and responsible citizenship course in schools. Through discussions, games, action based homework, healthy competition, practical project work the students learned about the issues related to child protection and responsible citizenship.



Sumona Sarder & Sayoni Das of Class IX, were the participants of the Child Protection and Responsible Citizenship Course in a school. For project work, they formed a small group of friends and conducted a survey in their area on the social issues faced by the community. It was an interesting experience for them to talk to various members in their community. Through that survey they identified issues like girls forced to marry at young age, man beating his wife after drinking alcohol, playing loud music during exam periods and eve-teasing as major issues of concern in the area.

They felt like they have to do something against it. An idea of talking to the Panchayat Pradhan came. They were bit hesitant to reach out to the Panchayat Pradhan, so they talked to the local panchayat member. After talking to him they wrote and submitted an application with information to the Panchayat Pradhan. The Panchayat Pradhan promised them that he will act on it.

# DIALOG ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



In picture Secretary of WBCPCR in conversation with the students and their parents

## *Dialog on Child Sexual Abuse*

Rupantaran In collaboration with West Bengal Child Rights Commission initiated dialog with students, parents and teachers on child sexual abuse, POCSO and how to create a safe school.



# PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY

Rupantaran constructs a safe space for adolescent and youth to promote dialogue, enhance understanding and facilitate actions to challenge the patriarchal norms and gender construct. Other than conducting structured sessions on gender-based discrimination and violence, basic understanding of patriarchy, masculinity and sexuality with both girls and boys, Rupantaran also promotes gender sensitive community through dialogs, rallies, mass awareness programmes.



*Community meeting with SHG members*

**Rupantaran is facilitating conversations and build perspective with Self Help Group women on gender based discrimination, violence, rights to promote gender equity.**

*Sathi always experience from her childhood that boys and men eat before girls and women. After attending a series of conversations and brainstorming activities on gender, gender based discrimination and the idea of gender equity, she started identifying the gender based discriminatory practices at her home. She realised her mobility pattern, freedom, even having meal is different from her brother.*

*One day she told her mother that she would take food with his brother, not after. "I think I should be treated equally. I can do what my brother can do. Why shouldn't I expect an equal treatment within my family?" Her mother was speechless after hearing this suddenly from Sathi. She started a dialog with her mother about tradition and gender discrimination. Her mother realised the need of change in the traditions within the family. With a persistent effort Sathi could change the discriminatory tradition in her family and all of them now eat meals together.*



### *Boys and Men on Gender Equity*

We also work with men and boys and other key actors in the community to initiate a dialogue on gender equity, stopping the objectification of women and create an improved enabling environment for girls and women.

In picture community people at Bamangachi Panchayat, South 24 Pgn are making Alpana (a traditional art) on street to raise their voice against street harassment and violence against women.



# #HOKKABADDI



## *Kabaddi championship for rural girls*

Hok Kabaddi is a Kabaddi tournament for girls in rural area. Rather it is a campaign on girls' right to play and accessing playground through a tournament. In each of the league matches held in 13 different villages, they have question the patriarchal thought - 'Girls don't play sport'. Total 130 vulnerable rural girls participated in Hokkabaddi. Through outdoor sports, girls learned the value of teamwork, cooperation and planning. Interestingly, many of their mothers, who were invisible and voiceless in the family, become their biggest supporters in reclaiming these playgrounds.

*"How would have you felt if you were born as me and me as you, and you were stopped to play the sport you like?" Abila Laskar, a 14 year old girl asked her elder brother when he was stopping her playing outside. Abila not only convinced her parents, brother and other family members for allowing her to participate in Hokkabaddi, but also inspired other Muslim girls in her area to play this outdoor game. She talked to many girls to form a team in their remote village. Her motivated team grabbed the cup at the final.*

# PROHIBITING CHILD, EARLY & FORCED MARRIAGE

In picture youth leaders are showing a theater in a village to create awareness on child marriage



Rupantaran enables the creation of safety net by conducting series of social and behaviour change communication with children and communities, strengthening the child protection committees to safeguard children from child, early & forced marriage.

16 years old girl P, was in shock to know that her father arranged her marriage. P was at class X and wanted to study hard and continue her education. She shared it with her friend G. 18 years old G knew about the ill effect of child marriage, redressal mechanisms from Rupantaran's sessions. When P shared that she wanted to stop this marriage somehow G thought to take help from the external body and she knew about the Childline, BDO from the sessions. G called at Childline and requested to come to that girl's place soon and stop her marriage after sharing the details of P. After getting the details, Childline called at local police. Police then went to the girl's place and stopped the marriage.

P was very happy and shared with her parents about her dream of go to college one day. Presently, she is continuing her education.

# PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

44% of all the reported trafficking in India is from West Bengal and South 24 Parganas is infamous pocket of trafficking in West Bengal. Rupantaran Foundation is working with the community to prevent human trafficking the vulnerable areas of South 24 Parganas to enable the community cognizance about trafficking using series of social and behaviour change communication. Also, it promotes adolescent collectives and other community based institutions through a process of perspective and skill building, mentoring them to take social actions and evolve as campaigners of the issue with their peers and community



17 years old N of a remote village in Jaynagar-I block, South 24 Parganas went missing. Few days later she called her brother from an unknown number and shared that she went with her lover but her lover betrayed her and have actually trafficked her. She has been sold by him for Rs 70,000 and now she is in Panipath, Haryana.

Our team visited her home, collected the information and facilitated lodging of FIR in local police station by her brother. We also informed the BDO, DCPU and AHTU, along with that we contacted an organisation in Delhi who does rescue work. Together with West Bengal Police and Delhi organisation, they conducted the operation and successfully rescue her. She was brought back to West Bengal and she was at a juvenile home for some days. She has now returned back and is staying with her family.



# STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES

Rupantaran has been strengthening Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLPCs), and Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLPCs). These are a community based group including duty bearers who are primarily responsible for creating and promoting a child friendly and safe community environment wherein all children's well-being, safety and rights are protected under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) of the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of India.



## *Development of Annual Village Level Action Plans (VLAPs)*

This year the VLPCs developed Annual VLAPs and they have successfully liaison with the panchayat to ensure the plans are integrated with the Annual Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDP). This will ensure child protection is part of panchayat's mandate and resources are allocated for the implementation of activities around the issue.



# YOUTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal pe Bol campaign aimed to engage and capacitate young people in West Bengal to understand sustainable development goals and lead social action on Sustainable Development Goals in their area. On ground campaign was done by 36 youth on issues identified by them around SDGs. Their worked included working on SDG 3 – Good Health & Well Being, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 6 – Clean water & sanitation, SDG 13 – Climate Change and SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institution. We mentored them so that they can run the campaign successfully in their area.

## *Youth Conclave*

A day long culmination and celebration event was done to showcase and felicitate the good work done by the young people associated with this campaign. The day filled with youth panel discussion, prize distribution to photo contest winners, expert panel discussion, felicitation and celebration.





## REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

Rupantaran has facilitated regional consultation with youth on National Youth Policy in Kolkata. Diverse groups of adolescents and youth participated in these consultations. The process enabled us to curate key aspirations of young people, their positive experiences on key thematic areas, challenges and best practices, as voices from the youth constituency to be represented in the formation of National Youth Policy, 2020.

## NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

As India will present its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UN-High-Level Political Forum 2020, Niti Ayog looked for CSOs' perspectives, data and inputs on Leave No One Behind section. For this purpose, Rupantaran is co-organized National Consultation with CSOs working with adolescents and youth in New Delhi.



# CAPACITY BUILDING OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS



In picture, Rupantaran's Comics Adda facilitators in SELF Academy organized by CREA, Delhi

## *Our work as Resource Organisation*

This year Rupantaran has collaborated with Save the Children, India and CREA as their resource partner in building capacity of their project participants on gender equity and how to use comics as an intervention tool.



In picture, gender sensitization training participants of Save The Children with the facilitator from Rupantaran.

# PROJECTS (2019 - 2020)

**Udaan:** A Child protection programme in collaboration with local self- government aiming to curb child marriage, labour and trafficking. Focussing on adolescents vulnerable to dropout and ensuring their retention in formal school is key strategy of the program. The program is supported by IKP Foundation, USA and various individual donors.

**Jonaki:** Jonaki is prevention of human trafficking program supported by The Hummingbird Foundation, UK. The program has three components to empower the youth and build their agency, forming and strengthening village level child protection committees as a strong community based institution working proactively to ensure protective environment for children and linkage of vulnerable families to government schemes and support to reduce the vulnerabilities to trafficking.

**Be A Jagrik:** Be A Jagrik is a nationwide initiative designed by ComMutiny and supported by UNICEF that aims to build young people's awareness of their fundamental rights and duties as citizens of India as well as engaging them to act upon the issues of child protection.

**Dreamer's Café / Goal pe Bol:** A mentoring programme with youth ready to shape up their ideas to reality supported by NFI, New Delhi. The program orient youth on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and promotes the young people to establish personal connect so that they can actively participate in the realisation of SDGs.

**Amplifying Community Voices:** A unique program supported by Praxis and Oak Foundation with an objective to enable identified groups of vulnerable people in the Sunderbans to come together, diagnose their vulnerabilities, articulate aspirations and avenues of change, and produce a plan for acting upon a specific vulnerability.

**Vistaar:** Vistaar is programme which works as knowledge and resource sharing wing for organisations, institutions and groups on capacity building processes. Enabling other organisation to engage on youth issues is core aim of Vistaar. We have been engaged by organisations like Save the Children, Crea.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the individuals, organisations, institutions from whom we have received the support, warm wishes and who have played a pivotal role in ensuring the quality and scale of our work.

- Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi
- ComMutiny the Youth Collective, New Delhi
- CREA, New Delhi
- District Legal Services Aid, South24 Parganas, West Bengal
- National Foundation for India, New Delhi
- Nishtha, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
- Office of Block Development Officer, Joynagar – I & II Block, West Bengal
- Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices, New Delhi
- Save the Children, India
- The Hummingbird Foundation, UK
- The Oak Foundation, Switzerland
- West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- Mr Ankur Rastogi, Mumbai
- Mr Anshuman Jha, Gurugram
- Mr Arnab Smritidi Raha, Kolkata
- Mr Gagan Seth, Hyderabad
- Mrs Kimmi Kumari & Mr Ravi Ranjan, Patna
- Mrs Nandini Gill & Mr Manish Kumar Ravi, Dehradun
- Mr Nava Krishna Jha, Kolkata
- Mr Praveen Dandotia, Mumbai
- Mr Somesh Dwivedi, Kolkata
- Mrs Swati Verma, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
- Mr Tajinder Singh, Bokaro, Jharkhand
- Mr Zafar Nur Alam, Ranchi, Jharkhand





## RUPANTARAN FOUNDATION

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