

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



**LAKE GARDENS WOMEN AND
CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

648, LAKE GARDENS, KOLKATA- 700045 | www.lgwcdckol.org

OVER VIEW OF THE ORGANISATION

Lake Gardens Women & Children Development Centre (LGWDC) Kolkata is a non profit organisation. It was founded in 1992 by social scientist *Ms. Cäcilie Sircar with the inspiration of her late husband Mr. Shyamal Sircar*

Cäcilie Sircar received the Karl Schurz Prize of the city of Erfstadt for her life's work in January 2005 and the Federal Cross of Merit on April 22, 2014.

LGWDC is registered under West Bengal Society's Registration Act 1960 with Registration No. S/73111 of 1992-93 and under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010 with FCRA No 147120533 (FCRA renewed in 2016).

All donations to the Organisation are exempted u/s 80G of IT Act 1961

LGWDC is working with an integrated holistic developmental approach wherein joyful learning, remedial education, opportunities for mainstreaming, health care, vocational skills training for income generation are provided to the children and women residing in the targeted slums.

The main vision of the organization *Is to address and combat related problems of malnutrition, ignorance and poor health status including the education of the children. Moreover the organization emphasizes on awareness programs on health, nutrition and physical and mental growth and development of the children.*

The major focus of the organisation is securing rights to women and children through empowerment of women by forming SHGs, making community people aware regarding their basic rights, with emphasis on women's rights, child rights ,health & hygiene issues, education and self reliance.

We work on a community based and rights based approach for integrated and holistic development in specific slum pockets of Lake Gardens-Kolkata and Santioshpur-Mahestala



Mrs. Cecilie Sircar, Founder Member



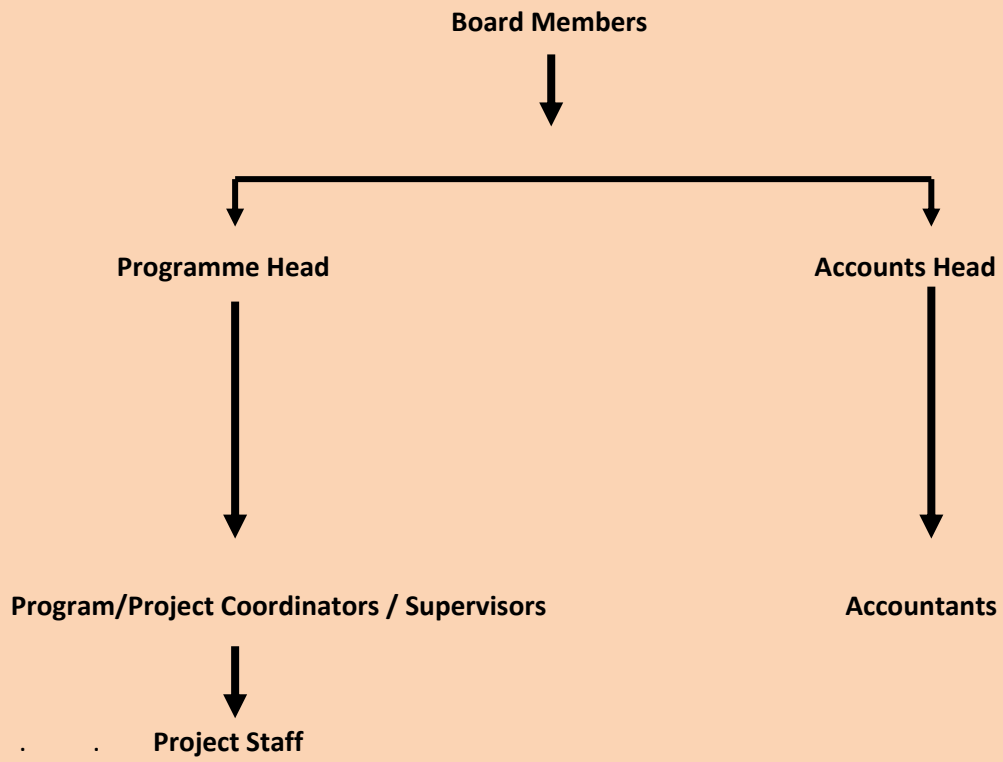
Late Mr. Shyamal Sircar, Founder President

OUR BOARD MEMBERS, 2019-2020

1	Mrs. Cecilia Sircar, Founder Member	164/78 Lake Gardens, Flat A14 ,Kolkata-700045
2	Mr. Dilip Sircar, President	8/1 Raja Raj Kissen Street , Kolkata -700006
3	Ms. Debparna Bhattacharya ,Vice President	12No. Ekbalpur Road Near Charbatti More ,Kolkata 700023
4	Ms.Suranjana Basu Das , Joint Secretary	202 A Jodhpur Park, Kolkata- 700068
5	Mr.Robin Sircar, Joint- Secretary	164/78 lake Gardens, Flat A14, Kolkata-700045
6	Mr. Sumanta Banerjee, Treasurer	32/14B, Beadon Street,Kolkata- 700006
7	Mr.Dipankar Sarkar, Member	400, DumDum Park Road,Kolkata-700055



Organogram



VISION AND MISION

LGWCDC looks forward to a society where women & children, especially girl children will enjoy equal rights and access to equal opportunities.

Integrated holistic development of marginalized women and children to ensure quality life through community development, empowerment, education, healthcare service and economic self reliance. LGWCDC maintains Child Protection Policy and Committee against sexual Harassment at workplace

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide centre based educational facilities to the children through joyful learning to reduce the drop-out rates and to prevent potential child labour.

To improve the health status of girl children and their mothers through health awareness, primary health care, supplementary nutrition program and nutrition training.

To improve the health status of underweight and malnourished and simultaneously make the community people aware regarding low cost nutritive food and healthy living practices.

To promote and strengthen women's organisations in our project area in Lake Gardens, Howrah, Santoshpur focusing on savings and micro-credit.

To impart skill training to the young girls and women to inculcate alternative income generation activity as another mode of occupation.

To build up stakeholders network in the community area along with various, NGOs, GOs, clubs and government officials.

Policies & Committees

Human Resource Policy

LGWCDC is an organization which cares for all of its employees as family members. The organization believes that its strength lies in the hands of the people who are like – minded and who are working in synergy with each other. Our Human resource Policies are specific and satisfies the content and requirements of all individuals. Most of the individuals are working over here for more than 10 years with very less rate of churning and they want to be a part of LGWCDC family throughout their career

Child Protection Policy

Lake Gardens Women & Children Development Centre has its own Child Protection Policy (CPP). Our committee is robust and has taken training of all the three modules for the same. There are regular meetings and sessions on Child Protection in the community.

Committee Against Sexual Harassment

All our employees are our family members, and that is how we care for them. All of them should feel protected, safe and secured to work with dignity. To safeguard them, we have created our own CASH Committee. This committee is comprised of employees of all genders and also have a member who is an external person – our well wisher. Though we have never come across any such undignified instances, yet if ever any employee of any gender feels disgraced by the virtue of act of another co – worker, he / she is free to file a complaint and proceedings are done accordingly.



Projects of LGWCDC

Support to children and women in selected slums of Kolkata

Children aged between 6 months to 5 years, belonging to below poverty line families and residing in slums in and around Lake Gardens and Tollygunj under KMC Wards 81,93 & 94 can avail of the facility. In the reporting year three crèches functioned with a total capacity of 90 children. The crèches functioned from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm from Monday to Friday. Children above the age of three years are given pre primary education through joyful learning methods.



Once in two months Paediatricians visit the centre for free health check up of children. Required medicines are also provided free of cost to the children. They also advice on the diet of the children.



Based on Doctors advice and also that of dietician children are provided with supplementary nutrition like milk, biscuits and seasonal fruits and mid day meal comprising of rice, dal, vegetables, egg, fish, chicken etc.



Once a week parents grooming classes are held on functional literacy, savings and credit, individual goal setting etc. To discuss about the progress of children parents meeting are also held.



School awareness programs are held on good touch bad touch, hand wash, etc



Community awareness programs are held on topics such as domestic violence, child marriage, child labour, birth spacing, reproductive health etc. These programs are interactive in nature and usually done through street plays.

Children also celebrate festivals like Rathyatra, Janmastami, Christmas etc.



Empowerment of Children and Women through education, extra-curricular activities and vocational training

Education of children specially the girl child has been the focus of LGWCDC since the last 27 years. To prevent drop out **remedial coaching classes** are held everyday from 12.30pm to 6.30 pm in three batches for students of Kindergarten to Class X.



Along with educational facilities children are also given the opportunity to learn and practice drawing, singing and dancing.



Children coming to remedial classes are also provided with a nutritiously balanced mid day meal.



To empower the women we run **vocational training courses in handicraft ,beautician and artificial jewellery making**. Over the years many women have passed out from our Centre and are now working in different boutiques, beauty parlours or have set up their own small shops. **LGWCDC also runs a production unit** where various products like kurtis, frocks, different kind of bags, table mats and covers, bed sheets, handkerchiefs, greeting cards and sarees with fabric or embroidered designs etc are made.



Throughout the year we organise or participate in different exhibitions to sell our handcraft products, the money earned is distributed among the women who are members of the production unit.



We have a **savings and credit program** where women group members save Rs.100/- per month and at times of need they take loan with the consent of other members and pay back with an interest of 2%. There is also a revolving loan scheme where need based loans are given upto a maximum limit of Rs.10000/- per member repayable with an interest of 2%.

A special feature is a one year course for new mothers called **Mother & Child Course**. Here mothers having children aged between 2 months to 6 months are trained on how to rear the child. Interactive discussions are held on proper breast feeding practices, immunization schedule, seasonal sickness

along with preventive and curative methods, milestone developments, rituals and customs. Demonstrations are given on preparing low cost nutritious food with locally available vegetables. Every month there is a free health check up by Paediatric doctor and required medicines are also provided free of cost.



Integrated Community Development Project

This project is being implemented in Wards 8,10,11 and 16 of Maheshtala Municipality, South 24 Parganas. The objective of the project is community development through empowerment of women. Under the project **we are running 8 balwadi or pre primary learning centres**. Children aged between 2 – 5 years are taught through joyful learning methods. They are also prepared for admission to high schools. **Two coaching centre** are also functioning for children aged between 5-10 yrs. They are helped with their homework and regular studies by dedicated teachers. To inform the parents about the progress of their children and to emphasise on the importance of education sensitization meeting with parents are also held



The most important **focus of the project is forming self help groups and currently there are 48 groups comprising of 548 women**. These women are also engaged in a saving and credit program. Each woman saves 10-20/- per week and there is inter-lending in the group. One who takes loan has to repay with an interest of re.1/-per 100/-. Each group has their group goal which is three pronged in nature i.e economic , social and political goal.



To assist the groups in achieving their goals **4 cluster level associations have also been formed** . The CLA members are elected representative of the SHGs and they also have their goals. Each CLA meets on a monthly basis to discuss about the progress of SHG. A zonal level CLA meeting is also held which helps in inter learning.



These women are also given various trainings like individual goal setting, group goal setting, functional literacy training, book keeping and accounting, income generation activity etc. Several awareness programs have been held throughout the year on legal rights, domestic violence, demonstration on low cost nutrition, training on various entitlements, advocacy and lobby building. Networking meetings are also held with Go, NGOs and CBOs.



Capacity building trainings are held for CLA members, Balwadi teachers and Staff. Staff and CLA members also went for an exposure visit to Uttarakhand.



An eye camp in association with GKB Optical was organised by the CLA members . Also a routine deworming camp was held. The CLA members also organised a sports for the children as well as the SHG members. Apart from games the children also participated in fancy dress competition. Winners of all events were given prizes.



To empower the women IGA trainings have been arranged for our SHG and CLA members. Trainings were held on artificial jewellery making and beautician course



Campaign on Ecological Rights

Since 2012 youths of West Bengal have formed a network called Youth Challengers and their aim is to maintain ecological balance through awareness programs the main agenda is to ban plastics, save water, plant trees and ban chemical fertilizer. Throughout the year they carry out awareness programs on these issues. State level workshops are held on these issues. This year gender issues were also a part of the campaign activities. The youth group meets once a month and the core committee of youths meet once three month to plan and share the programs for the month and quarter respectively. The youths observed Earth Day, Environment day, Global action month and child rights week. As part of GAM the children participated in a sit and draw competition, training on street theatre, wall graffiti etc. They were also taken on an educational tour to the Botanical Gardens in Kolkata. A youth exchange program was also held where youths from Orrissa came to Kolkata . These youths also performed a skit on child labour issues. A training on how to prepare manure was held for the community women post which they have built a kitchen garden. A school awareness program was also held to inform the children about their ecological rights.





Let's Play Rugby

In last one and half year, Parents and communities have developed an understanding on Gender Roles and Right to Play. 600 girls and boys have been encouraged to participate in Rugby practice session conducted by Jungle Crows Foundation and have developed advance skills in Rugby. Like last year this year also a winter camp was arranged at the Crows Field, Maidan , Kolkata. More than 1200 children participated in the 10 day long camp. 26 children from LGWCDC also participated in the camp. Throughout the year practice sessions have been held once a week in both lake Gardens and Santoshpur with approximately 15-20 children participating in each session. Inter Organisation tournaments were also held where children of LGWCDC participated whole heartedly.



Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI)

Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI) was a four-year project (2016-2020), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a consortium of partners- World Health Partners (WHP), Child In Need Institute (CINI) and John Snow India (JSI). In collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, THALI aimed to improve TB prevention and control across 6 districts of West Bengal - North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah, East Medinipur, South 24 Parganas and Kolkata.

LGWCCD was associated in this Project and worked in Ward 81, 93, 94, 95, 97, 102 of Tollygunge UHD and Kolkata Municipal Corporation. But while doing field work and survey and patient counseling, we also worked in the adjoining wards of KMC. The work comprised of :

- ✓ Regular Home visits by TOUCH Agents and Programme Head
- ✓ Individual counseling of patients
- ✓ Special counseling of relapsed patients
- ✓ Personalized counseling of care givers and nutritional inputs to them
- ✓ Sensitization meetings with urban slum dwellers, SHG women, Women's group, unorganized workers and school students.
- ✓ Regular briefing of staff to locate presumptive cases or TB patients from their target population.



During the period April to September the touch agents conducted 3350 home visits and identified 96 presumptive cases. Out of them only 1 case tested positive. A total of 108 cases were on treatment and counseling services were rendered to them. 5 patients received nutritional support .

22 community awareness and sensitization programs were held on signs and symptoms of TB, curative and preventive methods.

In collaboration with RNTCP and KMC an Active Case finding(ACF) Camp was also done.



Destination Unknown Campaign –Children on the Move

Migration is a part and parcel of life. Many families with the hope of earning a few more extra bucks shift base from one city to another sometimes within the State and most of the times to another state. Majority of the migrant labourers works in brick kilns, construction sites, stone quarries, mining industries and the like. However it has been found that sometimes this migration of families is not beneficial for the children. Many children are also found to work along with their parents thereby increasing child labour, sometimes they are deprived of their education as inter= state migration creates language barriers and they are unable to understand the language. There is also a psycho-social issue as children are separated from their friends and in their new abode they are mostly staying in the work site where scope of play is less. Sometimes children do not get their routine immunization and hence become more vulnerable to various health hazards which are further aggravated by the nature of work they and their parents are involved in. Keeping all this in mind a Campaign was initiated to safeguard the rights of children during the process of migration.



LGWDCDC became a partner in this campaign and worked to create awareness among migrant families and children in Howrah District, West Bengal. The voice of the children were heard, their concerns and appeals were placed in the form a Charter of Demands to the administrators of the District and also at the State level. In 2019 we specifically focussed on migrant families working in construction sites. Awareness programs were conducted with them to make them cognizant of child rights and laws related to child labour.

Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL)

LGWDCDC is a member of the CACL forum in West Bengal since 2004. In the past year as part of this Campaign children participated in a workshop that emphasised on child rights. A survey was also conducted to assess the status of Child labours in different districts of West Bengal.



OBSERVATION & EVENTS

Rabindra Jayanti

Like every year this year also we celebrated the 159th Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate and Bard of India Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.



Janmashtami

Being a secular organisation we inculcate in our children communal harmony and organise cultural programs on Hindu, Muslim and Christian Festivals. This year the children and Mothers Group members performed songs and dance to celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna-popularly observed in India as Janmashtami.



Christmas

The year 2019 ended with much fan fare and merry making as we celebrated Christmas. Children sang and danced to Christmas carols and all received gifts from Santa Claus.



30 years of UNCRC

2019 marked the 30th year for the United Nations Convention on Child Rights (UNCRC). A series of seminars and workshops were arranged by LGWCDC and other network partners where LGWCDC actively participated.



One Billion Rising

To raise voice and protest against violence towards women a consortium of NGOs working for women's Right organised a congregation . About 250 women from 12 NGOs including LGWCDC participated in the event.



Winter Clothes Distribution

LGWCDC has a number of friends and well wishers in Germany and every year they hand weave sweaters and send them to India for our children. This year during our Founder Member, Madam Cecilie Sircar's annual visit to India she personally distributed these garments .





Outing at Sundargram

Our Founder Member believes in the proverb “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” and so she organised an outing for the Staff Members to Sundargram –an Eco Resort in the eastern fringes of the city.



Corporate Social Responsibility

Hygiene Session for Children

Members of Inner Wheel Club of Kolkata Evergreen, District 3291, Chatter No.6699 held a hygiene session for children of our Centre where the focus was on proper hand washing techniques. They also distributed delectable goodies to the children.



Dental Camp

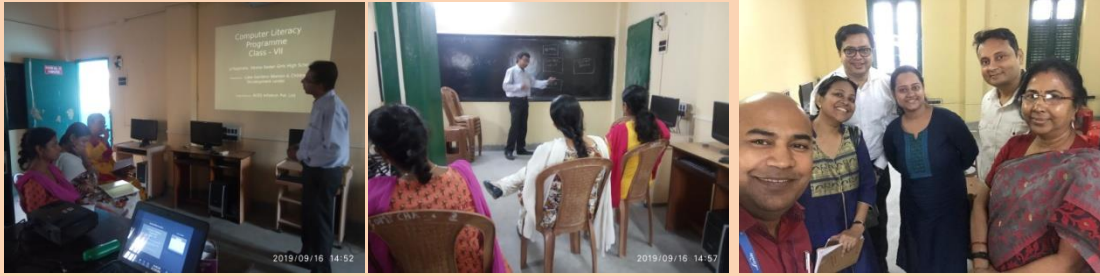
During the year in association with Indian Dental Association a Free Dental Check up Camp was organised. Children and elders were checked by renowned Doctors and were advised on proper dental care. All were provided with a tube of toothpaste.



Computer Education For Underprivileged Girls Supported By Linde Global Support Services Ltd

In association with LINDE a computer education program was launched initially for students of Classes 8-10 of Rajendra Shikha Sadan for Girls High School but in the academic year 20-21 it was extended for students of Classes 5-7 as well . LINDE provided 5 computers, 30 chairs, Computer Text Books and also pays the remuneration of the faculty.





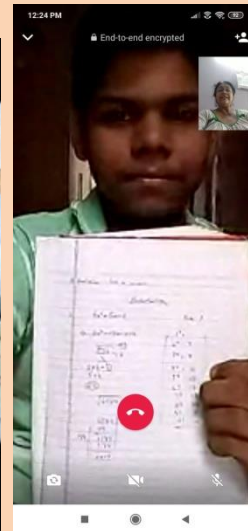
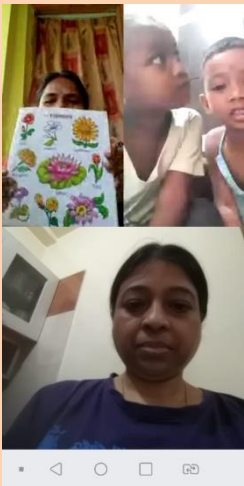
The syllabus prescribed by the West Bengal Secondary School Education Board is followed. Through the UBUNTU Operating System Children also get the opportunity to practice on the terminals. LINDE will be providing faculty support for two consecutive academic years so to make the project sustainable some teachers of the school are also being trained so that they are able to take the classes independently in future.

Disaster management

COVID 19

Since January 2020 India along with 200 other countries were gripped by a novel corona virus – COVID 19-. As the number of infected person rose in leaps and bounds the WHO declared it as a pandemic. To contain the spread of the virus a number of regulations were put into force, all schools in the Country were closed from 16th March and a nation-wide lockdown was declared from 24th March. This meant that no one could go to school or work. Children were deprived of the mid day meals that they used to get from the ICDS Centres/ Schools or other Day Care Centres run by NGOs and Private Agencies. Daily wage earners and domestic helps who comprise 90% of our beneficiaries are the most affected as they are out of work and hence no income. To support them in this period of crisis LGWCDC provided dry ration and hygiene materials. Awareness was also created on preventive measure like wearing masks, maintaining social distance, repeated hand washing etc. To keep the children engaged our teachers started online classes for the children through what's app video calls. They also visited the community to enquire about the well being of the children and their families. As wearing of masks has become mandatory our handicrafts section started preparing mask.







Super Cyclone Amphan

As it is the citizens of the State were grappling to cope with the adversities of novel corona virus on top of it a super cyclone –Amphan- hit landfall at a speed of 165kmph and left a devastating impact on Kolkata and its neighbouring districts of North & South 24 Parganas, East Midnapore and East Bardhaman. Lakhs of houses were damaged and raised to ground, trees and electric poles were uprooted and there was water logging in the area. Beneficiaries of our Project areas in Lake Gardens and Santoshpur also bore the brunt of the cyclone . All those who live in temporary shanties made of thatched bamboo sheets lost their shelter as they were raised to the ground. The roofs of brick and mortar houses which are usually of plastic or tin sheets were all blown away in the wind. It is a double tragedy for these families as they have practically no cash in hand due to lack of earning as a result of lockdown and on top of that they have now lost their shelters.



The plight of our beneficiaries and the relief work done by the Centre was published in two German Newspapers Kohlner Stad Anzeiger and Erftstad Anzeiger



Our Donors & Well Wishers

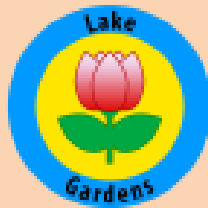
The Centre and our beneficiaries received gifts and donations in cash as well as kind from many well wishers. Some of them took time out of their busy schedule and came to meet us and our beneficiaries. A local Club –Sinthi Bondhu Mahal- on the Northern fringes of the City invited 50 children from our Centre and gifted them with warm blankets, bed sheet, plate, school stationeries etc. They also fed the children with a sumptuous lunch. A group of visitors came all the way from Munich, Germany.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our funding partners , local donors, network partners, friends and well wishers who have supported us in our efforts to make the life of disadvantaged women and children better.





INDIENHILFE e.v.
Herrsching



Freunde und Förderer,
Lake Gardens e.V



Making our world
more productive



MAKE A DONATION

The details for online donations are given below:

Donate To: Lake Gardens Women & Children Development Centre

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch Name: Lake Gardens Branch

IFSC Code: SBIN0001802

Bank A/C No. for Local Donations: 30038437433

Bank A/C No. for Foreign Donations: 10548712206

All cash donations are exempted by Director of Income Tax, Kolkata, vide Notification No. DIT(E)/100 of 14.10.2014 u/s 80G of IT Act 1961 from paying income tax by the Donors 8E/239/00-01

