

*To Not Feel
Alone In The
Universe*

CHILDLIFE PRESERVE
**SHISHUR
SEVAY**



Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay
17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road, Kolkata WB 700038

ANNUAL REPORT



FY 2022-2023
FY 2023-2024

i h o





*A Lifetime Home
For Lost &
Abandoned Girls*

THE FINANCING REQUIRED TO REBUILD A CHILD'S LIFE

KEEPING THEM ALIVE AND SAFE




BIGGEST THREATS: INFECTIONS, CHOKING, ASPIRATION, SKIN SORES, SEIZURES,
INJURIES, MALNUTRITION

They Need:

-  **MEDICAL CARE/HOSPITALIZATIONS**
-  **SKILLED/TRAINED WORKERS 24/7**
-  **Clean water, food, toilets, and constant incontinence care**
-  **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SPECIALIZED WHEELCHAIRS**



GIVING THEM A REASON TO LIVE

-  **QUALITY OF LIFE AS PART OF A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**
-  **NOT SPENDING ONE'S LIFE IN A CRIB STARING AT THE CEILING**
-  **TO NOT FEEL ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE.**

THE COSTS ARE HIGH
THE ALTERNATIVE IS THAT THEY DO NOT SURVIVE

Our Girls Ask

"What will happen to our sisters?" As they approach young adulthood, now they speak of wanting jobs so they can help support their sisters with disabilities who cannot survive on their own.

I



Dr. Michelle Harrison
Founder and Secretary of the Board

Dr. Harrison's first priority is always the children, believing if we don't put them first, we have no reason to exist. Her next priority is to develop a strong infrastructure so Shishur Sevay can meet the lifetime needs of the children with disabilities. Dr. Harrison lives at Shishur Sevay, with the children.

Dr. Harrison began her career in rural South Carolina as part of President Lyndon Jhonson's war on Poverty. It was a program that included sanitation, nursing care, medical and dental care. She believes healthcare must be accessible to all, independent of economics.

Her medical career spanning 35 years included psychiatry, family medicine and OB-GYN. Her books are A Woman in Residence. Self Help for Premenstrual Syndrome and The Preteen's First Book About Love, Sex, and AIDS. She has taught at Harvard, Rutgers, University of Pittsburgh. She has authored academic papers and magazine articles. Her Op-ed pieces have appeared in The Wall Street Journal and The Chicago Sun Times.

Six years with Johnson & Johnson Corporate, first as worldwide Director of Medical Affairs for Applied Products and Materials Research,, and then as Executive Director of Johnson & Johnson Institute for Children, gave her the skills and experience needed to plan, develop and lead Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay.

Dr. Harrison serves as the Secretary of the Board. She also functions as the government appointed Superintendent, and the Director reporting to the Board. She is not paid for any of her roles at Shishur Sevay.



Our Mission

To protect orphans and abandoned children, including those having differing abilities and disabilities, by providing a safe environment where they will be sheltered, nurtured, and educated in ways that build **Competence, Confidence, Independence and Leadership.**

Our Vision

A society where orphaned and abandoned children, those with abilities and disabilities, are not segregated, but are respected as necessary members of our communities.

With the opening of Children's Smart Centre and our girls becoming the teachers and nurturers of the community's youngest children, our Vision has been achieved. Our girls are now respected members of our community.



Family Portrait

The Founder Says...

I wrote an essay, "The Nature of Life" in 1959 when I was in my last year of high school. A school friend had come to visit having just returned from the war in Korea and showed me pictures of gaunt orphans on a beach. He said there were hundreds like this scattered throughout the country. The next morning I wrote in the essay, "The emptiness of the orphans' world caused me to appreciate the fullness of mine. I feel I must take advantage of every opportunity to help others. The direction of my life is an endless path that brings me to all the places I am needed."

I loved reading about other cultures, to be like the anthropologist Margaret Mead, except instead of observing, I wanted to contribute, more like Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Last, I read a lot about orphanages, and what children would need in the absence of family.

Skip 60-70 years and now I live in an orphanage in India. It feels like magic, a wish come true.

How did I get here? For that we go back to my high school essay which I concluded with: "When you know what you want and you know what is right, you will have the self-confidence to clear the hurdles in your way."

I wasn't alone.

*They came to make this happen, and
to bring us to where we are today...*



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1 HOW IT ALL STARTED

2005

- The first meeting on 15 December, a group meet to discuss creating a model of non-institutional care for orphaned children housed in government institutions. Dr. Harrison sought to dispel that “Nothing Can Be Done,” for them.

2007

- CPSS was licensed by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal as a home for orphan children. Twelve girls, four having profound disabilities were transferred from Sukanya Home by Order of the West Bengal Child Welfare Committee.
- Registered with Income Tax Department under Income Tax Act 1961.

2011

- The roof over classroom was built up to serve as office and night stay quarters for female interns.

2014

- The Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Training, and Advocacy was established to research and teach methods and results of inclusive living and education.

2006

- 14 June received registration as Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay under The West Bengal Societies Registration Act XXVI of 1961, No. S/1L/37263 Of 2006-2007.

2010

- Registration with the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India, under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 1976, permitting foreign donations.

2013

- In-house School - The Ichche Dana Inclusive School was created to meet the children's academic, emotional, technological, and cultural needs.
- The ground floor of Shishur Sevay was made fully accessible, with ramps, grab bars in bathrooms, and anti-skid tiles outside.

2016

- Received the 2016 GuideStar India Transparency Award for Financial Transparency.

2019

- Major renovations were required to stop leakage in the walls and roof of the 50+ year old house: -- Two toilets renovated due to tree growing through the wall of one, and discovery in the other that the floor was sinking under the commode. -- The cracked asbestos roof was removed and replaced with TATA corrugated metal sheets.-- Electrical wiring was updated and relocated in conduits within the walls which were then covered with tile.
- Received the 2019 GuideStar India Gold Seal.

2021

- Due to Covid19 rules and regulations playschools were kept closed. But the parents were desperate to send their children and so we started home visits and providing study materials.
- Completion of 15 years of Shishur Sevay.

2023

- The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956, to maintain our home as a Lifetime Home for Women and Children.

2017

- Received registration under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, Government of West Bengal;
- Received the 2017 GuideStar India Gold Seal after their due diligence process for transparency and public accountability.
- Authenticity, an art exhibition was conducted at ICCR, Kolkata, displaying the artworks and inclusive arts of Shishur Sevay.

2020

- Received the 2020 GuideStar India Gold Seal.
- Children's Smart Centre was scheduled to open but due to Covid19 lockdowns opening was postponed.
- Renovation of the rented space for Children's Smart Centre.

2022

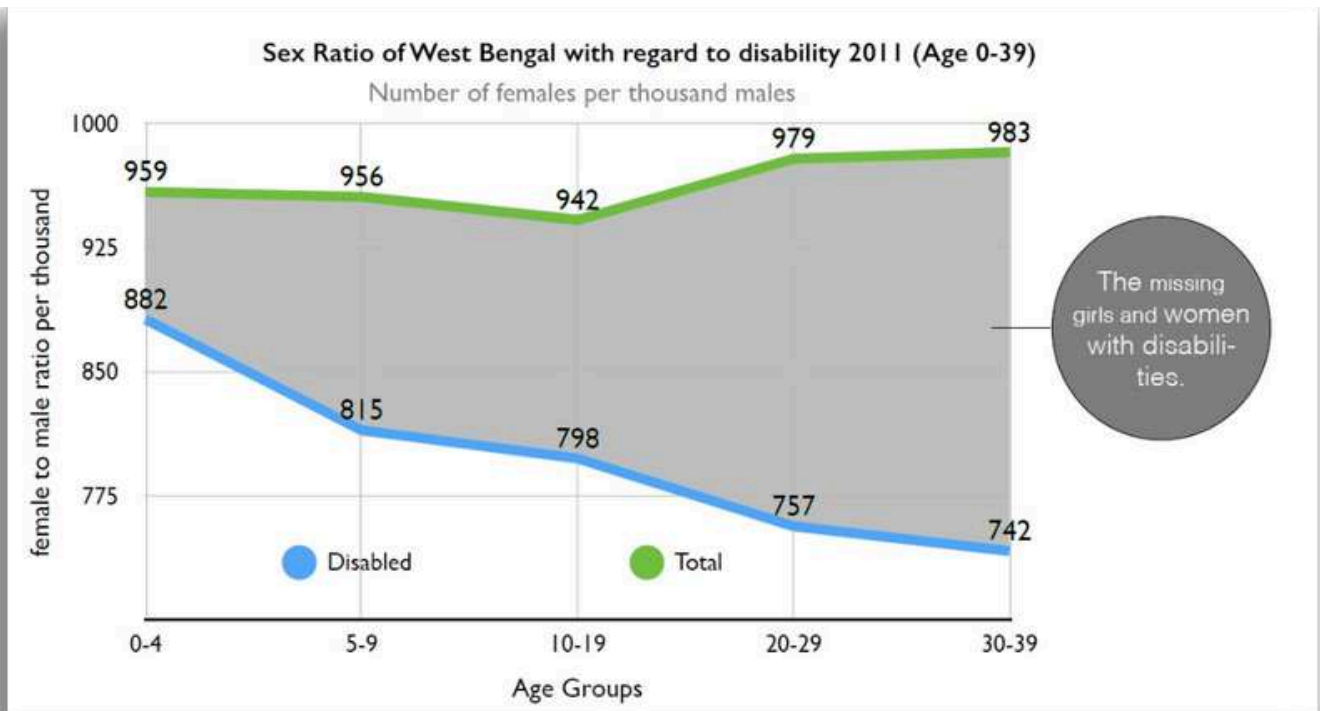
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2024

- Stay tuned for DOSS!

2 ABOUT US

2.A. WHY INDIA NEEDS SHISHUR SEVAY



Girls in India are at risk. As per the Census of 2011 there were 1000 males per 940 females.



Females with disabilities die more quickly than males with disabilities.



Social differences in attitudes and care of females result in these massive losses of females with disabilities.



Girls, particularly those with disabilities, are also at a greater risk of violence because they cannot defend themselves.



Orphaned girls are often seen by the wider community as public property.



Shishur Sevay is intended to counter these dangers and provide a safe and healthy model for the care of vulnerable girls.

2.B. ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is Shishur Sevay? - This is a question more complex than it appears at first. It is far more than an ordinary orphanage. Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay is a **lifetime home** for women and girls. The ones who have lost everyone and everything and every place known to them. They are the ones who were left on street corners, in train stations, or beside ponds, not knowing their names, family names, villages, -- Hansel & Gretel without a happy ending.

An

Ordinary Miracle

Once upon a time, there was an old little house on a tiny piece of land in Panchabatitala where New Alipore meets Behala in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, South Asia, Planet Earth, The Milky Way galaxy, in the Universe.

Then a miracle happened and it became home to fourteen orphan girls suffering from various forms of social, nutritional, emotional, educational and physical deprivation

Shishur Sevay was founded in 2006 to answer three questions:

1. Who are the lost and abandoned children (full orphans) in government institutions?
2. What do these children need to be independent and integrate into the community?
3. Can we change the directions of their lives?

Who are they?

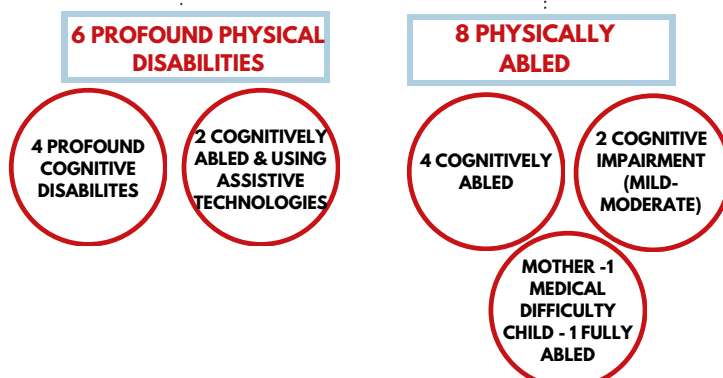
February 2007 : Twelve girls by Order of the West Bengal CWC. They ranged in age from 18 months to 9 years. Of the 12 children, four were profoundly disabled and malnourished. Their conditions on admission:

Acute Conditions: Severe malnutrition i.e. 4 year olds weighing 7 kg; severe scabies infections; bleeding gums and complex dental conditions; severe febrile malaria

Chronic Conditions: Cerebral Palsy-cannot stand, talk, feed or toilet, autism, encephalopathy, visual impairment, microcephaly, severe developmental impairments, psychiatric and behavioral disorders, seizures, lack of any education



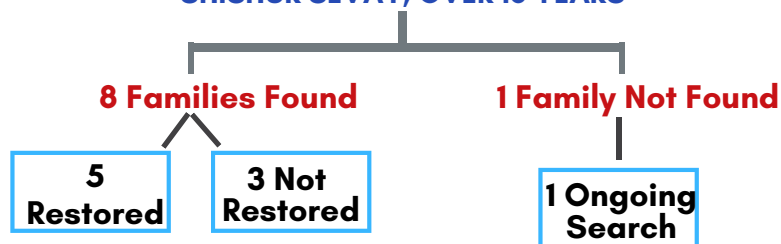
DECEMBER 2023 CENSUS
14 RESIDENTS



What did they need?

They needed a safe environment; immediate and long-term health care and treatments ; education; names, papers, identity; knowledge and participation in their culture, heritage and religion. They needed to grieve for their losses.

9 SEARCHES OUT OF 20 CHILDREN AT SHISHUR SEVAY, OVER 18 YEARS



Could we change the directions of their lives?

Yes

How: Amar Bari Shishur Sevay

We made a commitment to the girls that they would always be part of Shishur Sevay, that we would provide lifetime care for those who could never live on their own. It would be "mother house" for the abled where they could return when they moved out for marriage or independence.

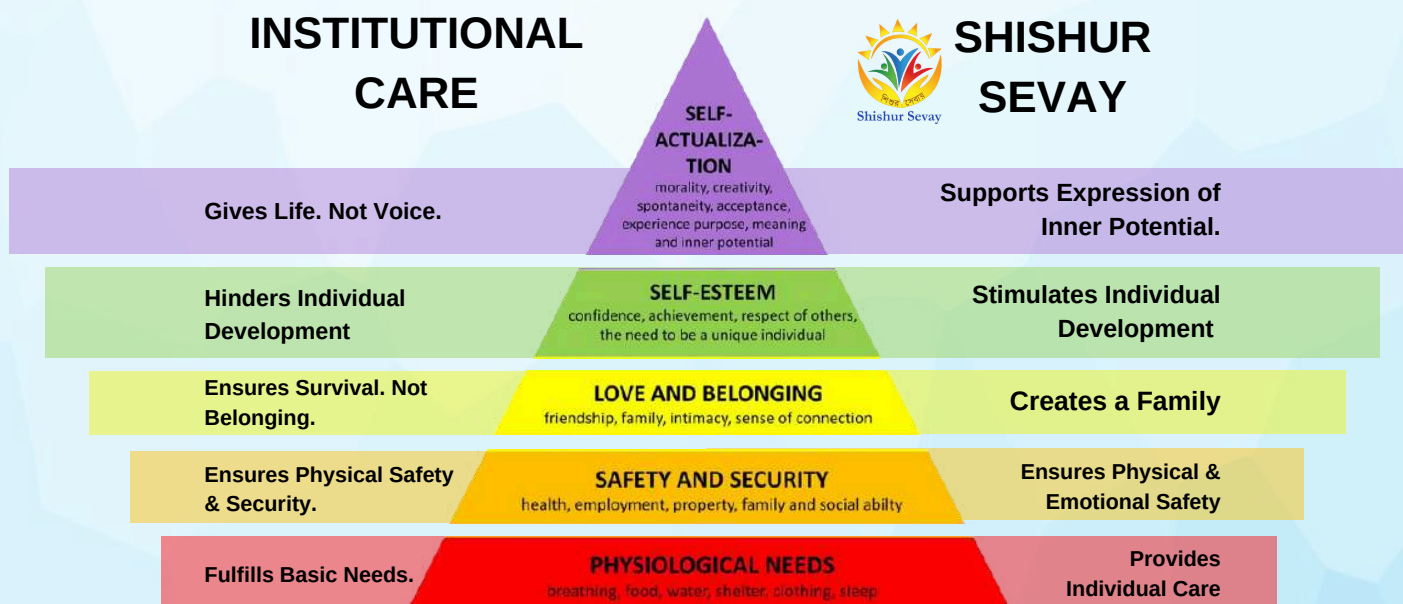
Inclusion: We became inclusive and lived inclusively. The girls shared living space, recreation, prayer, and education. Inclusion made us a home, a family, not an institution.

HIERARCHY OF SOLUTIONS

FOR LOST AND ABANDONED CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE

Self-Actualisation of our Girls has always been the goal of Shishur Sevay, and, therefore, our responsibility is to provide for their needs at every step of their growth and development.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



2.C. HOW WE DO IT

Rehabilitation

To rehabilitate is to bring to a higher state of fitness. For children who have always lived with their disabilities, the challenge is to get them to their highest level of functioning, physically, emotionally, and vocationally, with respect to their quality of life. An inclusive environment is always a stimulus and reminder of what can be achieved. The greatest challenge is with the children who cannot speak, walk, sit on their own, use their arms to reach and pick things up, or go to the toilet, or feed themselves, and yet are so filled with joy when they can be a part of the life around them. Isolation is the greatest threat to their having a good quality of life.

Dr. Harrison has always said, "If a child can't sing she can at least sit in the lap of the singer."

Modalities of Rehabilitation



Ganga talks with her eyes



Getting Ready for Work



Day Out at Water Park



Inclusive Art



Celebrating Holi



Inclusive Dance



Living with Dignity
Helping the Community



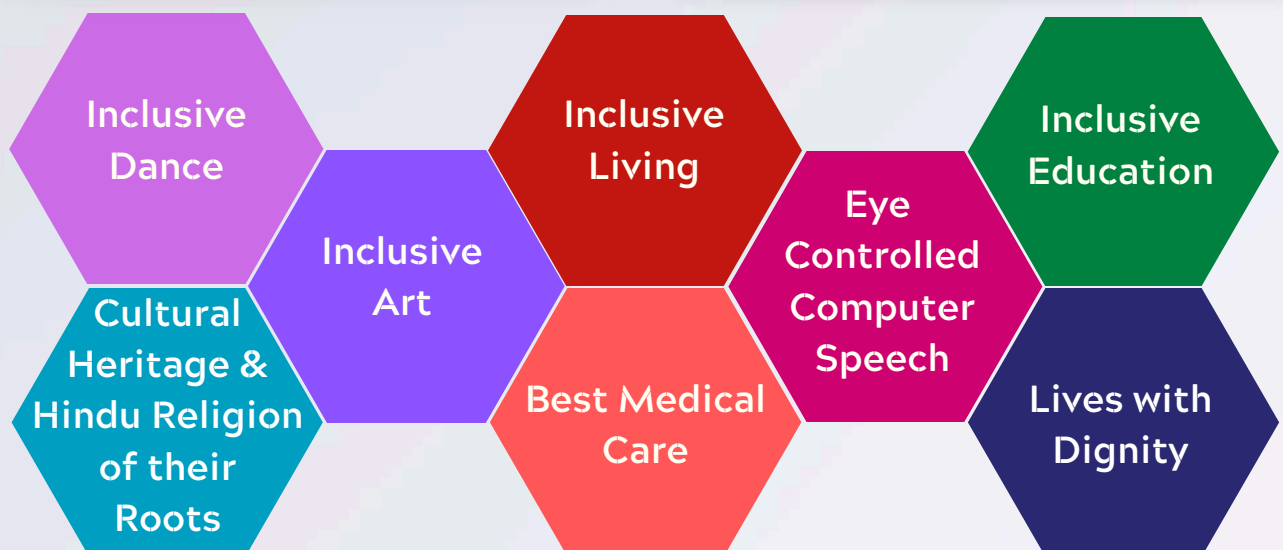
Ganga and Mani at the Park



Girls of Shishur Sevay teaching at CSC



Pandal-hopping during Durga Puja



BEST MEDICAL CARE

The first 12 girls arrived with acute and chronic illnesses, active malaria, major skin eruptions, scabies, severe malnutrition, seizures, growth retardation, bleeding gums, and oral decay, as well as profound and multiple disabilities (some we were told were not expected to survive). Mentally, they suffered from the cognitive and behavioral effects of social deprivation, violence, sexual abuse, and abandonment. We continue to provide:

- 🌟 Sanitation, hygienic food and nutrition, and laundry every day.
- 🌟 Doctors available for regular checkups and consultation.
- 🌟 24*7 emergency medical care and transport to the nearest hospital.
- 🌟 Hospitalization in private, multi-specialty health centers.
- 🌟 Supervised feeding, grooming, and bathing by skilled staff.
- 🌟 In-house pharmacy for emergency and day-to-day medication.
- 🌟 Maintenance of the children's medical records.
- 🌟 Provision of enabling equipment like wheelchairs, leg braces, walkers, and standing boxes.

All medical cost are borne by the Home



Mani Facing the Dental Monster!



Ganga checks to make sure if he knows what he is doing



Bono is happy for the attention.

Visiting Bijoy mama's family in Ramkrishnapur



2. D. Children's Smart Centre

FREE INCLUSIVE PLAY-SCHOOL FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Serving the community

The Story Behind

Children's Smart Centre is the outgrowth of Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay. The girls who have grown up at Shishur Sevay always wanted to give to others what they have received. At the same time the local community wanted for their children to have what they saw our girls receiving. Today our girls are junior teachers at CSC.



Who do we serve?

Underprivileged children, some with disabilities, from families where Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) is not affordable.



What do they need?

Free high quality Early Childhood Care & Education
Getting off to a good start on a leveled playing field at school
Inclusive environment with attention to special needs



How are we doing it?

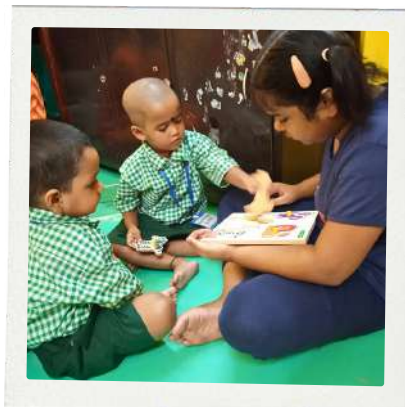
The education at Children's Smart Centre is Activity and Discovery based according to NCERT 2019 syllabus. We focus on cognitive, social, emotional and motor skills.



“ FROM THE FOUNDER

We want the children to love learning, to feel the excitement of discovering new words, and sounds, and numbers. They should feel safe, trust their teachers, and express kindness to their friends. We want them to be confident when they enter their formal schooling.





3 ADHERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The International Community has struggled with and debated the “Rights of the Child” for almost 100 years. The first Declaration of the Rights of the Child was endorsed by the League of Nations in 1924, and called the World Child Welfare Charter. Over the years the Charter was expanded and on 20th November 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed and became effective less than one year later. Today only one country has not ratified the Convention, namely the United States of America. India ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1992.

Shishur Sevay, as a model of non-institutional care for orphans, has looked to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework for providing the care for our girls. We are simply complying with what 194 nations, including India, agreed are the basic entitlements of children, particularly those under the direct protection of the state.

Relevant Articles

Article 2

The State Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth to each child without discrimination of any kind.



Shishur Sevay put no restrictions on the girls we would take. We were asked to choose among four children with disability, we took all four. We try our best to protect our children from all forms of discrimination.

Article 3

The State Parties shall ensure that the institutions... conform with the standards established by competent authorities particularly in the areas of safety health in the number and suitability of their staff as well as competent supervision.



Shishur Sevay is a registered charity and licensed home for orphans, some with severe disabilities. The Department of Social Welfare conducts regular inspections. Staff is experienced; their training is a continuous process. We have ensured fire safety, and electrical safety, and installed CCTV in all rooms.

Article 7

The child...shall have the right from birth to a name the right to acquire a nationality and as far as possible the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.



The girls came to us without records, some with no name, some with multiple names, none of which were correct. We gave them names and were able to get them birth certificates.

The girls learned about India and have grown to be proud Indians. They are practitioners of the Indian culture, art and music.

We were able to locate 2 families but family restitution was not possible. In all cases we taught them to respect their families and help them cope with their sense of loss.

Article 14

State Parties shall respect the rights of the child to freedom of thought conscience and religion...



The girls are encouraged to express their views and thoughts. Daily prayer is held, following Hindu customs, which is what they knew before coming to Shishur Sevay. They are taught about other religions as well as Human Rights

Article 19

State Parties shall take all...measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence injury or abuse neglect...



Our girls were already subjected to abuse and neglect. We provide both, preventive and curative support related to physical or mental violence, injury or abuse and neglect. We maintain a policy of ZERO Tolerance regarding abuse of children.

Article 23

State Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life in conditions which ensure dignity promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community...



Quality of life for people with disabilities must be provided because the severely impaired cannot control their environments. If no one brings them into the room with others, they remain isolated. Our inclusive living means they are in the midst of everything even if they can't always participate. For the more able, or less disabled, every opportunity is taken to involve them in community events. Our classes are inclusive. No one is left out.

Article 24

State Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.



Healthcare is a priority. The girls came with many health problems; some will require lifetime medical care, which is provided by Shishur Sevay. The children are immunised and receive regular medical care. For serious illnesses, they are treated at one of the private multispecialty hospitals. Physical rehabilitation is daily. Water is filtered and high sanitation is maintained.

Article 27

State Parties recognize the rights of every child to standard of living adequate for the child's physical mental spiritual moral and social development.



The standard of living at Shishur Sevay exceeds all norms of food, sanitation, education, nurturing, health and arts. In essence, Shishur Sevay is challenging Indian social barriers of caste and class so the girls do not live lives of shame because of their origins. Shishur Sevay is helping them develop into confident, competent and independent young women.

Article 28

State Parties recognize the right of the child to education.



The children have attended community schools and now have decided to give back to the community through the Children's Smart Centre - a school dedicated to preschool education for the underprivileged children of the community. Through activity-based programs and playway learning Children's Smart Centre offers a personalised education plan for every child.

Article 31

State Parties recognize the right of the child to rest leisure to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and arts....



The girls have studied dance at Mamata Shankar's famous Udayan Dance Academy. They learned Karate and Kalahi at Shivaji Gaanguly's Academy: mind & body. One girl achieved a black belt.

Music therapy sessions are held twice a week. Each day has some form of arts either tabla, harmonium, guitar singing inclusive dance or art. Recreational trips include picnics, museums, water parks, sea beach, and others.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2006 and Ratified by India in 2007, led to India's "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016"

Below are the principles and requirements for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which are relevant to Shishur Sevay:

(c) "full and effective participation and inclusion in society"

Response: *Shishur Sevay is inclusive. "To Include" means to allow in, as opposed to "shut out". The girls share living space, recreation, meals, rituals, education and trips where possible.*

Chapter I

(za) "rehabilitation" refers to a process aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to attain and maintain optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychological environmental or social function levels;

Response: *The girls were transferred to Shishur Sevay by order of the CWC for "education and rehabilitation". That has been our objective. We provide a safe and nurturing family type environment, education, mental health services, and the appliances and technology for physical rehabilitation. They receive full medical, dental, and surgical services at private medical facilities. They have regular interaction within the wider community through neighborhood activities like art competitions, flag hoisting, and dance performances.*



Chapter II

3. Equality and non - discrimination

(1) " Persons with disabilities enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity and respect for his or her integrity equally with others."

Response: *These are core values of Shishur Sevay. These are the values of the staff and care givers of Shishur Sevay.*



5. Community life

(1)"The persons with disabilities shall have the right to live in the community... (with) access to a range of in-house, residential and other community support services..."

(2)"The appropriate Government shall endeavor that the persons with disabilities are,-"

(a)"not obliged to live in any particular living arrangement;"

(b)"given access to a range of in-house, residential and other community, support services,"

Response: *Shishur Sevay provides an enriched life for the girls with disabilities, a life that they would not have in any institution. Shishur Sevay has become a family with genuine bonds between the girls who are abled and those disabled. They are also a part of the free inclusive playschool Children's Smart Centre, serving as assistant teachers, in their wheelchairs, communicating by computer. And they live inclusively, which is not consistent with any institutional life. Even the JJ Act of 2017 mandates separate facilities for children with disabilities. Shishur Sevay is a family type inclusive lifetime home.*



9. HOME AND FAMILY

(2)"Where the parents are unable to take care of a child with disability, the competent court shall place such child with his or her near relations, and failing that within the community in a family setting or in exceptional cases in shelter home run by the appropriate Government or non-governmental organization, as may be required."

Response: *Shishur Sevay is the only home most of the children with disabilities have known. No shelter home or institution can provide them with this kind of life.*



28 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

“The appropriate Government shall initiate or cause to be initiated research and development through individuals and institutions on issues which shall enhance habilitation and rehabilitation and on such other issues which are necessary for empowerment of persons with disabilities.”

Response: Shishur Sevay has functioned as a research and development operation from the beginning. In Page 4 - 5 we present the basic questions we posed that needed answers and presented the research information we obtained.

Our goal was to answer whether we could change the trajectory of their lives and the results are in the affirmative. Two of the children not expected to survive now use the most advanced computer speech to communicate.

Shishur Sevay has also been the subject of research by Prof. Anjali J. Forber Pratt & Dominique A. Lyew at Vanderbilt University in the US.



29. CULTURE AND RECREATION

“ ...rights of all people with disabilities to have a cultural life and to participate in recreational activities equally with others which include, -"

(c) "making art accessible to persons with disabilities;"

Response: Shishur Sevay has an inclusive art program where the abled and disabled work together to paint sarees, dupattas, and scarves. We also have an inclusive dance program.

They have also demonstrated these skills at events. In 2017 Shishur Sevay held a five day art Exhibition at ICCR Authenticity, When Happiness Is Art showcasing our inclusive art as well as the art of our gifted artist Puja Kumari. We have also visited museums. In 2014 Ganga was subject of a portfolio exhibition by Joydeep Mukherjee at Gallery Gold.

(e) "participation in dancing, art, classes, outdoor camps, and adventure activities;"

Response: *Dance and art have been part of Shishur Sevay from the beginning. For community art competitions the girls in wheelchairs also participated and were given special awards by the local Club. There are some activities in which their physical and cognitive limitations do not allow them to join. Sometimes they watch; other times they have other activities which they enjoy. Our objective is quality of life for the girls with the most limiting disabilities.*

g) "...developing technology, assistive devices and equipment to facilitate access and inclusion for persons with disabilities in recreational activities."

Response: *Shishur Sevay facilitates inclusion by use of:*

Communication devices: switches, head pointers, adaptive keyboards, iPads, and Tobii eye tracker for speech.

Mobility equipment: wheelchairs, braces, AFOs, standing boxes, walkers, strollers, and harnesses for dance.

The children have enjoyed trips to Mondarmani Beach and Puri, as well as local picnics, Nicco Water Park, Puja Pandal Hopping, visits to temples, visiting historical places, playing games at Time Zone, and trips to the mall (accessible) including eating in the food courts.



4

INCLUSION THROUGH TECH

Disability is a taboo in the community. Disabled children are locked in their houses and the family denies their child is disabled. Spreading inclusion in this community is challenging. Once denied entry in local community parks, because of our girls with disabilities, today we are running an inclusive playschool in the same community.

INCLUSION IS ESSENTIAL. INCLUSION IS A MINDSET. Shishur Sevay has been doing it for years now in-house. Now we have spread our wings into the community.

Pioneers in Disability Inclusion

At Shishur Sevay we had always held inclusivity at the very core of our being. And from the very start, we tried to help our girls with disabilities **REALLY** become a part of the family. From special keyboards, to head pointers we had tried it all with our girls with severe cerebral palsy but none of it proved to be an ideal solution.

We had been following the development of eye-tracking technology and became the first in India to purchase the Tobii eye Tracker and eye-tracking software, in 2014, to help our girls, Ganga and Bornali, to communicate via a computer.

It broke barriers of communication and allowed them to share their thoughts with others and take part in group classes. Most importantly, make jokes and join us in gossip! We are looking towards a future where such inclusivity becomes an integral part of our society.

Ganga with the Tobii eye tracker, using her eyes to speak as she has no other way. For her it is revolutionary and we are one of the first places to use this technology in India.



Refuting nothing can be done.

Every Friday at Children's Smart Centre is a little more special, for on this day Ganga reads stories to the children using the Tobii through a computer. It is a most awaited event every week and children are always excited for this session.

Ganga reads the stories in English while our teacher Anindita Dutta translates them to the children.



5 LIFE AT SHISHUR SEVAY

a. Activity Report Apr 2022 - Mar 2023

APR
'22

In mid-April 2022, two years after our initial planned opening, the Children's Smart Centre opened. We kept the school open through the summer vacation so that the children could acclimatise better after the prolonged lockdown that India, along with the entire world went through.

Our dance and art teachers from Shishur Sevay have been working with the children at CSC as well.



MAY
'22

Our new Special Educator joined. We have a child with disability and she has been working with him and also his mother once a week to help her get a direction in how to work with him at home.

We had our first parents teachers meeting and we had a group of parents who were thrilled about how it was going.

We changed the banner outside from 'opening soon' to the current one.



JUN
'22

We also brought in Shishur Sevay's tabla teacher to work along with the dance teacher. We now have a music and dance session for the children.

Our first big festival celebration was Rath. We had various arts and craft activities leading up to the festival and then actually pulling a small chariot that they decorated themselves



JUL
'22

Puja received her black belt in karate and is now employed as a Karati instructor at a private school. She is the first among the girls to get a job and has done so despite all odds.

As required by the government, the girls all needed a medical check-up. Dr. Budhaditya Chattopadhyay visited to examine and check medications.

Nabanita, a neighbour and former teacher at Ashok Hall became a volunteer. She helped us create an assessment form for Children's Smart Centre (CSC) and is working on lesson plans.



Puja with her Black Belt

AUG
'22

Celebrating Independence Day



Independence Day was celebrated by hoisting the flag at Shishur Sevay, a program at Rajubala Adarsha Vidyalaya School, and a celebration at CSC.

On Rakhi, the children at CSC made rakhis and then put them on each other's wrists with the wish for the protection of brothers, sisters, and friends.

Celebrating Rakhi

SEP
'22

Teacher's Day this year we decided to give a token of appreciation to our girls for their work at CSC.

Shishur Sevay received the Times Ascent NGO leadership Award presented by EIILM, Kolkata and organized by World CSR Day.

We had another Parents Teachers' meeting at CSC. We updated the parents about the progress of the children.



Bono receiving her token from mummy

Receiving NGO Leadership Award by EIILM



SEP
'22

Shivaji Ganguly's Academy Mind & Body organized the West Bengal State Karate Full Contact Championship and the West Bengal State Kalahi FMA State Championship. Two of the girls bagged silver in karate in their categories, and another bagged bronze in both the karate and kalahi competitions.

Khusbu is in the advanced group at Mamata Shankar's Udayan Kala Kendra. She participated in the choreography festival-Udayan Choreo Utsav, and her group bagged gold at the Choreo Utsav.

After COVID this year we started our tradition again and took the girls to see the local puja pandals.



Our girls at Kalahi FMA State Championship



Khusbu with her group receiving the Gold!

OCT
'22

Ganga reading stories to the children at CSC



On tobii, Ganga had expressed interest in reading stories to the children. Ganga now reads stories through the computer while our teacher, Anindita, enacts it in Bengali for the students.

We celebrated Laxmi Puja and Kali Puja/ Diwali with much joy at CPSS.

NOV
'22

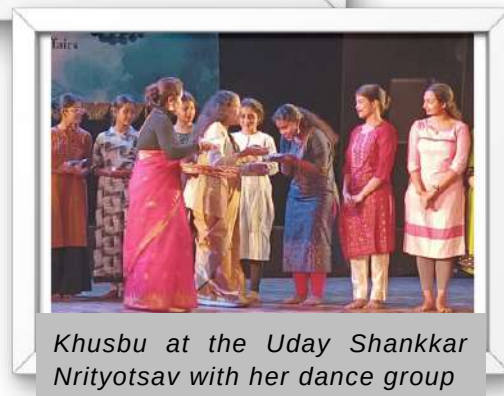
Following our emerging tradition for children's day, the staff sponsored and cooked a meal for the children and staff at Shishur Sevay.

Shishur Sevay received a Gold Seal from GuideStar India for our transparency and upkeep of our legal and financial compliances as an NGO. We have been receiving the gold seal since 2017.

Khusbu participated in the Uday Shankar Nrityotsav (dance festival), with her group mates from her dance school. The dance festival was organized by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal.



Our Gold Seal from GuideStar India



Khusbu at the Uday Shankkar Nrityotsav with her dance group

DEC
'22

Dr. Harrison was interviewed by Sheri Oz for Israel National News, on her life and journey, focusing on Shishur Sevay.

Since 2019 we couldn't organize our annual picnic because of Covid. This year we went to Neeldeep Garden again. A big open grassy field was perfect for the girls to run around and play.

Puja bagged a bronze medal at the 1st Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) National Karate Championship 2022-23 in Karate in her division from West Bengal held in Noida, in the National Capital Region of Delhi. More than 15 states all over India had participated.



Puja bagged a bronze! (in the red circle)



New Session at CSC!



Khusbu passed class 12!

As the first year of Children's Smart Centre (CSC) draws to a close, the beginning of the new session for primary schools begins. Many of our students, are now ready to join the primary sections in various schools and have done well in the interviews.

Since we began and the word spread we had 40 applicants at CSC. We considered the income, occupation, and level of education to select the most needy for this new academic year.

Khusbu has passed Class 12 through National Institute of Open Schooling (Nios) making her eligible for admission into college, something she is really looking forward to.

Two of the girls won medals/shields at their respective schools in their school sports events.

This year Saraswati puja and Republic day were on the same day. We celebrated the day that the Constitution of India came into effect along with the goddess of knowledge.



Kalpana (in white) and Archi (in blue) with their gold medals



FEB
'23

We like to celebrate and encourage imagination and creativity. At CSC, we bought a doctor set, the kids had begun playing doctor and patient. One would feign fainting and ask for help and others would fashion themselves as doctors and compounders giving injections and going to their make-believe pharmacy to get the medicines.

When the rocking horse 'fell sick,' the resident doctors prescribed rest, covering it with a sheet, and gave it lots of fruits. They even tucked the plastic fruits under the sheet and told the teachers that the horse had eaten all the fruits.



MAR
'23

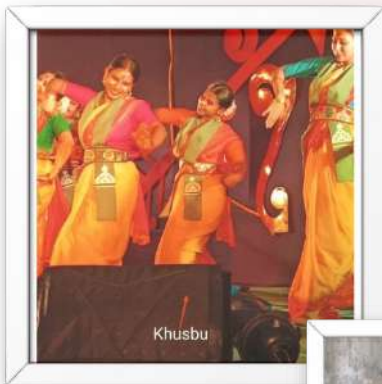
Debashree Bose Mukherjee joined Shishur Sevay as the Program Manager. She is a Dance & Movement therapist and a holistic mentor.

Khusbu represented her dance academy, Mamata Shankar's Udayan Kala Kendra, at the Spring festival at Rabindra Bharati University on the eve of Dol Purnima.

Dol Purnima and Holi were celebrated, with lots of colours and fun!

NIOS now has a compulsory vocational course and Mani has chosen Yoga as her subject. She is finishing up a six month course at Sivananda Saraswati Institute of Yoga, and has a trained yoga instructor working with her on the NIOS material as well.

Children's Smart Centre (CSC) is moving closer to Shishur Sevay. As our rent agreement on the previous place was running out we found a place much closer to Shishur Sevay and decided to move instead of extending the agreement. We will renovate and move in, in early April.



Mani
finished
her Yoga
Course!



b. Activity Report

Apr 2023 - Mar 2024

APR
'23

- 10 children graduated from Children's Smart this year. Four were sent to government schools, five to private schools, and one to an NGO-operated special education school.
- In April an **Eye-checkup Camp** was organised by Dr. Premanandhini Satgunam and her team at Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Visual Science, at the CSC school.
- On World Dance Day Dr. Harrison and Khusbu attended an event organised by Shristi Parishad, and scripted and narrated by Smt. Subha Pal.



MAY
'23

- We have started using Jira as a project management tool for monitoring our activities.
- Khusbu, Shefali and Archi went on a trekking trip to the Hilley-Varsey Rhododendron sanctuary, of South Sikkim, organized by Sonarpur Arohi.
- On Mother's Day, Dr. Michelle Harrison was felicitated by the Ahiritola Sarbojonin Durgotsav Samity. At the event Dr. Harrison met Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare of the Government of West Bengal.

JUN
'23

- The AGM was held this month, where Khusbu and Mani, the Daughters of Shishur Sevay, were present as Vice President and Member respectively.
- Rita Basu Moulik, Vice-President of Friends of Shishur Sevay (FOSS), our sister concern in the US, paid a quick visit to us from the USA.
- This Foundation Day we turned 17 and also celebrated the contribution of our academic director Dr. Purba Rudra. Farewell Dr. Purba.



JUL
'23

Quotes from Dr. Michelle Harrison's Blog: <https://shishursevay.com/2023/07/11/a-lifetime-home-for-women-and-girls-cause-for-celebration/>

- **A Lifetime Home for Women and Children: Cause for Celebration**

A year of negotiation with the government finally brought us a license under the The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956, to maintain our home as a Lifetime Home for Women and Children.

The Juvenile Justice Act 2015 did not cover care for young adults (individuals over the age of 18) and did not allow inclusion, asking for separation of the abled from the disabled and also separation by ages. But after some "wiggling" with the government we finally received JJ Act Registration on 14 July 2022, three years and three months after submission.

"Receiving the License has changed things for us, for both the girls and for me...We are all feeling more secure. The dream morphed into reality."

- Dr. Michelle Harrison, "A Lifetime Home for Women and Girls: Cause for Celebration".



- **CME and Workshop on Cerebral Palsy**

Dr. Michelle Harrison was invited by the Society of Paediatric Neurology Bengal in Association to speak about how Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) technology was helping change lives at Shishur Sevay. As the first in India to use Tobii eye-tracking device our girls with Cerebral Palsy are able to say what they want to say and to express what they feel.

AUG
'23

- **Kaanjj reaches out to help the girls of Shishur Sevay.**

Kaanjj is a newly set-up business by Sonal and her daughter Karnika Kisnadwala, long-term friends and supporters of Shishur Sevay.

In August, Kaanjj showcased us in their pop-up event in London and also promoted us on their website as a worthy cause. Karnika, personally, is mentoring our girls in their part of the development of our new endeavour DOSS, an initiative to enable and empower our girls and help them become self-sufficient women capable of taking care of their family at Shishur Sevay.



AUG
'23

• Khusbu goes to College

Khusbu adds another feather to her achievements. This August, our girl enrolled in college and started her classes at Vivekananda Women's College, while continuing her dance with Udayan Kalakendra. In her free time (which is rare) she also teaches at CSC. She is an inspiration and a subject of pride for her family and society for all that she has achieved.

• Time for Yearly Health Check-up!

The government and good sense require a Yearly Health checkup for the girls. Dr. Budhaditya Chattopadhyay did the needful.

• John's Visit

John Barrens a college student from Germany came to Shishur Sevay in 2014 as an intern. He has returned five more times since (always as a pleasant surprise). His field of study was Education and Theology. Now he is Herr John Berrens, a tenured teacher and officer in the German Government. To the girls he is John dada (big brother).

SEP
'23

• Celebrating Janmashtami

Celebrating Janmashtami: On September 7, we celebrated Janmashtami at CPSS, the birth of Lord Krishna. Worshipped as the eighth avatar of Vishnu, he is the god of protection, compassion, tenderness, and love. The girls undertook the preparations for the puja, set up the idol, lit the diya, and arranged for the prasada. One by one the girls moved Krishna on his *jhula* (swing), making sure that their sisters with disabilities could also participate. Dr. Harrison passed Krishna's blessings onto everyone as the eldest in the house, in keeping with the Indian culture.



SEP
'23

- **Asha for Education Visit:** Asha For Education has been a strong supporter of CPSS from the very beginning. Dr. Harrison was a volunteer with Asha For Education, starting in 2003, where she did site visits for the organization. After she founded Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay and we got our FCRA in 2008 ASHA started supporting us financially. On September 1, Mr. Sambit from Asha for Education did a site visit to Shishur Sevay. He got updates on 'what we are doing', 'what we are planning' and 'what are our needs'. But in the end, the most memorable part of the visit was Ganga's connection with him, and she objected to his leaving over and over again! In Dr. Harrison's words, "She wouldn't let him leave, and he was captured by her, and it was just very beautiful". It was a visit full of warmth and respect. We will always be grateful for ASHA's support.



- **Parents-Teachers' Meeting:** We had a Parents Teachers' meeting at CSC. Once again, we had 100% parents' attendance. We updated the parents about the progress of the children. For the children who will be turning five, we discussed plans for admitting them to schools. We also celebrated Dhriti's birthday and she distributed the cake to her friends and the parents. Mani and Puja addressed the parents and reassured them of the care their children are being given at CSC. In our school, a crying child gets a lap to sit on instead of a scolding.

OCT
'23

- **Khusbu performs at PRAYAAS 2023:** Khusbu participated in PRAYAAS 2023, the annual show organised by Mamata Sankar's dance academy Udayan Kala Kendra. We are very proud of our girl. The fact that she is one among the many in the photograph brings us immense joy. She has truly become one with the society.

OCT
'23

- **Durga Puja:** Durga Puja is one of the major celebrations in Kolkata, dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga. The festivities take place over 10 days, with the last five days being the most festive. This year on Nabami (the ninth day), the girls of Shishur Sevay were invited to Bliss Park in celebration of the festivities. It was a nice experience for them to be part of a small family/community puja. The day was made extra special by Khusbu's impromptu performance at the pandal amidst much applause and appreciation.
- **Picnic at Bijoy's House:** The girls went to visit Bijoy mama at his new house in Sarsuna, and had a picnic there. The day was spent with family amidst much laughter and fun.

NOV
'23

- **Zee News Coverage:** Zee News covered the story of Dr. Harrison and Shishur Sevay for a feature on their DNA (Daily News Analysis) segment. They visited Children's Smart Centre and saw how our all-inclusive preschool school functioned. They interviewed the girls of Shishur Sevay, who teach there and it was a brilliant exposure for them.

NOV
'23

- **Panchabatitala Sammilani Club felicitated Dr. Harrison:** In celebration of Kali Puja and Diwali, Panchabatitala Sammilani Club organised a felicitation ceremony to recognise the dignitaries of the community who have made valuable contributions to our society. They invited Dr. Michelle Harrison to felicitate her for our contributions to the development of the community. The evening was made memorable by her warm meeting with our local councillor Shri Tarak Singh.



- **Dr. Harrison's Birthday:** Dr. Harrison's Birthday is always a special event for the girls. Sometimes it's a big event and sometimes a small family affair. They plan for months preparing their own small routines and presents for their "mummy". This time they prepared inclusive dance routines and music, and the highlight was the inclusive yoga that was performed by the girls with disabilities, helped by their elder sisters, especially Mani.



DEC
'23

- **The Girls go Rock Climbing!** At the end of December three of our girls, Archi, Khusbu and Shefali, went for a rock-climbing camp to Purulia, organised by Sonarpur Arohi, a veteran organization in conducting treks with children and adults for decades. This was a fantastic opportunity and exposure for them to build tenacity and strength; and in the process make beautiful memories. They came back with stories of having learnt various rock-climbing techniques like chimney technique, grappling, and stemming, and shared how they had learnt to read maps and follow adventure trails.



DEC
'23

- **Souptik's Wedding:** Dr. Harrison and Seema Gupta were invited to Souptik Mukherjee's wedding with Soumi Datta. Souptik has been a long-time supporter and friend of Shishur Sevay. Dr. Harrison and Seema Gupta went to the wedding in Delhi, and the reception in Calcutta was later in the week, where all the girls were also invited.



- **Conference on 07.12.2024: Facilitating Independent Living and Inclusion of People with Disabilities:** In December, Calcutta University hosted an international seminar and workshop celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). It was a two-day program (5th & 7th of December), and on December 7 Dr. Harrison was invited as a speaker where she talked about how Shishur Sevay has come to be a Lifetime home for Women and Children and has made inclusive living a reality.



Title of the Workshop - Evidence Based Interventions for Learners with Disabilities

Title of the Presentation by Dr. Harrison - A Lifetime Home for Women and Girls: From Idea to Implementation

JAN
'24

- **Art Exhibition:** Puja took part in a 3-day Art Fair and Exhibition, organised by Anthelion School of Art, in January, where she is pursuing her Diploma in Arts. It was a good learning experience for Puja and we were happy to see her works displayed at the exhibit. We wish her all the best with her dream to become a world-famous artist!

- **International Conference in January:** On January 18, Dr. Michelle Harrison was invited as a speaker at the International Conference on "Sustainability, Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspective", organised by the Department of Education, University of Calcutta. Her presentation was titled, "Sustainability and the Disincluded: Taking Action Building A Model", where she talked about how Shishur Sevay has become a true inclusion model over its 18 years of journey.

JAN
'24

Dr. Harrison shares, "It felt good to be in front of an academic audience, which I have missed in the last 20 years. I used to refer to Shishur Sevay as a stealth orphanage. We were stealth because in truth I just wanted to be left alone to raise the girls, and I was clear in my beliefs of how traumatised orphans needed to be raised. The girls have now grown and are a source of pride. We have become a true model of inclusion, and now I want people to know what can be done if we stretch our minds and our hearts. Shishur Sevay has become a hub of innovation, now including Children Smart Centre, a free inclusive playschool in the community, and more to come".

From People Who Know Us:

Isabella Lavetti says,

"I had the pleasure of volunteering at Shishur Sevay for over 3 weeks in January 2024 as an English conversation teacher. This small structure is run very smoothly & efficiently by Michelle & her team, it feels more like a big family than an "orphanage". There is a lot of interaction between staff and all the "girls" and between the girls themselves, a lot of care, inclusion, and love being shown towards the "invalid" ones. It was for me a very positive experience which I can warmly recommend to others."

FEB
'24

- **Saraswati Puja:** The day of Vasant Panchami is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the Hindu Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, wisdom and learning. We celebrated this day in the Bengali fashion. The girls dressed themselves in sarees. Dr. Harrison donned on a yellow sari, as is the tradition on Saraswati Puja, and conducted the ceremony. Special to our Home: Seema Gupta and Dr. Harrison went to Kumartuli and ordered a dark-brown-skinned Sarawati dressed in her Bengali sari, accompanied by her elegant, long-necked swan.

FEB
'24

- **Archi's Performance:** Archi, our youngest, performed at a dance show organised by Udayan Kalakendra. We were proud to see our girl at her first public performance.
- **Judi's Visit:** Towards the end of February Judi Kloper, a long-time friend of Shishur Sevay, visited us. She brought joy, music, and singing to CSC, and caught up with the older girls, whom she has known from the beginning. We are also connected by Tobii as her son and Ganga both are able to communicate through the Tobii eye-tracking device.

Puja: "Judi aunty is one of our oldest friends. Whenever she comes, she spends a lot of time with us. I love the conversations that we have."

- **The Bird-residents of Shishur Sevay:** The growing family: A brilliant blue parakeet flew into our classroom one day. We did not know where he came from but these birds can't survive on their own. So, we set up a cage for him here at Shishur Sevay. When we realised he was lonely we got him a companion, and, in no time we had a family of momma, papa, and four young baby parakeets.

MAR
'24

- **Cookie-Night at Shishur Sevay!** The girls had a gala time baking cookies to bid their Judi auntie goodbye.

MAR
'24

- **Shefali's Performance:** Shefali participated in a dance performance with her friends from her vocational training school, PCI, on 17 march 2024. The program was organised by Shiva's Creation at Jadavpur University. Ganga did not want to miss out on seeing her Shefali di perform, so she insisted on being taken to the show. Shefali danced while Ganga looked away jealous because she wanted to be dancing herself! We all had a great time and it was extremely special for Shefali to have her sisters want to be there for her, to see her perform.



- **Celebrating Holi:** Like every year Holi was celebrated with lots of colours and laughter. All of the girls went out into the lane to play with colours. The photographs are proof of the happiness they find in colours and togetherness.

- **The Morning Routine at Shishur Sevay:** The morning routine at Shishur Sevay is one of utter bustle. Our big girls, especially Mani, help bathe their sisters with disabilities, followed by an entire routine of hair care, putting oil on their hair, braiding them, and getting them ready for their day of work. But what makes this routine special is the communication between the girls and staff that takes place during this process. They have a lot to say and express, and they always make sure to let us know what they want.



- **Past Meets Present:** The afternoon of 19 March was made special with Dr. Harrison sharing her history of embroidery with Shefali, and Shefali putting the necklace she had made in her jewelry class around her Mummy's (Dr. Harrison) neck. It was a true confluence of the old with the new and a cherished moment.

6

OUR TEAM

A. The Women who take care of our children

Backbone of the Home

Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay promotes best practices and part of this is the importance given to the women who actually care for the children some of who need lifetime care.

Lets support them in this critically important model that makes children thrive and not just survive.



Chhaya Sarkar joined in
Feb 2013.



Monika Das joined in
Jan 2014.



Purnima Sardar started
in 2010.



Shushama Naskar
joined in



Tumpa Das joined in
Dec 2013

Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay has an outstanding group of trained childcare workers who care for the children. They ARE the environment of the children.

We take this opportunity to present you their voices

BOARD OF DIRECTORS


President: Seema Gupta

Mrs. Gupta retired as Joint Registrar of the Calcutta High Court. She is a neighbour and “Auntie” to the girls and has been with Shishur Sevay from the beginning. She teaches all levels of Bengali to the girls.

Secretary: Dr. Michelle Harrison

Dr. Harrison, the Founder is an American physician, author, leader in women’s health and a mother. Her medical career spanning 45 years included psychiatry, family medicine and OB-GYN. She has taught at Harvard, Rutgers and the University of Pittsburgh. At Johnson & Johnson Corporate, she was Worldwide Director of Medical Affairs in Consumer, and then Executive Director of Johnson & Johnson Institute for Children.

She serves as Executive Director and government appointed superintendent of the home and lives there with the children.

For full bio visit:  www.drnichelleharrison.com

Vice President: Khusbu Das

She is one of the original Daughters of Shishur Sevay. She is a dancer at Udayan Kala Kendra by Mamta Shankar. She is a college student at Vivekananda College for Women.

Member: Mani Das

She is an original Daughter of Shishur Sevay. She is preparing for her Class 12 through NIOS. She wants to be a special educator. She has certificates in yoga and kalahi.

Member: Shanti Devi

Shanti Devi is a founding member of the organization. She has long years of experience in providing physical exercise, body massage and conducting yoga sessions.

Member: Jayita Dey

Ms. Dey has over two decades of experience in the IT industry, working with Indian and international clients. Presently, she is an IT consultant. She represents Shishur Sevay in our CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) efforts.

Member: Cecilia Devyani Harrison

Ms. Harrison, daughter of Dr. Harrison and born in Kolkata is another founding member of Shishur Sevay. She works as an IT professional and is a talented drummer.

STAFF - FULL TIME

Titli Maitra, Director of Development and Education

She serves as the Director of Development and Education. After 6 years of corporate career in the USA she returned home to India to join the development sector. Titli now heads the functioning of our Children’s Smart Centre and the developmental needs of Shishur Sevay. She is currently also pursuing a professional MBA from University of California, Davis.

Sharmistha Banerjee, Director of Mental Health

Sharmistha Banerjee is our Director of Mental Health. She holds a Master's Degree in Psychology, along with being a certificated graphologist and a parents councillor. With her we could finally start our Mental Health program at Shishur Sevay. We are really lucky to have her.

Suparna Mondol, Manager of Communications

Suparna joined as a fresher and is now the Communications Manager of Shishur Sevay. She has a Master's in Mass Communication and Journalism from Amity University, Kolkata. She has been working on and developing our communication materials.

Bithikana Maity, Admin

Bithikan joined CPSS as a fresher. She functions as the admin, looking after all the front office duties. She is presently pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work at Netaji Subhas Open University.

Laboni Sil, Program & Operations Manager

Laboni joined Shishur Sevay as Program and Operations Manager. She has extensive experience in grants and proposal writing from her years of work in the development sector in Kolkata. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration, while she continues her work with us.

Sayantika Baral, Teacher & Tobii Instructor

Sayantika joined us with a degree in computer science. She has become an indispensable part of CPSS. She majorly assists with the Tobii training for Ganga and Bornali, along with tutoring Kalpana. In the mornings she teaches at Children's Smart Centre.

Bijoy Das, The Truly Indispensable (Joined 2006)

He has multiple roles, as driver, purchasing, repairs, and as our strong man when that's needed. He is 'MAMA' (uncle) to the girls at Shishur Sevay. He really is indispensable.

STAFF - PART TIME

Chaitali Begam, Accountant (Joined 2007, rejoined 2010)

Chaitali began as the first teacher at Shishur Sevay in 2007. She left to earn her M.Com and returned in 2010 as an accountant.

Lopamudra Mukherjee, Special Educator (Joined 2022)

She has 20+ years experience and holds her B.Ed degree from Ramkrishna Mission. She works with special needs children at Shishur Sevay and at Children's Smart Centre.

Anindita Dutta, Head Teacher (Joined 2010)

She holds a BA and MA in Philosophy from Calcutta University. She works primarily with the children with disabilities and creatively comes up with new ways of motivating them. She leads Children's Smart Centre as the head teacher.

Satya Gopal Halder, Security (Joined 2015)

He is a security guard. He also maintains the garden and keeps the front entrance bursting with plants and flowers all year long, as a volunteer.

Kaberi Pal, Teaching Assistant, Rehabilitation (Joined in 2007)

Kaberi assists in the rehabilitation of the children with disabilities. As the mother to a young woman with cerebral palsy, she has extensive hands-on practical experience with disabilities and a strong commitment to their care and well-being.

Debasis Sarkar, Music Teacher (Joined 2013)

He is a registered tabla player under Calcutta Stage Performing Musicians Welfare Association, Kolkata. He has taught at South Calcutta Ananda Niketan Home since 1996. He also conducts music classes at Children's Smart Centre.

Satyen Sur, Dance and Movement Teacher

(Joined 2013)

Satyen holds an M.A. in Dance from Rabindra Bharati University. Satyen teaches the Inclusive Dance Movement Program, working with the abled and those with disabilities. He has toured Europe multiple times. He also teaches at Children's Smart Centre.

Menoka Das, Physiotherapist

Menoka assists in the rehabilitation of the children with disabilities. She comes once a week to carry out physiotherapy sessions with Sanjana, Bornali and Ganga.



7 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Other Organisations that Support Us



Children's Hope India. Dr. Harrison first met the founders in 2000, just days before she and her daughter left for Calcutta. They visited a program of CHI in Delhi. Her daughter remarked that had she not been adopted she hoped she would have found a place like this. For Dr. Harrison, that moment began some of the thinking that eventually led her to establish Shishur Sevay, for the children not adopted. CHI has funded education, medical care, food and mental health needs. They have been good friends to Shishur Sevay.



VESUVIUS

VESUVIUS India Ltd, has been with us from 2020 when we initially

Intended to open, but were delayed by 2 years of lockdown. Vesuvius has been a great support.



Danamojo, our online payment gateway made donating easy for our donors (National & International). They continually offer support and guidance to us in communicating with our donors.



Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education

Asha for Education,

a volunteer run organization in the USA, has advised us from the beginning. When we received our FCRA they gave us financial support for our education program. We have received support from three chapters: CNJ, Cornell, and Colorado. Dr. Harrison had been a volunteer with Asha for Education CNJ Chapter since 2002, before she moved to India. In that role she conducted site visits on her numerous trips to India which gave her insights about how she would want to run an NGO.



A life changing appointment

Equal Health, Australia is an organization of health care professional who volunteer their services in India and other developing countries.

They gave us the initial funding for the school which changed it from a dream into a well-planned project. They are hoping to return in 2025.



Friends of Shishur Sevay (FOSS) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit formed in the US. A lot of support comes from FOSS as the organization is approved for tax exemption. Dr. Harrison is also on the board of FOSS. Since its inception FOSS has been funding care of the children at Shishur Sevay.

Other Organisations that Support Us



Calcutta Zoroastrian Stree Mandal
The Parsi Zoroastrian Association
ACSA Amman Welfare Foundation

L'VIBGYOR CREATION
Sailors Energy
Ritzcreativeeyes

David & Regula Amosti TIAA
Friends of Foster Care India.

Apart from organizations and companies, we had many individual donors, who supported us in many different ways during this period.

Adam Dehart
 Lena Schnepfer
 Larry Pratt
 Mark Rodney
 Michelle Harrison
 Alokmay Datta
 Arundhati Mukherjee
 Bharat Kumar
 Bharat Sharma
 Bharti Bangur
 Bholanath Chai
 Bincy Philipose
 Debjani Chakraborty
 Dipanjana Ghosh
 Dr.A. Asokan
 Debashree Mukherjee
 Gargee basu

Patricia Redden
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 Rita Basu Mallick
 Scott Horvath
 Shreya Ghosh
 Harsh Kumar Jha
 Kamalendu Choudhuri
 Kushal Das
 Kushal Raj Mitra
 krishna Nag
 Nayan & Sonal V Kisnadwala
 N.D.Bapooji
 Prem Nandhini Satgunam
 Priyasakhi
 Rabindranath Banerjee
 Rahul Ghosh
 Rahul Jain

Shristi Chitlangia
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 Sumit Kundu
 Surendra Singh Butoria
 Vaskaran Sarcar

8 FINANCES

CHILDLIFE PRESERVE SHISHUR SEVAY

17/2/7, SAHAPUR MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA 700038

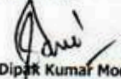
Schedule forming part of Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31.03.2023

Particulars	Amount	Particulars	Amount
OPERATING EXPENSES	Rs.		Rs.
Audit Fees (Domestic)	26,000	Bank Interest (Foreign)	41,919
Bank Charges (Foreign)	7,434	Bank Interest (Domestic)	49,710
Books & Periodicals (Foreign)	1,780	Donation (Foreign)	47,54,492
Cable Charges (Foreign)	8,000	Donation (Domestic)	8,60,550
Car Repairing Expenses (Foreign)	1,23,496	Donation-In Kind (Foreign)	23,838
Celebration Expenses (Foreign)	11,520	Excess of Expenditure over Income	11,74,409
Celebration Expenses (Domestic)	30,089		
Certification Fees (Domestic)	47,700		
Children Edu. & Rec. Outing (Foreign)	1,04,414		
Cleaning Expenses (Foreign)	94,233		
Cleaning Expenses (Domestic)	51,470		
Clothing Expenses (Foreign)	30,733		
Clothing Expenses (Domestic)	4,287		
Communication Expenses (Foreign)	55,916		
Communication Expenses (Domestic)	20,276		
Computer Repairs & Maintenance (Foreign)	47,196		
Consultancy Fees (Foreign)	29,500		
Consultancy Fees (Domestic)	53,000		
Conveyance Allowance (Foreign)	1,500		
Conveyance Expenses (Foreign)	63,998		
Conveyance Expenses (Domestic)	5,816		
Cooking Gas Expenses (Foreign)	39,833		
Depreciation (Foreign)	3,68,022		
Depreciation (Domestic)	79,896		
Disability Aids & Appliances Expenses (Foreign)	5,693		
Disability Aids & Appliances Expenses (Domestic)	2,100		
Educational Expenses (Foreign)	2,20,052		
Educational Expenses (Domestic)	52,459		
Electricity Expenses (Domestic)	1,32,110		
Expenses for Interns (Domestic)	2,700		
Fixed Assets discard (Domestic)	12		
Food Expenses (Foreign)	8,38,583		
Food Expenses (Domestic)	18,377		
Gardening Expenses (Foreign)	46,150		
General Expenses (Foreign)	16,883		
General Expenses (Domestic)	26,700		
Medical Expenses (Foreign)	3,27,496		
Office Expenses (Foreign)	50		
Postage & Courier Expenses	446		
Printing & Stationery (Foreign)	28,011		
Printing & Stationery (Domestic)	6,730		
Professional Tax (Foreign)	2,500		
Rates & Taxes (Domestic)	3,524		
Rent (SSCSC) (Foreign)	22,472		
Rent (SSCSC) (Domestic)	2,47,192		
Repairs & Maintenance (Foreign)	19,350		
Repairs & Maintenance (Domestic)	73,371		
Salaries & Bonus of Childcare Workers (Foreign)	8,70,007		
Salaries & Bonus of Childcare Workers (Domestic)	49,698		
Salaries & Bonus of Comm. Officer (Foreign)	71,500		
Salaries & Bonus of Comm. Officer (Domestic)	55,000		
Salaries & Bonus of Office Staffs (Foreign)	3,11,366		
Salaries & Bonus of Office Staffs (Domestic)	1,37,176		
Salaries & Bonus of Operational Manager (Foreign)	2,33,480		
Salaries & Bonus of School Massi (Domestic)	59,853		
Salary & Bonus of Physiotherapist (Foreign)	1,25,160		
Salary & Bonus of Teachers (Foreign)	8,20,806		
Salary & Bonus of Teachers (Domestic)	1,91,808		
Salary & Bonus of Special Educator (Foreign)	85,333		
Salary & Bonus of Special Educator (Domestic)	25,833		
Salary of Programme Manager (Foreign)	20,460		
Salary of Nightcare Giver (Foreign)	1,000		
School Uniform (Domestic)	48,790		
Security Charges (Foreign)	3,55,840		
Service Charges (Foreign)	696		
Service Charges (Domestic)	5,976		
Subscription Expenses (Domestic)	12,502		
Staff Training Expenses (Foreign)	5,900		
Transporting Expenses (Foreign)	300		
Website Development Expenses (Foreign)	17,365		
	69,04,919		69,04,919

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of balance sheet.
Signed in terms of our report of even date.

For D MODI & CO

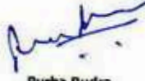
Chartered Accountants
FRM. 327181E


Dipankar Kumar Modi
Proprietor
Mem. No. 75637
UDIN: 23075637BHAMGI1697
Place Hooghly
Date: 08th June, 2023



For Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay


Seema Gupta
President


Purba Rudra
Treasurer


Dr. Michelle Harrison
Founder & Secretary



CHILDLIFE PRESERVE SHISHUR SEVAY
17/2/7, SAHAPUR MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL - 700038

CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

EXPENDITURE	FC	IC	TOTAL	INCOME	FC	IC	TOTAL
To Administration Expenses				By Donations & Contribution from:			
Audit Fees	-	35,400.00		- Asha for Education, USA	13,67,000.00	-	
Travelling & Conveyance	15,170.00	8,807.00		- Michelle Harrison, USA	1,06,465.00	-	
Certification Fees	-	51,000.00		- Childrens Hope India, USA	16,01,660.00	-	
Communication & Internet Expenses	10,460.00	11,619.00		- Friends of Shishur Sevay, USA	31,61,233.00	-	
Consultancy Fees	7,500.00	45,250.00		Local Donations	-	2,78,921.00	
Seminars & Workshop	4,720.00	4,711.00		Vesivius India Ltd	-	5,00,000.00	
Membership and subscription	-	2,499.00			62,36,358.00	7,78,921.00	70,15,279.00
Rates & Taxes	-	6,291.00					
Service Charges	578.20	13,933.11		" Interest Income			
Website and IT Expenses	12,000.00	22,261.40		Bank Interest	1,10,967.00	34,107.00	
Electricity Expenses	-	15,493.00		Accrued Interest on Fixed Deposit	-	2,137.00	
Professional Fees	29,500.00	6,767.00			1,10,967.00	36,244.00	1,47,211.00
Printing & Stationery	39,255.00	17,211.00		" Excess of Expenditure over Income			
Salary and Bonus	8,85,196.00	-			65,354.50	4,18,433.51	4,83,788.01
Bank Charges	10,072.30	-					
Honorarium	21,270.00	-					
	10,35,721.50	2,41,242.51	12,76,964.01				
" Project Expenses							
Educational Expenses							
Books, School Supplies and Allied Expenses	47,245.00	-					
Communication & Internet Expenses	76,390.00	-					
Computer Maintenance	70,574.00	-					
Educational Courses	3,44,392.00	-					
Educational Trips	66,158.00	-					
Rent Paid for CSC	1,98,000.00	22,775.00					
Salary and Bonus	8,65,274.00	-					
Teachers' Training Expenses	71,000.00	-					
Travelling and Conveyance	1,60,999.00	540.00					
	19,00,032.00	23,315.00	19,23,347.00				
Medical Care Expenses							
Disability Aids & Appliances Expenses	22,480.00	-					
Hospitalization, Tests and Doctor Fees	91,099.00	-					
Medicines and Hygienic Expenses	2,79,530.00	-					
Salary & Bonus (Specialized Childcare Workers)	9,87,490.00	-					
Salary for Physiotherapy and Rehab	41,600.00	-					
	14,22,199.00	-	14,22,199.00				
Home Based Care Expenses							
Maintenance Expenses	-	32,500.00					
Electricity Expenses	-	1,39,437.00					
Household Goods & Appliances	26,699.00	6,140.00					
Clothing & Outfit	-	3,123.00					
Security Expenses	3,11,520.00	28,320.00					
Celebrations and Entertainment	24,104.00	-					
Cleaning Supplies, Disinfectant, Pest Control	88,035.00	-					
Food & Cooking Gas	9,32,533.00	-					
House Uniforms, Clothing	5,630.00	-					
Salary & Bonus (Safety & Secure Supervisor)	2,52,200.00	-					
	16,40,721.00	2,09,520.00	18,50,241.00				
" Function & Festival Expenses	-	28,907.00	28,907.00				
" Repairs & Maintenance Expenses	89,914.00	31,529.00	1,21,443.00				
" Vesivius (Childrens' Smart Centre) Expenses							
Capacity Building / Training	-	3,600.00					
Expenses for Interns & Volunteers	-	-					
Classroom Supplies							
Teaching/Educational Materials	-	21,695.00					
Office Operations							
Postage, Printing & Stationery, Etc	-	4,681.00					
Maintenance Facilities							
Electricity & Water	-	8,620.00					
General Supplies	-	8,051.00					
Pest Control	-	20,500.00					
Repair and Maintenance	-	43,003.00					
Personnel Costs (Salary & Bonus)							
Salary & Bonus for Academic Director	-	12,594.00					
Salary & Bonus for Accountant	-	26,000.00					
Salary & Bonus for Childcare Workers	-	54,315.00					
Salary & Bonus for School Administration	-	59,494.00					
Salary & Bonus for School Massis	-	70,200.00					
Salary & Bonus for Special Educator	-	39,500.00					
Salary & Bonus for Teachers	-	1,76,115.00					
Student Costs							
Celebration	-	18,618.00					
Hygiene Sanitation Materials	-	5,474.00					
Midmorning Snacks	-	15,503.00					
Uniform	-	42,755.00					
	-	6,30,718.00	6,30,718.00				
" Depreciation	3,24,092.00	68,367.00	3,92,459.00				
	64,12,679.50	12,33,598.51	76,46,278.01		64,12,679.50	12,33,598.51	76,46,278.01

As per our report of even dated

For RADS & CO.

Chartered Accountants

[FRN.: 320298E]

Ashis Agarwal
Partner
Membership No. 30366

Place: Kolkata

Date: 28th day of May, 2024

For CHILDLIFE PRESERVE
SHISHUR SEVAY

Sooma Gupta
President

For CHILDLIFE PRESERVE
SHISHUR SEVAY

Secretary

9 ORGANIZATION PROFILE

An Inclusive Lifetime Home for Lost and Abandoned Girls & Women, Some Profoundly Disabled

INCLUSIVE LIVING
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
INCLUSIVE ART
INCLUSIVE DANCE



TOBII EYE TRACKER TECHNOLOGY
INDIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE
LIVES WITH DIGNITY
SELF ACTUALISATION

To Not Feel Alone In The Universe








FOUNDED: 2006, in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, by Dr. Michelle Harrison, an American physician, author, academic, medical ethicist, and leader in women's health.

THE REASON: Having adopted an Indian infant in 1984 and raised her in the US, she wondered what happens to the orphans not adopted. What if the girls rejected for adoption in India were given the same opportunities as those adopted abroad, but without the loss of their identity, country, culture, heritage, and religion? She sold her possessions, moved to Kolkata, formed the Society, and petitioned the government. In February the West Bengal CWC transferred 12 girls from a government institution to Shishur Sevay. The girls ranged in age from 18 months to 10 years. They came with acute and chronic conditions; some were not expected to survive for long. They came having experienced the brutality that is inevitable for unprotected children.

WHAT WE DID: The environment of Shishur Sevay allowed the girls to heal. They bonded with each other, abled and disabled wanting to live inclusively together, leading us eventually to our development of inclusive education as well as our programs of inclusive art and dance. Values in the home included safety, discipline, respect, compassion, education, and appreciation of Bengali heritage, culture, and customs. Healing took time. It was at least ten years before the pain and despair of their past were replaced by dreams and hopes for the future. The girls wanted to be together. There was neither room nor interest in being separated. They bonded in a way that led to our establishing inclusive education, dance, and arts. In 2014 we were the first in India to purchase the Tobii eye tracker technology so our most physically impaired girls could share with us what was on their minds. Shishur Sevay functions from the perspective of the end-users, the girls, and what they need. The inclusiveness of Shishur Sevay attracted the attention of Vanderbilt University and resulted in numerous academic articles by Prof. Anjali Forber Pratt.

A SCHOOL IS BORN: The compassion of the older girls went beyond their sisters. They wanted to help educate other poor children in the community. In 2020, Children's Smart Centre, a free inclusive playschool was established but due to Covid lockdowns, it could not open its doors until April 2022. The young women raised at Shishur Sevay manage and teach at the school. Two with cerebral palsy are junior teachers and one uses the tobii to read stories to the children. The school is bilingual with materials that facilitate parental involvement in their studies. Our Mental Health Director meets with children and parents to help improve the family relationships.

TRANSFORMATION INTO LEADERSHIP: Two girls come onto the board as full voting members. They bring their message to the board, "What will happen to our sisters?" They want to move forward on thoughts we've had about selling the products they have done together. DOSS, the new brand of Daughters of Shishur Sevay has been established and has its opening in Summer 2024. At the same time, some are also pursuing higher education including college, professional art, management, and dreams of professional careers. Once at the lowest rung of the social ladder, they are now respected and warmly received by the community.

-  Recipient of GuideStar India Transparency Award 2016; Gold Seal 2017- 2023.
-  FCRA Registration, fillings up to date. Received 80G.
-  Registration as a Society under West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961; No. S/IL/37263/2006-2007.
-  Licensed as a home for women and children by W.B. Directorate of Social Welfare.
-  JJ Act Certificate.
-  Received registration under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, from the Government of West Bengal.
-  Sister Organization: Friends of Shishur Sevay, in the US is a non-for-profit with 501 (c)(3) www.friendsofshishursevay.org.

Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road Kolkata – 700038, W.B, India
Mob.: +91-98744-77411 (10:00AM-05:00PM)
Holding 80G and FCRA

Email: info@shishursevay.org
Website: www.shishursevay.org
Blog: www.shishursevay.com



**12 Girls who were once rejected by the society...
Have now made a place for themselves...
And are respected members of the society...**



I ♦ Project DOSS

“We are the Daughters of Shishur Sevay. Rescued as young children, and growing up under the wings of Shishur Sevay we are now confident and talented young women, some of us with disabilities, committed to supporting ourselves by bringing our unique artistic gifts to the marketplace. Working at times together or separately we use our creativity to produce this colourful and unique handiwork.”

Bottle Art



Tote Bags



Jewelry



Paintings



Mobile Pouches



Dupattas



**Community
Engagement**

**Economic
Empowerment**

**Entrepreneurial
Education**



Support Us



Indian Donations

Having 80G in perpetuity

1. Online Donation:

Website: shishursevay.org

"Donate" through online portal

2. Direct transfer please write for bank and account information for transfer:

info@shishursevay.org

3. Cheque: Address to "Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay"

17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road Kolkata-700038, West Bengal, India.

Please also include your full address, email id, and PAN number in India so we can issue the receipt.



U.S. Donations

Foreign funds can also be sent to our sister organization, **Friends of Shishur Sevay**, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

1. Online Donation:

Website: www.friendsofshishursevay.org

"Donate" through online portal

2. Wire transfer: Write at

info@friendsofshishursevay.org

3. Cheque: Address to "Friends of Shishur Sevay"

354 Middle Road, Bayport NY 11705.

© Pictures: Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

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Scan Here



"আবার এসো"
(Abar Esho)
"Come Again"



Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

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Website: www.shishursevay.org

Blog: www.shishursevay.com

This Annual Report has been developed at no cost to Shishur Sevay.
Sincere thanks to our anonymous donor for printing it.