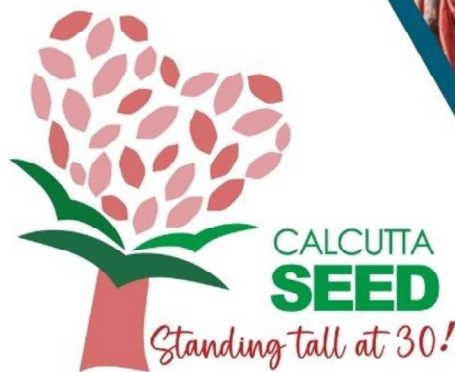




Calcutta Society  
for Encouragement  
of Education and  
Development

# 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

*Pearl Jubilee Issue*  
1994-2024



[www.calcuttaseed.org](http://www.calcuttaseed.org)

CALCUTTA



**CALCUTTA SOCIETY FOR ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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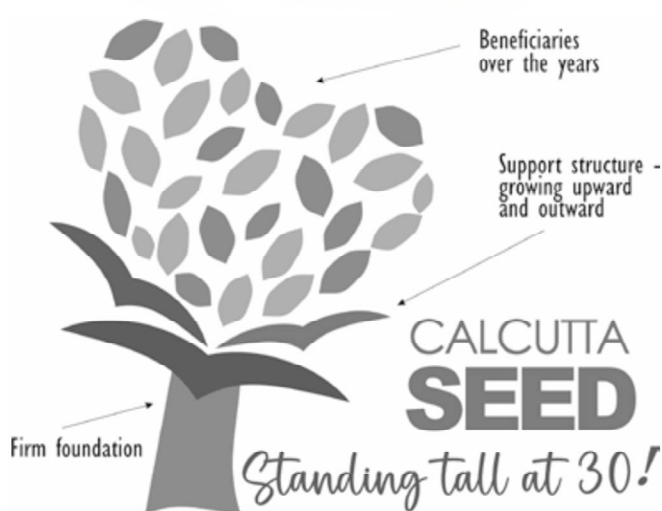
## Calcutta SEED Pearl Anniversary logo



**Description:** The logo depicts a graphical tree with segmented green branches - the segments are the exact same three shoots of the sapling depicted on the organisation's standard logo. The canopy above the branches are covered with heart-shaped foliage of pink and pearl leaves. The graphic's slight offset/tilt adding joyous dynamism. The tagline "Standing tall at 30!" is included in the masthead font of the standard (original 1994) SEED logo.

**Interpretation:** The sapling that was nourished by the water droplet depicted in the original logo, is now a fully formed adult, with rising branches spreading its canopy, a rich foliage of leaves - 30, signifying the 30 years of empowered beneficiaries. The borrowed elements from the original logo represent the continuity of vision and work of the organisation, even as their re-assignment signifies the growth over the decades.

**Inspiration:** Calcutta SEED's little seedling represented the young lives nourished and put on a journey to achieve their potential. Three decades on, this "seedling" is now a strong tree, as more and more beneficiaries find their useful and dignified place in the world; collectively becoming a symbol, an inspiration and supporting circle of love, urging confidence in new "seedlings" and indeed the organisation itself. Thus, every SEEDling - from the first in 1994 - forever is, Calcutta SEED. Today, they stand tall.



- Concept & design by  
**Mr Farrell Shah**



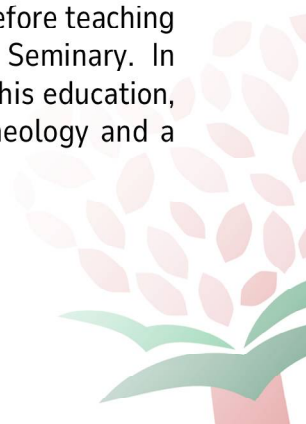
### *History of Calcutta SEED- Sowing seeds of education, bearing fruits of development*

#### **Founding Vision and Inspiration (1981-1994)**

The origins and the inspiration of the Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development (Calcutta SEED) trace back to the unwavering love, dedication, and self-sacrifice of one pious woman—Agnes Menezes. Agnes, a simple government primary school teacher from a village in Mangalore, was the eldest sister of Fr. Franklin Menezes (the present Secretary of Calcutta SEED) and played a pivotal role in shaping his future. Fr. Franklin, the twelfth and youngest child of his parents who themselves had never received formal schooling, benefited immensely from Agnes' sacrifices. Twenty-five years older to him, Agnes, despite her modest education, made it her mission to ensure her youngest baby brother received the best possible opportunities. She enrolled him at St. Aloysius Boarding School, where Franklin excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities.

After completing his education, Franklin followed his calling to the priesthood, entering the seminary and later being ordained for the Archdiocese of Calcutta. He pursued his philosophical and theological studies at Morning Star College and Jnana Deepa

Vidyapeeth, Pune respectively, before teaching for two years at Morning Star Seminary. In 1981, he left for Rome to further his education, earning a doctorate in Sacred Theology and a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture.





Fr. Franklin's six-year stay in Europe exposed him to the stark contrasts between the economic prosperity of the West and the underdevelopment he had seen in India, a gap he attributed to differences in education, innovation, and diligence. Upon his return to India in 1987, Fr. Franklin was committed to addressing the educational challenges faced by underprivileged children. He shared his concerns with Fr. John Noronha, who was then the Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Behala, and a former Director of Seva Kendra Calcutta. Fr. Noronha proposed the idea of establishing a registered society, emphasizing the importance of involving individuals from diverse professional backgrounds to ensure continuity, sustainability, and accountability.

With his vast experience in social work and expertise in establishing registered societies, Fr. Noronha took on the task of setting up this organization. By 1991, he had gathered a group of like-minded individuals in Calcutta, all dedicated to advancing the cause of education for economically disadvantaged children. This collaborative effort led to the formal registration of the Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development (Calcutta SEED) on July 22, 1994, under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.



The founding executive committee consisted of key figures committed to addressing the educational and social needs of underprivileged communities:

- Rev. Dr. Franklin Menezes (President)
- Mr. Percy Jones (Vice-President)
- Rev. Fr. John Noronha (Secretary)
- Mrs. Leanette Lewis (Treasurer)
- Dr. Satrujit Dasgupta, Mr. Manabendra Nath Mondal, and Mr. John Fernandes (Members)

Under their leadership, Calcutta SEED quickly expanded its efforts beyond Calcutta, extending its reach to tribal and rural communities in Bengal and Assam, setting the foundation for its enduring mission of educational and social empowerment.



At the Annual General Meeting held on October 18, 2001, Bishop Cyprian Monis was elected as the President and Fr. I.P. Sarto as the Secretary and Fr. Franklin Menezes as the Treasurer. During the period 2001 to 2009, a lot of work was done under the dynamic leadership of Fr. I.P. Sarto.

On December 09, 2009, Fr. Gerry Machado was elected as the Secretary of Calcutta SEED.

On September 27, 2014, there was a change of office bearers:

- Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (President)
- Fr. Franklin Menezes (Secretary)

*The society was founded with the vision of creating “An educated and developed society built on the values of justice, fellowship and love” and its mission is, “to build a society where peace is rooted in justice, love thrives through freedom, and hope is sustained by faith, creating a foundation for true growth and unity”.*





### *Gifts and Contributions (1994-2007)*

One of the pivotal moments in the early years of Calcutta SEED was the donation of a piece of land by Ms. Maya Gomes, a pious and devout parishioner of Infant Jesus Church, Behala. At that time, the land had turned into a water body covered with weeds and she feared that her land would be illegally taken over by people with vested interests. Ms. Maya Gomes had initially intended to donate the land for a church; however, the parcel was too small for such a construction. At the suggestion of Fr. John Noronha (who was then the Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Behala), she agreed to gift the land to Calcutta SEED to support its mission of providing education and development opportunities for underprivileged children. However, the land, measuring 4 Kathas and 11 chataks, was left undeveloped for several years due to a lack of funds for development.

It was only after Fr. Franklin took a sabbatical and stayed at St. Philip's Church in Pasadena, California, USA, that, with the support and permission of Fr. Joe Moniz, the then parish priest of St. Philip's, he was able to raise the necessary funds to develop the land. This effort, along with the assistance of a few other donors arranged through Fr. John Noronha's

contacts, made it possible to construct a building on the site. Thereafter, under the leadership of Fr. I.P. Sarto, the then Secretary of Calcutta SEED, construction began, and the Human Resource Development Centre at Shakuntala Park was completed in 2007. The same building was later converted to St. Philip's Nursery School on June 16, 2008.

### *Early Programs and Educational Support (1995-2005)*

Calcutta SEED's activities began with a focus on educational assistance. By the mid-1990s, they were sponsoring children's education, providing funds for books, uniforms, school fees, and boarding expenses. Some key accomplishments include:

- 1995-1996: Sponsored 49 children and provided educational assistance to 72 more. Medical assistance was given to one child for an aortic valve operation.
- 1996-1997: Sponsored 44 children and supported 135 children with educational assistance. Additionally, seven children received medical aid.
- 1997-1998: Sponsored 40 children and offered educational assistance to 58 more. Medical help was provided to eight children.



The society also initiated vocational guidance programs, providing career guidance to youth and hosting seminars for parents on value education. In 1998, a vocational guidance cell was established to assist young people in choosing appropriate careers.

Community Development and Tribal Education (1998-2005)

Calcutta SEED's focus expanded to include rural and tribal communities. Notably, between 1998 and 2000, the society adopted the "Skill Targeted Academic Growth" methodology, developed by Fr. Mongal Das, SJ, to educate Santhal tribal children. This method was implemented in 15 centers, reaching more than 1,000 children.

Additional community development programs included:

- **1999-2000:** Village surveys were conducted in 11 villages in Burdwan District to assess literacy levels and socio-economic conditions. Calcutta SEED organized motivation sessions for parents, emphasizing the importance of education, particularly for girl children.

- **2000-2001:** Self-help groups (SHGs) were established in 15 villages with 1,500 women, promoting financial independence and self-reliance.

- **2001-2002:** Calcutta SEED helped strengthen traditional village institutions, including tribal heads and panchayats, to manage crises like natural disasters. Additionally, 50 houses were built for victims of the 2001 floods.



### *Disaster Management and Rehabilitation (2000-2005)*

Calcutta SEED played a significant role in disaster relief and rehabilitation during the floods that affected Bengal in 2000 and 2001. The society extended food aid to 10,000 families and provided medical services to flood-affected communities. In addition to emergency assistance, Calcutta SEED built houses for flood victims, constructing over 200 homes by 2005.

### *St. Philip's School and Expansion (2007-2008)*

The Shakuntala Park land, which had been donated by Ms. Maya Gomes, finally came to fruition with the establishment of St. Philip's Nursery School on June 16, 2008. The school started with just two children and grew steadily under the care of Mrs. Manjula Ghosh and her team. By the second year, the number of students had increased to 21, and the school became a hub of activity, offering competitions in recitation, drawing, fancy dress, and singing.

### *Continued Community Development and Vocational Training (2005-2008)*

As Calcutta SEED's programs evolved, the focus remained on community development and vocational training for youth. Some key initiatives included:

- **2004-2005:** Twelve SHGs were formed for Santhal women in Burdwan, allowing them to take loans for self-employment ventures. This financial independence enabled them to send their children to English-medium schools.

- **2007-2008:** The Human Resource Development Centre at Shakuntala Park became operational, and the Sisters of the 'Handmaids of Mary' arrived to begin educational programs for local children on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and after a year in 2018 took full charge of the school.



## Work in Progress (2009-2024)



Over the years, Calcutta SEED has provided educational support to over 2,000 children, with regular follow-up visits to ensure their progress. More than 100 youth were guided through vocational programs, many of whom went on to pursue technical education and careers in fields like carpentry, electronics, and nursing.

Medical assistance was another critical area of Calcutta SEED's work. Calcutta SEED provided medical support to numerous children for surgeries, treatments, and disaster-related health issues. Health promotion programs were also initiated to combat malnutrition and improve hygiene in rural areas.

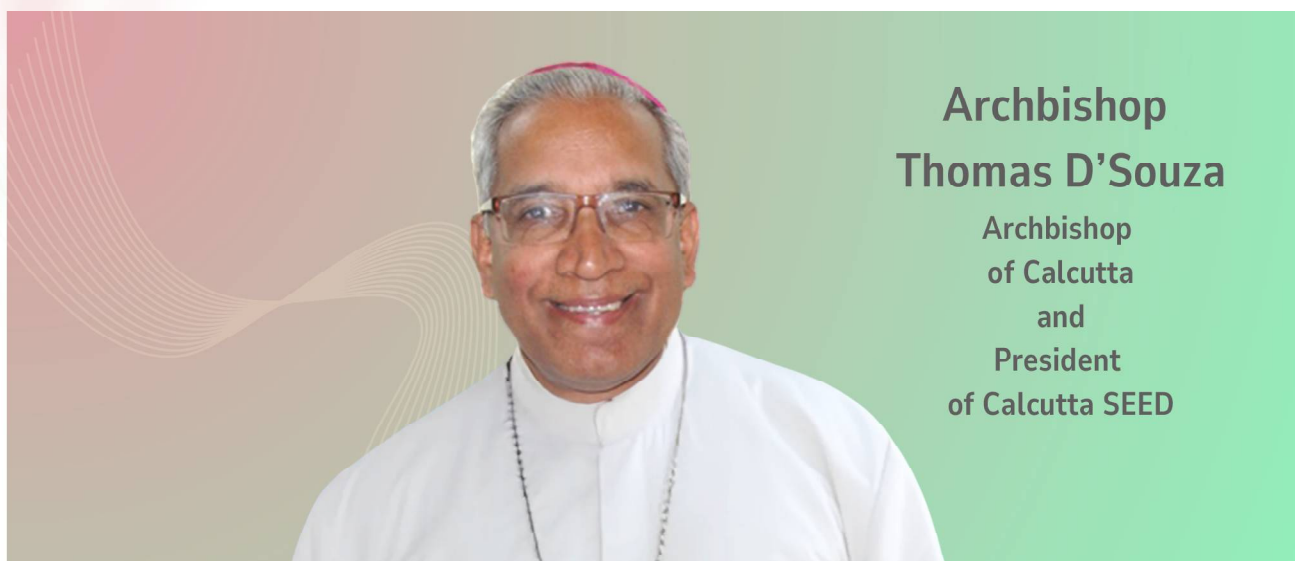
As will become evident through the pages that follow, under the able leadership of Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and the dedicated efforts of Fr. Franklin Menezes and other members of the Executive Board, Calcutta SEED has made remarkable strides in various areas concerning education and development. Two Learning Centres for underprivileged children have been established, initiated women's empowerment programs through solar assembling training, tailoring, and computer education, and provided youth with essential computer training. In the field of healthcare, a new homeopathy clinic has been set up, and in labour welfare, initiatives have been launched to support and improve the lives of headload workers in Burrabuzar, Kolkata.

### Conclusion: A Growing Legacy

From its humble beginnings, Calcutta SEED has grown into a dynamic organization that touches the lives of thousands of children, families, and communities across Bengal. Its multifaceted approach—ranging from educational sponsorship, disaster management, women empowerment and community development—reflects its commitment to holistic, sustainable growth. While much has been achieved, the society continues to strive toward its goal of uplifting the marginalized through education and empowerment.







## Archbishop Thomas D'Souza

Archbishop  
of Calcutta  
and  
President  
of Calcutta SEED

The seeds of Calcutta SEED (Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development) were sown with the inspiration and zeal to work for underprivileged children in the field of education and empowerment through development. Founded by Fr. Franklin, Fr. John, and other like-minded individuals from various professions, this initiative grew into a registered society on July 22, 1994. Today, Calcutta SEED continues its mission to empower disadvantaged, poor, and marginalised women and children, thanks to the dedication and vision of its founders and supporters.

In the course of last thirty years, the seed has sprouted, grown into a tree and is bearing fruit. The different activities for poor children in the field of education and skill training are now on at St. Philip's Nursery School at Shakuntala Park managed by dedicated Helpers of Mary Sisters, and in the premises of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary, at the initiative of Fr. Franklin Menezes and his dedicated band of teachers. Similar activities are carried out in the suburbs of Kolkata for the poor and needy children. Unemployed but interested poor women are attending Tailoring classes and making a decent income for their families. All these are the fruits of Calcutta SEED.

As Calcutta SEED celebrates the THIRTY YEARS of its existence, I thank God who inspires people to sow the seeds of charity and gives the growth. We remember the pioneers and all those who have laboured hard to bring about the welfare and empowerment of poor children and women through educational and social programmes during the past 30 years.

I send my cordial greetings of CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE on this occasion to Fr. Franklin Menezes, Sr. Prativa HM, the generous and selfless teachers, benefactors, well-wishers, and above all the children, their parents and beneficiaries for making Calcutta SEED stand tall at 30! May the noble work continue for many years to come!



+ Thomas D'Souza  
Archbishop of Calcutta



**Bishop  
Cyprian Monis**  
Emeritus Bishop  
of Asansol  
and  
Former President  
of Calcutta SEED

The Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development (Calcutta SEED) was founded in 1994 as a registered society focused on the holistic development of children in Calcutta and its neighbouring areas. The first executive committee worked diligently to secure registration under the Income Tax Act and to obtain FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration, enabling the society to receive funding from overseas.

In 1999, I was invited to join the Executive Committee, and subsequently, I was elected as the President of the society. During my tenure, we extended our support to tribal children in the Bankura and Burdwan districts, offering non-formal education. Through the innovative memory-based learning method, "Skill Targeted Academic Growth," developed by Fr. Mongal Das, SJ, we were able to help many tribal children, who had never attended school, transition into regular formal education within a short period. Approximately 15 coaching centres utilized Fr. Mongal Das' methodology, assisting around 500 underprivileged students.

Calcutta SEED also expanded its services to include vocational guidance, skill training, and counselling for youth. In addition to educational support, some children received medical assistance. With donations from various benefactors,

Calcutta SEED helped construct around 400 houses for flood victims in the Burdwan and Birbhum districts.

As Calcutta SEED celebrates its Pearl Jubilee, we extend heartfelt thanks to all our donors—both foreign and Indian—who generously supported our efforts to provide timely aid to needy children and impoverished families. The society has helped many children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds secure a brighter future. As the former President of the Calcutta SEED executive board, I express my deepest gratitude to all the donors for their generous contributions to our cause.

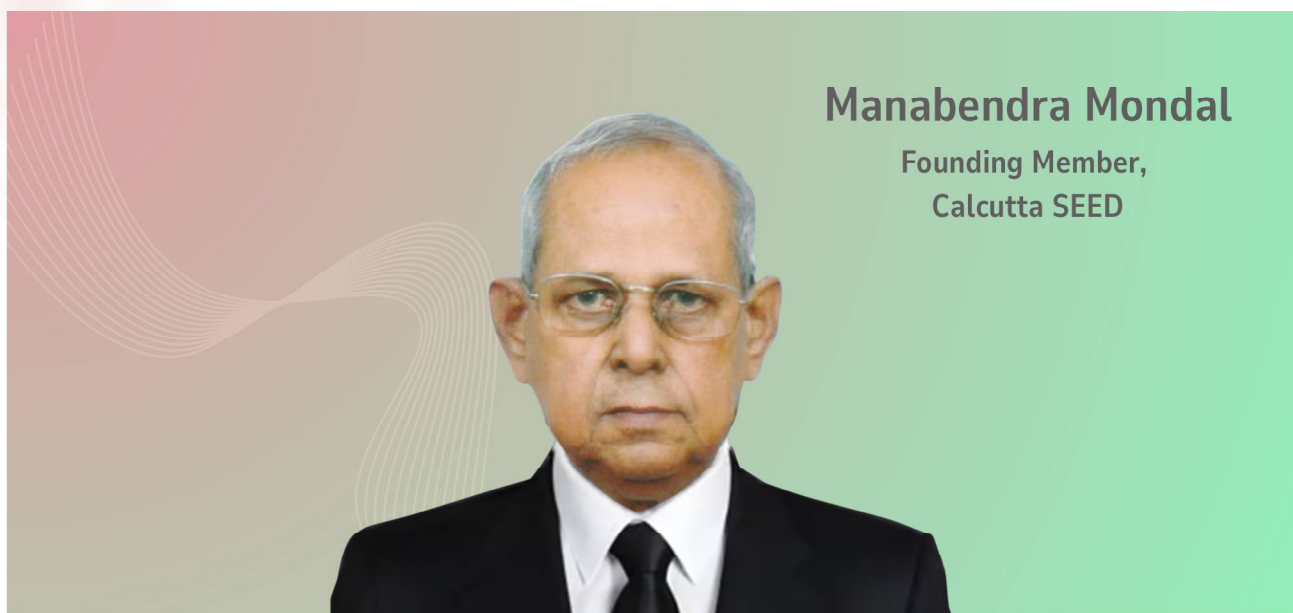
May God bless them and their families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Monis".

+ Cyprian Monis  
Emeritus Bishop of Asansol







## Manabendra Mondal

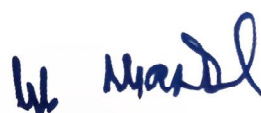
Founding Member,  
Calcutta SEED

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development (Calcutta SEED) on completing 30 glorious years of service to the underprivileged children of West Bengal. It fills me with immense pride and joy to witness the organization grow from its humble beginnings to becoming a beacon of hope for countless young lives.

When we founded this society on July 22, 1994, we carried a shared vision of making education accessible to those for whom it was a distant dream. Over the years, this vision has translated into tangible outcomes—empowering children, uplifting families, and building communities. This journey has been made possible through the unwavering commitment of dedicated members, donors, and well-wishers who believed in the transformative power of education.

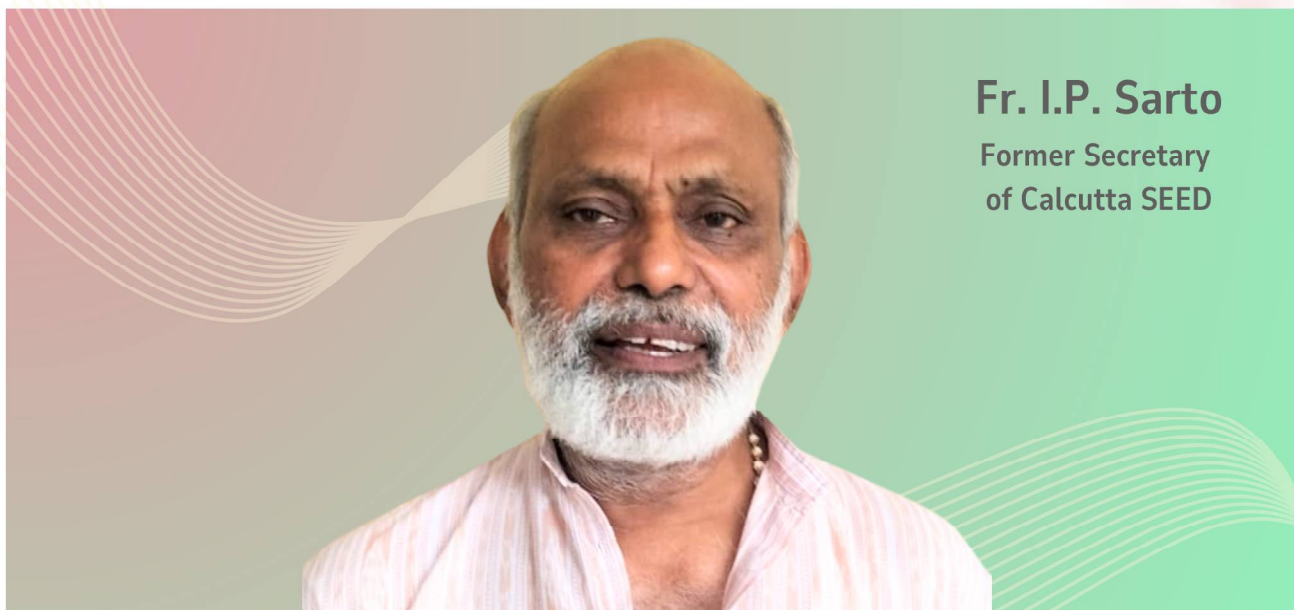
As we celebrate this milestone, let us rededicate ourselves to the mission of creating a just and equitable society where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. May Calcutta SEED continue to illuminate lives and inspire change for many more decades to come.

With gratitude and best wishes,



Manabendra Mondal  
Founding Member,  
Calcutta SEED





**Fr. I.P. Sarto**

Former Secretary  
of Calcutta SEED

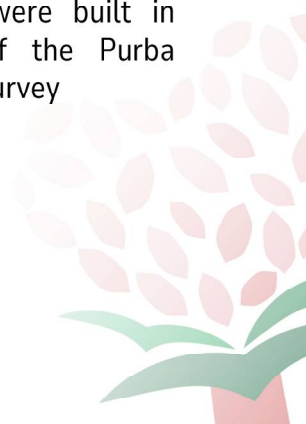
I am happy to reflect on my close association with Calcutta SEED as it commemorates its Pearl Jubilee this year. I feel privileged to have been involved with the organization for almost a decade of its history. Just as a seed grows into a tree and bears many fruits, Calcutta SEED has produced countless blessings in the lives of children. Many children and their families have benefited immensely from Calcutta SEED's services.

While many of Calcutta SEED's achievements come to mind, I would like to focus on the devastating floods of 2000, which caused severe damage in South Bengal. During this calamity, thousands of houses were destroyed, crops worth ₹40 crores were washed away, and many people lost their household belongings, savings, and important documents. In the aftermath of the disaster, several NGOs came forward to provide relief and rehabilitation for those affected.

Calcutta SEED was one of the first to respond, launching relief efforts immediately. In collaboration with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, we organized medical camps and distributed relief materials and dry food to victims along the banks of the Ajoy River. More than 5,000 people in the Birbhum and Burdwan districts were provided with food supplies that lasted for a week. Generous donors also

contributed to help children who had lost their books, stationery, and clothes in the flood. In addition to providing educational support, the executive board of Calcutta SEED decided to take a long-term approach by building brick-wall houses for those living in flood-prone areas, who previously resided in vulnerable mud-wall houses.

With the support of Fr. John Noronha, the founder Secretary of Calcutta SEED, and financial assistance from Caritas India, we initiated steps to construct nearly 400 homes for poor tribal and marginalized families affected by the floods. By doing so, we ensured not only food and clothing for the children but also safe shelter for their families. Between 2001 and 2005, 380 houses were built in Purbasthali Block I and II of the Purba Burdwan district after a careful survey



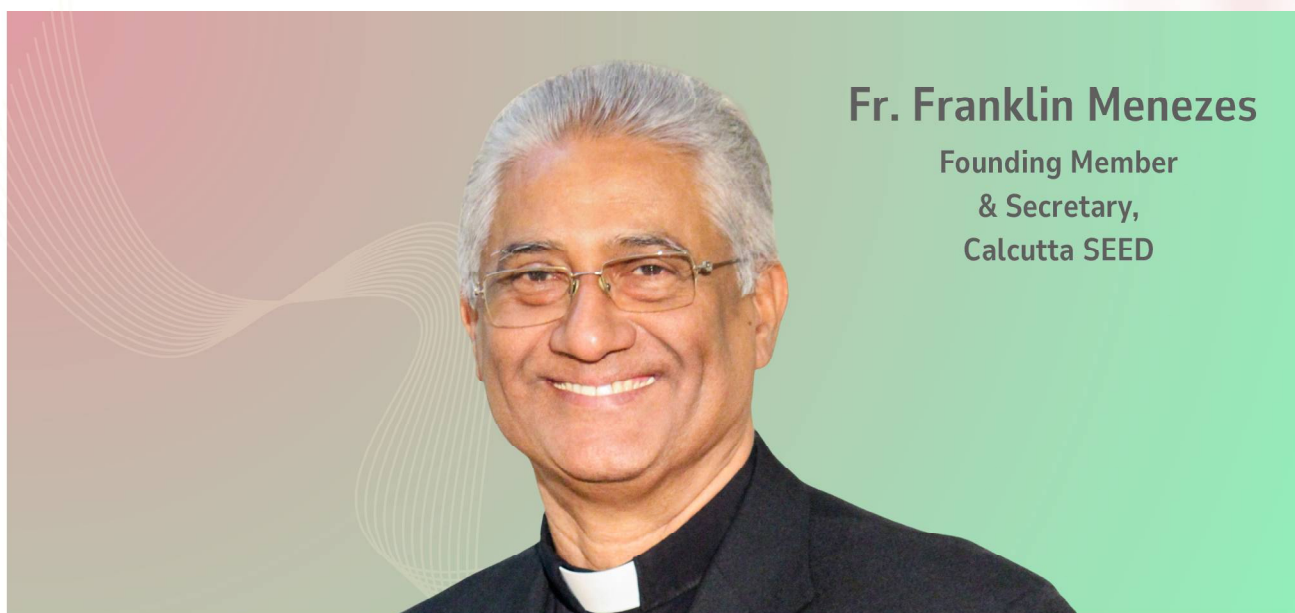
identified the most vulnerable households. The Calcutta SEED executive committee closely monitored the construction process. Our animation sessions also motivated the local people to contribute their labour toward building these homes, with Calcutta SEED covering 75% of the construction costs and the people contributing the remainder. The beneficiaries remain deeply grateful to Calcutta SEED and the donors who made this possible.

Food, clothing, shelter, and education are essential for human survival, and Calcutta SEED has played a vital role in providing these to children in need. I am deeply grateful to God for everything that has been accomplished through SEED. May God bless all the donors and the current executive board members.

I.P. Sarto  
Executive Board Member (1998–2009)





**Fr. Franklin Menezes**

Founding Member  
& Secretary,  
Calcutta SEED

Greetings,

As Calcutta SEED celebrates its 30th year, it is a profound privilege to reflect on the journey that began with a shared commitment to education, empowerment, and compassion. Inspired by my dear sister Agnes, a teacher whose modest life's work uplifted many, I was deeply moved by her example of selflessness. Agnes's influence planted the seeds of SEED, instilling a vision to provide underprivileged children with access to education and the hope of a brighter future.

### **Celebrating Thirty Years of Transformation**

This milestone year is not only a celebration but a reflection of the dedication and resilience that has characterized Calcutta SEED's mission. From a small group of educators and social workers in 1994 to an organization impacting thousands of lives, Calcutta SEED has grown into a force for good. Thirty years of dedicated service have allowed us to extend our reach beyond Kolkata to the remote tribal areas of West Bengal, building sustainable education and community empowerment programs that continue to bear fruit.

Our projects this past year have been multifaceted, each aimed at uplifting our communities through education, healthcare, skills training, and cultural enrichment. The initiatives have made tangible differences—from early education for children to vocational training for adults, every program reflects our commitment to “planting seeds of hope and nurturing futures.”





### Reflecting on Achievements and Growth Highlights of this year include:

**1. Educational Sponsorship and Assistance:** Our **Roots of Hope Sponsorship and Learning Support Programme** has provided financial and academic support to underprivileged children, enabling their uninterrupted journey through school. In partnership with caring donors, we have covered school fees, provided study materials, and ensured each child receives the guidance necessary to thrive academically and personally.

**2. Learning Centres and Skill Development:** Calcutta SEED's **Knowledge Tree Learning Tree Centre** at the Cathedral and **Learning Tree Learning Centre** at Solo Bigha and **Sakhsham Computer Centres** at the Cathedral and Kolsur, North 24 Parganas have been pivotal in bridging educational gaps for disadvantaged youth. By offering computer literacy and English language education, these centres equip children and young adults with skills to participate in an increasingly digital world, creating avenues for further education and employment.

**3. Empowering Women and Youth through Vocational Training:** Projects such as **Tejaswini**, which trains women in solar technology, and the **Roshnee Tailoring Training Centre** at the Cathedral and **Sew-Wings** at Salajpur exemplify our mission to foster independence and dignity in women. In urban and rural areas alike, these programs not only build skills but also uplift spirits and enhance livelihoods, especially for women seeking economic independence.

**4. Holistic Healthcare Initiatives:** The **Real Homeoclinic**, offering accessible homeopathic care weekly, and different healthcare initiatives for the Mutiyas (headload labourers) of Burrabazar provides crucial health support to the most needy. These services embody our holistic approach to community care, meeting both physical and emotional needs through compassionate care.

### Guided by the Light of Faith and Global Inspiration

Drawing inspiration from the Church's call to serve "the least among us" through education, we are reminded of our responsibility to subvert the unjust structures that hinder the potential of vulnerable populations. The Church's stance on educational equality inspires Calcutta SEED to remain steadfast in its mission of empowering those with limited access to education, equipping them to build self-reliant futures and lead with dignity in their communities.

### Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, we aspire to deepen our impact and broaden our reach. Plans are underway to introduce digital resources, develop a dedicated centre for skill development, and expand our sponsorship programs by developing a corpus fund for the purpose. Through these steps, we hope to create lasting change in the lives of children and families who trust in our commitment.

*In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of Calcutta SEED, our generous donors, and the community members who work alongside us. Your support over these 30 years has been the foundation of our growth. Together, we will continue sowing seeds of hope and expanding the reach of educational empowerment for generations to come.*

With faith, hope and love,



Franklin Menezes  
Secretary, Calcutta SEED

# PROJECTS





# St. Philip's Preparatory School



**Estd. June 16, 2008**

**A school with a mission to provide quality education to children from diverse backgrounds.  
(Calcutta SEED initiative)**

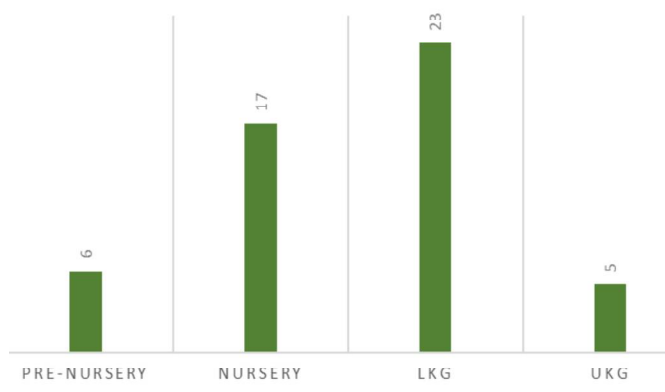
St. Philip's Nursery School continues its journey of providing early education to children from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. This report outlines the key achievements, milestones, activities, and infrastructural updates for the academic year April 2023 to May 2024.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Total Number of Students: 51

Class	Number of Students
Pre-Nursery	06
Nursery	17
LKG	23
UKG	05

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS





## Staff Members

Role	Name
Headmistress	Sr. Prem Prativa Baa
Teachers	Sr. Pritilata Dungdung Mrs. Sampa Dutta Sr. Cathrina Ekka (joined in June 2024)
Helper	Joshna Barla

**Staff Transition:**  
A memorable farewell was held for Sr. Serophina Kullu, who was transferred, and Sr. Cathrina Ekka joined in June 2024.

## Admissions & Academic Performance

- New Admissions 2024: 19 students enrolled.
- Transferred to Renowned Schools: 12 students admitted to schools like St. Xavier's, Vivekananda Mission, Kendriya Vidyalaya, and others.

Examination Schedule	Dates
Monthly Tests	March-April, September, July, December
Half-Yearly and Final Exams	March 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Revision Test (New Session)	March 2024



## Parent-Teacher Engagement

- Meetings Held: In April, August, October, December 2023, and April 2024, productive parent-teacher meetings were conducted, ensuring continuous communication regarding student growth.





### Events & Celebrations

A vibrant school spirit was maintained with celebrations and competitions throughout the year, fostering a strong community and creative development.

#### Key Events:

- **Christmas Get-together** (16th Dec 2023): Competitions for parents (Musical Chair, Lucky Draw) with prizes and certificates. Students performed and cultural programs were conducted.
- **Independence Day Cultural Program** (16th August 2023): Competitions like Speech (UKG), Patriotic Songs (LKG), National Flag Drawing & Colouring, and Fancy Dress for Pre-Nursery & Nursery.



- **Teachers' Day** (5th September 2023): Students performed group and solo acts. Parents brought cakes and gifts for teachers.

### Infrastructure & Maintenance

- **Renovations:** Main gate repaired and painted. Window repairs ongoing.



## SEED - PROJECTS

- **Community Clean-Up:** Following a request from KMC, school grounds were cleaned to prevent dengue outbreaks.
- **Vegetation:** The land behind the school was cleared for vegetation purposes.

### **Collaborations & Community Engagement**

- **Calcutta SEED Participation:** The school staff participated in several Calcutta SEED meetings and workshops, including:  
11th October 2023: Staff meeting at the Cathedral.

10th & 17th February 2024:  
Workshop on Photography at the Cathedral.

8th March 2024: Participation in International Women's Day celebrations at the Cathedral.

### **Use of Infrastructure by Local Community**

The local club organized Durga Puja and Kali Puja from 21st to 24th October 2023 using the school premises, and community gatherings such as Annaprasana and death anniversary commemorations also took place, benefiting local families.

### **Looking Forward**

*The upcoming year will focus on further enhancing the academic programs, maintaining infrastructure, and strengthening community engagement. We aim to create a more enriching and secure environment for our students, alongside reinforcing collaboration with local organizations like Calcutta SEED.*





## Nurturing Beginnings: The Journey of St. Philips Nursery School



**Mrs. Manjula Ghosh**

In December 2007, during a Christmas program at St. Francis Xavier Church, Bowbazar, the then Parish Priest and co-founder of Calcutta SEED announced that a new Montessori school would be established under Calcutta SEED. Preparations for the school's opening began in April 2008, culminating in my interview at St. Francis Xavier Church, Bowbazar on May 13th.

Admission forms were made available on June 1st, marking the official establishment of 'St. Philips Nursery School,' which opened its doors on June 16th with an initial enrollment of five students. The key personnel included myself, Manjula Ghosh, as Principal, Megha Toppo as a teacher, Sumi Lakra as janitress, and Prabhat Adhikary as caretaker.

Our inaugural Teacher's Day and Christmas programs were held, attended by Father Sarto, with help from Father John and a small group of seven students. By the end of 2008, the student body had grown to seven students in the nursery class.

In 2009, we expanded to include a KG class with seven students, alongside 12 students in the nursery class. We welcomed Tania Roy as the KG teacher. Our first progress meeting for St. Philips School took place on April 14th,

2009, with notable attendees including I.P. Sarto, Bishop C. Monis, and Father Gerry.

In September 2009, Father Gerry assumed the role of Secretary. Regular progress meetings were held at Bowbazar Church three times a year. By the end of 2009, our student body had increased to approximately 25 students, and by the start of 2010, the total enrollment reached 30 students.

The school continued to flourish through various activities, including picnics and celebrations for Children's Day and Teacher's Day. In 2014, the school came under the leadership of Father Franklin. In 2018, I stepped down as Principal, ensuring a smooth transition to new leadership for the continued growth of St. Philips Nursery School.



### Gallery: St. Philips Nursery School







**Project Period:** April 2023 to March 2024  
**Supported by** Education All, Belgium

The Knowledge Tree Learning Centre, is an educational initiative aimed at reintegrating school drop-outs and street and underprivileged children, who dropped out during the COVID-19 pandemic, into formal education. The project provides a structured curriculum focusing on English language proficiency and foundational mathematical skills for children aged 5 to 14 years. By the end of March 2024, 13 out of 60 registered children had successfully transitioned to formal schools.

### Target Area and Population

The Knowledge Tree operates in the heart of Burabazaar, a densely populated commercial area. The primary beneficiaries are children from the surrounding slums, such as those around Podder Court, who have limited access to quality education.

**Purpose:** To bridge the educational gap for street children and provide them with the tools necessary for long-term academic and social success.

**Strategy:** Utilize hands-on, skill-based methodologies tailored to children's specific learning needs. The program emphasizes holistic development, including extracurricular activities such as art, craft, and dance.

### Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** To provide quality education, focusing on English language skills, to marginalized children, thereby helping them compete with peers in English-medium schools.



### Program Approach

The program has implemented the following steps:

- **Classroom Infrastructure:** Investment in modern educational tools, including furniture, visual aids (TVs, tablets, LCD projectors), a collection of 300 storybooks, and internet connectivity.
- **Teaching Staff:** Recruitment of experienced and trained educators capable of handling the academic and socio-emotional needs of the children.
- **Curriculum Design:** Tailored to meet the individual needs of children, focusing on practical, skill-based learning.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Activities such as art, craft, dance, and sports enhance children's overall development.

### Key Achievements

- **Admissions to Formal Schools:** 13 children were admitted to prestigious schools by the end of March 2024.
- **Continued Support:** An after-school program provides continued academic assistance to students who have transitioned to formal schools.

### Main Activities

Throughout the year, various academic and extracurricular events were conducted, including:

- **Competitions:** Singing, Recitation, and Cookery competitions.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** Rabindra Jayanti, Republic Day, Christmas.
- **Counseling and Awareness Programs:** These were held to educate women on health and social issues.



### Monthly Activities Overview

Month	Activity/Event
April 2023	Summer Day, Parent's Meeting
May 2023	Singing & Recitation Competition
August 2023	Rabindra Jayanti, Independence Day
December 2023	Christmas Celebration
January 2024	Republic Day



### Challenges

- Irregular Attendance: Due to frequent trips to villages and parental responsibilities, maintaining regular attendance of all 60 students has been difficult.
- Household Responsibilities: Some parents rely on their children for household work, which hampers attendance.



### From Loss to Learning:

#### Veer and Rikky's Inspiring Educational Journey

**Background:** Veer (13) and Rikky (11) Singh lost their mother to suicide in January 2024. Both brothers, raised by their maternal grandmother, had no prior schooling experience after COVID-19.

**Progress:** In just over a year, both brothers developed proficiency in English and mathematics. Veer was admitted to Class 6 and Rikky to Class 5 at Sacred Heart Chinese School. They continue to receive academic support and meals at the center after school hours.



### Future Plans

Moving forward, the Knowledge Tree project aims to:

- Increase attendance consistency by addressing family-related challenges.
- Expand its outreach to admit more children from the local community.
- Continue providing academic and emotional support for children transitioning to formal schooling.

### Conclusion

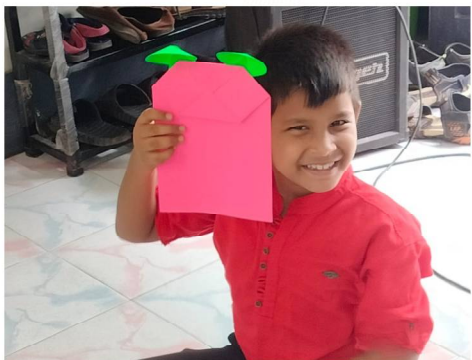
The Knowledge Tree project continues to make significant strides in educating marginalized children, offering them a chance to break free



from the cycle of poverty through quality education. Despite challenges, the program has managed to change lives, providing hope and a brighter future for children like Veer and Rikky Singh.



Gallery:  
Knowledge Tree







*Supported by Bhalobasa OdV*

At Calcutta SEED, we recognize that education is incomplete without proper nutrition. A hungry child struggles to focus, retain information, and participate in learning activities. The children studying at the Centre come from families of hand cart pullers, porters, and rickshaw pullers in the bustling trade hub of Burrabazar. These families struggle with extreme poverty, often living in makeshift shelters with little to no access to proper meals. Malnutrition is a pressing concern, affecting children's physical and cognitive development. Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the Knowledge Tree Nutrition Programme was designed to provide daily nutritious meals to 50 underprivileged children, ensuring they receive the sustenance necessary for healthy growth and learning.

### Programme Objectives

**The key goals of the Knowledge Tree Nutrition Programme include:**

- Providing Daily Nutritious Meals** – Ensuring that children have access to well-balanced meals that meet their dietary needs.
- Enhancing Learning Outcomes** – A well-fed child is more attentive, energetic, and capable of grasping lessons effectively.
- Promoting Physical and Cognitive Development** – Proper nutrition strengthens the immune system, reducing absenteeism due to illness.
- Encouraging School Attendance** – Many children come to school because they know they will receive a hot meal, fostering regular attendance.



## What's on the Plate?

Each meal is carefully planned to provide essential nutrients and includes::

- **Rice** – A staple providing necessary carbohydrates for energy.
- **Dal (Lentils)** – A rich source of protein for muscle development.
- **Vegetables** – Essential vitamins and minerals for overall health.
- **Eggs (occasionally)** – A protein supplement for better nourishment.
- **Fruits & Milk** (once a week) – Additional nutrition for immunity and growth.

A dedicated cook prepares meals hygienically, ensuring that the children receive well-balanced, fresh food daily.

## Implementation and Monitoring

The programme follows a structured implementation plan to maintain quality and efficiency:

**Daily Attendance & Meal Records** – Tracking the number of children receiving meals.

**Quarterly Health Check-ups** – Conducted by a doctor/nutritionist to assess the children's growth and overall health.

**Monthly Reports** – Documenting the food provided and evaluating its impact on the children's well-being.

Through continuous monitoring and evaluation, we ensure that every meal served contributes to the health and development of these young learners.

## Acknowledgment & Gratitude

This programme would not be possible without the generous support of **Bhalobasa**, whose commitment to child welfare continues to transform lives.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our belief that every meal served is an investment in a child's future. Together, we nourish. Together, we educate. Together, we create change.

## The Impact So Far

The introduction of nutritious meals has significantly improved the health and academic performance of the children at the Knowledge Tree Learning Centre. Some key outcomes observed include:

**Improved Concentration & Classroom Participation** – With adequate nutrition, children are more alert and engaged in learning activities.

**Better Physical Health** – Fewer cases of illness and increased stamina among students.

**Increased Attendance** – Knowing they will receive a meal at school motivates children to attend regularly.

**Community Engagement** – Parents and guardians are actively involved, appreciating the positive impact on their children.

## Future Plans & Expansion

The Knowledge Tree Nutrition Programme is a three-year initiative (2024-2027), with plans to expand its reach and improve dietary support by:

- ◆ Increasing the number of beneficiaries to support more children in need.
- ◆ Adding more protein-rich foods like eggs and milk more frequently.
- ◆ Incorporating nutrition education sessions for both children and their families.
- ◆ Establishing sustainable funding models to ensure long-term impact.

Additionally, we aim to integrate vocational training for mothers, empowering them with skills in nutrition and food preparation, which can help sustain healthy eating habits at home.





## Learning Tree – Learning Centre at Solo Bigha



**Project Period: April 2023 - March 2024**  
**Supported by Stichting Actie Calcutta**

The Learning Tree Learning Centre at Solo Bigha was established with the mission to provide comprehensive learning support to the children from marginalized and impoverished families living in the slum area of Solo Bigha. Supported by Stichting Actie Calcutta, the centre focuses on offering quality education in English, Math, and Environmental Studies (EVS) to children aged 5 to 14. The program employs the "Joyful Learning" pedagogy to engage children in both academics and extracurricular activities like games, drawing, and cultural celebrations.

Date	Activity/Event
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Rabindra Jayanti – Celebrations with 20 children (1st batch) and 36 children (2nd batch)
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Mother's Day – Card-making activity.
14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Drawing class on Independence Day theme
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Independence Day – National anthem, games, and cultural programs.
5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Teachers' Day – Children expressed gratitude through performances and drawings.
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Children's Day – Cultural event and interactive games.
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Christmas Celebration – A day of joy with singing and gift distribution.
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Swami Vivekananda's Birthday – Special activities focused on life lessons.

### Key Activities & Events

Throughout the academic year, the children participated in a variety of activities and competitions, encouraging both academic excellence and creative expression. Some notable activities are mentioned in the table.



## Academic Focus Areas

The academic curriculum is designed to cover fundamental concepts across English, Mathematics, and Environmental Studies (EVS). Below is a breakdown of key topics taught during the year:

### Challenges

While Learning Tree has made significant strides in educating marginalized children, some challenges remain:

- Irregular Attendance: Frequent absenteeism due to conjunctivitis outbreaks during the rainy season, seasonal illnesses, and children helping their parents with household work.
- Parent Support: Some parents do not prioritize education, which affects the regular attendance and engagement of children.

Despite these challenges, efforts are being made to engage parents through counseling sessions and awareness programs to emphasize the importance of education.

### Future Plans

Learning Tree aims to further strengthen its outreach by:

- Increasing student retention and attendance through community engagement.
- Continuing its collaboration with Stichting Actie Calcutta to improve learning resources and provide nutritional and health support.

Subject	Key Topics
English	Singular-Plural, Alphabets (Capital & Small), Action Songs, Rhymes, Opposite Words, Cursive Writing.
Mathematics	Number names, Fractions, Addition, Subtraction, Number Sequences (before, after, between), Multiplication tables.
EVS	Body Parts, Food We Eat, Fruits and Vegetables, Parts of Plants, Animal and Animal Babies, Seasons, Months, and Weeks.
Bengali	Alphabets, words, short sentences

Each subject was supplemented with interactive activities such as drawing, role-playing, and games to reinforce learning.







**July 2023 - June 2024**

**Supported by: Green Energy Against Poverty e.V**

The Tejaswini Project was initiated to empower women in the villages of **Salajpur** and **Kutki** (Narayangarh Block, Paschim Medinipur) by teaching them to assemble and sell solar lanterns, LED bulbs, and night lights. The project aimed to provide skills that improve access to green energy and foster micro-entrepreneurship

### Main Activities

- Training: 25 women from the two villages were trained to assemble solar lanterns, LED bulbs, and night bulbs. Training sessions were held thrice weekly, in two groups.
- Production and Sales:
  - 150 solar lanterns, 100 LED bulbs, and 1000 night bulbs were assembled and sold.
  - Three solar panels were installed.
- Special Events: Women's Day and other community events were celebrated to raise awareness about environmental protection and gender equity.
- Market Initiatives: Two exhibitions were held, and the women participated in selling products during Women's Day celebrations.

### Challenges and Response

- **Challenges:**
  - Initial reluctance to participate in sales.
  - Dropouts due to slow earnings during the training phase.
- **Response:**
  - Expanding the product line to include LED and night bulbs.
  - Coordinators supported sales efforts by joining women in outreach activities.



### Outcomes and Future Plans

#### Empowerment:

The 25 women have gained technical skills in assembling solar products and selling them.

#### Revenue:

Sales generated Rs. 50,000, which will be reinvested in procuring new materials.

#### Future Plans:

- Establish a dedicated shop for solar products.
- Train local technicians for solar panel installations.
- Explore technology for solar-powered mobile phone charging.



### Story of Change

*Mahima Das, a village resident, purchased a solar lantern before Cyclone Remal. During the three-day power outage caused by the cyclone, her family was able to use the solar lantern for lighting and her child's studies.*





## Sammaan: Psycho-Social and Behavioral Change among Headload Laborers



*April 2023 - March 2024*

*Supported by Likvidace Lepry, The Czech Republic*

Project Sammaan which began on March 18, 2023 focuses on addressing the psycho-social and behavioral challenges of the headload laborers (Mutiya) in Burrabazar, Kolkata. These workers face numerous issues, including addiction, health risks, and lack of access to social security. The project aims to bring about long-term behavioral change through awareness programs, health interventions, and social security support.

### Key Achievements

- Health Camps: Multiple health camps were conducted, providing crucial medical services. These included:
  - Physiotherapy sessions to address musculoskeletal issues among Mutiyas.
  - General medical check-ups that ensured early detection of potential health issues.
  - Eye checkups that led to the distribution of prescriptive glasses, improving vision and quality of life for many participants.
  - Cancer screening camps that focused on early detection and prevention measures.
- Awareness Campaigns: The project utilized a variety of interactive methods, such as puppet shows and community meetings, to educate the Mutiyas on essential health and hygiene topics. Campaigns raised



## SEED - PROJECTS

- awareness on the prevention of Dengue, Malaria, and STDs. Cultural events and national celebrations, like Independence and Republic Day, further strengthened community ties and engagement.
- De-addiction Workshops: The project conducted targeted de-addiction workshops that addressed the prevalent issue of substance abuse within the Mutiya community. These workshops provided education and support, helping individuals on their path to recovery from addiction.
- HIV/AIDS Testing and Referrals: Testing services for HIV/AIDS were introduced, along with referrals to healthcare facilities for those in need. This crucial intervention addressed a significant health risk within the community.
- Community Building and Engagement: Beyond health and education, the project facilitated regular cultural celebrations, such as Republic Day, which helped foster a sense of identity, pride, and unity among the Mutiyas. These events were well-attended and created a strong sense of community cohesion.

## Challenges and Lessons Learned

### • Challenges:

- Limited participation in some awareness programs due to scheduling conflicts and stigma surrounding certain issues, like HIV/AIDS and addiction.
- Logistical difficulties in organizing workshops and camps, such as aligning availability of resources.

### • Lessons Learned:

- Flexibility in scheduling workshops and camps was crucial in engaging more participants.
- Tailoring programs and awareness messages to the specific needs of the Mutiyas helped increase participation and impact.





### Stories of Change

#### Breaking the Chains of Addiction

Mathura Yadav, a 45-year-old headload labourer from the streets of Kolkata, spent more than two decades trapped in the clutches of alcohol addiction. With no formal education and a monthly income of approximately ₹10,000, Mathura struggled to manage his day-to-day life. Alcohol became his coping mechanism, offering temporary relief from the harsh realities of his physically demanding job. However, the long-term consequences were devastating—his health deteriorated, his family suffered, and his productivity plummeted.

When Mathura came into contact with Project Sammaan, he was initially reluctant to participate in the de-addiction workshops. Like many in his position, he had grown accustomed to the patterns of addiction and was skeptical about whether change was even possible. However, through patient outreach and continuous engagement by the project team, Mathura began attending the de-addiction sessions.

The workshops were structured to create a supportive, non-judgmental space where participants could openly discuss their struggles with substance abuse. Mathura was exposed to educational materials on the physical, mental, and social harms of alcohol addiction. For the first time, he started to realize how deeply his dependence on alcohol was affecting his overall well-being.

With the guidance of counselors and peer support, Mathura slowly began to reduce his alcohol consumption. The workshops also introduced him to healthier coping mechanisms, such as yoga and meditation, which helped him manage stress and anxiety.

Over time, he regained control over his life and health. Today, Mathura proudly calls himself sober and is no longer reliant on alcohol to navigate the pressures of his laborious work.

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Beyond his personal health improvements, Mathura's transformation has positively impacted his family. His relationships, once strained by his addiction, have strengthened, and he now contributes more effectively to household responsibilities. He credits Project Sammaan not only with saving his life but with giving him a renewed sense of purpose. Mathura's story stands as a testament to the power of education, community support, and determination in overcoming deeply ingrained habits.



## Vocational and Skill Development

*April 2023 to March 2024*

*Supported by Stichting Actie Calcutta*



The Shaksham (Computer) project by Calcutta SEED has been effective to bridge the digital divide for the socio-economically deprived youth the Burrabazar area. Since April 2023, Saksham provided essential computer training to underprivileged young individuals, equipping them with basic word processing skills crucial for employment in today's world. The first batch saw 10 out of 13 students complete their course, while the second batch faced higher dropout rates, with 6 out of 13 continuing their training. Despite these challenges, the program's impact was significant, fostering digital literacy and enhancing the employability of its participants.

Shaksham has proven to be a vital stepping stone for these youth and we hope that the skills they have honed would eventually open doors to new opportunities in the future.





## Roshnee Tailoring Training Centre Burrabazar



The Roshnee (Tailoring) project, initiated by Calcutta SEED, has helped empower women in Burrabazar and LalBazar area in Kolkata. During the reporting year since April 2023, two batches of women underwent comprehensive tailoring training, mastering an different tailoring skills from hand stitching to creating sophisticated garments like anarkali kameezes and patiala salwars. The first batch saw 11 out of 15 trainees successfully complete their course, while the second batch had 12 out of 16. Despite a few dropouts, the dedication of the women was palpable. One Miss Tisha Mallick, who, after completing her training, purchased her own sewing machine and now earns a steady income of Rs 4000 per month.

The training not only imparted practical skills but also boosted the confidence and economic independence of these women, preparing them to face the future with renewed vigour and self-reliance.





## Sakhsham Computer Centre Baduria



A new centre was setup in Kolsur, Baduria to assist the rural youth in developing computer skills so that they become empowered with digital literacy. 9 computers were setup and 50 students have been enrolled in the first batch. Two teachers are assisting in the programme which is held both offline and online. Different topics are being covered which will ensure that the youth hone comprehensive digital skills.

## Sew-Wings Tailoring Training Centre Bezda



The first batch of the rural centre of Roshnee Tailoring Training Centre in Bezda had 10 students. The second batch of 10 students are currently learning tailoring skills at the centre. There are 12 sewing machines and 1 teacher to help the students hone their skills.





## Real Homeoclinic

**April 2023 to March 2024**  
**Calcutta SEED Initiative**

*Location: Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary*

*Operating Days and Hours:*

- *Previous Schedule: Tuesdays, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM*
- *Current Schedule: Mondays, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM*
- *Attending Physician: Dr. Shyamal Kumar Das*

Calcutta SEED has initiated a weekly clinic named “Real Homeoclinic” to provide affordable homeopathic healthcare services to the community. Initially held on Tuesdays, the clinic is now scheduled every Monday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the premises of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary. The clinic aims to address common ailments and provide accessible treatment to individuals who may not have access to regular medical care.

### Physician in Charge:

Dr. Shyamal Kumar Das, a reputed Real homeopathic doctor, known for his result-oriented approach, oversees patient care at the clinic. His expertise spans a wide range of common health issues, making homeopathic treatment a reliable alternative for many in the community.

### Current Patient Volume:

- The clinic currently serves 8 patients per week.
- As awareness of the clinic grows, the number of patients is expected to increase.



### Services Provided

The clinic offers treatment for a variety of conditions, including but not limited to:

- Pain Management: Back pain, joint pain, and arthritis.
- General Wellness: Treatment of general weakness and loss of appetite.
- Headaches and Migraines: Chronic headaches and stress-related pain.
- Sexual Health: Addressing sexual wellness concerns.
- Gastrointestinal Issues: Constipation, indigestion.
- Skin Conditions: Skin rashes, allergies, and allergic rhinitis.
- Fever and Infections: General fever and immune support.
- 

Each visit is aimed at providing comprehensive, patient-specific treatment based on homeopathic principles.

### Expenses

The cost of running the clinic, including medicines, mineral water, dispensing bottles, files, and other stationeries, is fully borne by Calcutta SEED. This ensures that the patients get free expert homeopathic care and medicines.

### Future Growth and Expectations

- Increase in Patient Volume: As the community becomes more aware of the clinic's services and benefits, it is anticipated that the number of weekly patients will increase beyond the current 8 patients. Strategies to enhance awareness and community outreach are being considered to support this growth.
- Capacity Enhancement: Calcutta SEED is committed to supporting the clinic's capacity to handle a larger patient load by continuing to provide the necessary medical supplies and administrative support.

### Conclusion

The Real Homeoclinic is a vital initiative by Calcutta SEED, providing affordable and effective homeopathic healthcare to the local community. Under the care of Dr. Shyamal Kumar, the clinic addresses a wide range of ailments, making it a trusted healthcare resource.

With expectations of growth in the number of patients, Calcutta SEED remains committed to ensuring the clinic's sustainability and continued success.





## Introduction to Real Homoeopathy

-Dr. Shyamal Kumar Das

The term "Real Homoeopathy" was first introduced by Sir James Tyler Kent, drawing from the ideas of Sir C.F.S. Hahnemann and refined by Sir Gregor Johann Mendel, the father of genetics. Building on the work of these three pioneers, I (the author) have developed a unique and exceptional approach to treatment after over 45 years of relentless research. This method stands out in the 5,000-year history of therapeutic science.

### **Key Aspects of This Unique Treatment Approach:**

1. Medicines are not prescribed based on signs, symptoms, or pathological reports of physical or mental ailments.
2. Instead, the selection of medicine is guided solely by the "philosophy of the earliest part of an individual's life."

### **The Source of Life Philosophy:**

- A) Derived from the detrimental activities of harmful proteins or enzymes produced by inherited harmful genes, which give rise to the disease force.
- B) Derived from the beneficial activities of proteins or enzymes produced by inherited beneficial genes, which give rise to the vital force.

In a healthy individual, harmful enzymes or proteins in each cell are neutralized by beneficial proteins.

However, the balance between these two forces begins in the unicellular zygote, where disease force emerges from six groups of harmful genes responsible for the six fundamental diseases: post-rabies syndrome, post-trauma syndrome, psora, syphilis, sycosis, and tubercular diathesis. In contrast, the vital force stems from one group of beneficial genes.

Even in seemingly healthy individuals, cellular activities are governed by both disease force and vital force. When external environmental factors or genetic predispositions increase the production of harmful enzymes, the balance shifts in favor of the disease force. As a result, cellular functions become disharmonized, leading to the formation of toxic products and the onset of various physical and mental sufferings. This situation marks a "fertile state" within the body's internal economy, making the individual susceptible to further ailments.



### **The Limitations of Conventional Therapeutic Systems:**

Modern therapeutic systems, such as Allopathy, Homoeopathy, and Ayurveda, treat sufferings based on current signs, symptoms, and pathological reports, without addressing the underlying source of illness: the six groups of harmful genes. According to Sir J.T. Kent, "Prescribing for the results of disease causes changes in the results of disease, but not in the sickness, except to hurry its progress."

### **The "Go Back" Procedure in Real Homoeopathy:**

In Real Homoeopathy, the six true diseases—i.e., the six groups of harmful genes—are treated using only eight specific medicines. This approach inactivates these harmful genes permanently, targeting the root cause of all ailments. Upon administration of the medicine, the silenced groups of beneficial genes are activated, neutralizing toxic by-products in every cell. The individual begins to experience relief almost immediately, and over time, the cellular activities are harmonized under the control of the vital force. This ensures that the sufferings do not recur.

Furthermore, because the six true diseases are addressed, other inherited diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and respiratory conditions, will not develop later in life. In contrast, conventional homoeopathy does not target these harmful genes, focusing instead on signs, symptoms, and pathological reports, which can lead to the recurrence of ailments.

### **Conclusion:**

Real Homoeopathy offers a groundbreaking approach by treating the root cause of diseases—the harmful genes responsible for six true diseases. This method ensures that the sufferings are permanently eradicated, promising a future where individuals can live free from the burdens of inherited diseases and suffering. By addressing the origins of illness, Real Homoeopathy also holds potential for contributing to global well-being.





## Roots of Hope Sponsorship and Learning Support Programme



*April 2023 to March 2024*  
*Supported by Education All, Belgium*

The Roots of Hope Sponsorship and Learning Support Programme, implemented through Calcutta SEED, aims to uplift underprivileged children in Kolkata by providing the educational support they need to thrive academically. Through financial aid covering school fees, textbooks, reference materials, and essential stationery, the program ensures that these students can focus on their studies without the burden of financial hardship.

### Progress and Highlights

#### **Educational Assistance Throughout the year:**

Roots of Hope has extended financial aid to a group of dedicated students, each facing challenging economic conditions. Monthly support, primarily in the form of direct monetary contributions, enabled the students to continue their schooling without disruption. The provision of essential learning materials helped reinforce their academic foundation, while regular tuition classes facilitated both academic progress and confidence-building among the students.

#### **Tracking Student Development:**

Regular monitoring has been pivotal in ensuring students' sustained progress. The program's evaluative approach involved consistent check-ins and assessments, highlighting any challenges the children faced academically or personally. This hands-on support structure allowed prompt interventions when needed, creating a stable and supportive learning environment.



### **Community and Extracurricular Engagement:**

In addition to academic support, the program integrated activities to foster students' holistic development. From celebrating significant events like Independence Day and Republic Day to organizing educational trips and talent showcases, these experiences enriched the lives of the children, encouraging them to express themselves creatively and learn about cultural heritage.

**Donor Contributions and Financial Sustainability:** The generosity of donors has been instrumental in enabling **Roots of Hope** to expand its impact. Contributions, as outlined in the attached donation list, reveal a diverse base of support, showcasing community commitment to sustainable education. This strong financial foundation ensures the continuity of current sponsorships and paves the way for extending support to additional students in need.

**Future Plans:** With the ongoing support from donors, **Roots of Hope** is poised to increase the number of sponsored students in the coming academic year. Plans include enhancing

resource provision by expanding access to digital learning tools and introducing periodic career guidance sessions. These initiatives aim to bridge educational gaps while empowering students with skills needed for their future pursuits.

**Conclusion:** Roots of Hope's commitment to fostering academic success for underprivileged children in Kolkata remains unwavering. Through targeted assistance, community engagement, and proactive monitoring, the program creates opportunities for growth, learning, and resilience. The collaboration of donors, educators, and the Calcutta SEED organization is transforming lives, enabling each student to pursue education unhindered and to envision a brighter, promising future.





## Calcutta SEED Educational Assistance Programme



In its ongoing commitment to fostering educational growth and supporting underprivileged students, Calcutta SEED's Educational Assistance Programme continues to provide crucial financial aid to students in need. This year, nine students benefitted from the program, enabling them to pursue their studies with greater ease. This initiative reflects our core mission to empower young minds, helping them overcome financial barriers to education.

- 9 students received financial aid this year.
- The total financial assistance was divided into two categories:
- Rs. 1000/- per month: Five students received this amount as they demonstrated exceptional need and commitment to their studies.
- Rs. 500/- per month: Four students were provided with Rs. 500/- per month to support their basic educational requirements.

### Future Goals:

**Increasing Fundraising Efforts:** We aim to raise additional funds to expand the programme's reach, targeting a goal of assisting more students next year.

**Monitoring Academic Progress:** A structured mentorship and academic monitoring system will be introduced to ensure students are utilizing the assistance for their educational development.

The Educational Assistance Programme of Calcutta SEED continues to be a vital resource for students from marginalized backgrounds. As we reflect on the successes of this year, we are inspired by the resilience of our beneficiaries and motivated to further expand the scope of the program. Together, we can ensure that no child is left behind due to financial hardship.



## Looking Forward



As we step into another phase of our growth, we are propelled by a commitment to expand the horizons of opportunity for every individual we serve. Building upon the foundation of education, skill development, and community well-being, Calcutta SEED envisions the continued growth of our programs in sustainable and impactful ways. In the coming year, we aim to introduce innovative initiatives, including digital literacy and renewable energy projects for women and youth. These projects will not only equip individuals with essential skills but also foster self-reliance and entrepreneurship in underserved communities.

Additionally, we are excited to announce the upcoming expansion of our Learning Tree centres, designed to accommodate more children, providing them a safe haven where their potential can flourish. By introducing arts, crafts, and digital learning, we are paving new paths of discovery for these young minds. Our healthcare initiatives will also expand, with plans to establish additional mobile clinics, ensuring that quality care reaches the most vulnerable. Together with our dedicated supporters, we are committed to addressing evolving community needs and setting the stage for a future that is resilient, empowered, and filled with promise.







We owe our heartfelt gratitude to the donors who have stood beside us, year after year, transforming our shared vision into a living reality. Through your generosity, you have empowered our organization to bring education, healthcare, and dignity to those who need it most.

Our deepest appreciation goes to our donors **Stichting Actie Calcutta, Education All and Bhalobasa**. We are profoundly grateful for your steadfast contributions to our learning centres. Your partnership has helped hundreds of children thrive academically and socially, offering them a brighter future. Our immense thanks to **Likvidace Lepry** for uplifting Kolkata's headload labourers through Project Samman, fostering self-respect, health awareness, and lasting community bonds. We also thank all our donors of the past and the present for steadfastly supporting us in our humble efforts to bring hope in the lives of many.

As we prepare to celebrate Calcutta SEED's 30th anniversary, we are filled with gratitude and honour to have you with us on this journey. Your support enables us to continue sowing seeds of hope, transforming lives, and fostering a legacy of compassion and resilience. Together, we look forward to a future where every individual has the opportunity to flourish.







## Celebrating 30 Years of Service - 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

Calcutta SEED marked its 30th anniversary with a series of meaningful and engaging events, celebrating its journey of service and commitment to the education and well-being of underprivileged children. The Pearl Jubilee celebrations commenced with a Thanksgiving Holy Mass, presided over by Fr. Franklin Menezes at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary on 20th July 2024. In his homily, he emphasized the spirit of service to the poor and the continued necessity of providing quality education to marginalized children. The occasion was further commemorated with the ceremonial cutting of the Pearl Jubilee cake, followed by a fellowship meal for the staff, acknowledging their dedication and relentless efforts over the years.

## Educational and Cultural Activities

### Puppet Making Workshops

As part of the celebrations, Puppet Making Workshops were conducted at two centers:

- Knowledge Tree Learning Centre on 19th July 2024, where 50 children participated. Three resource persons guided the children in crafting puppets using paper, culminating in a lively puppet show featuring the children's creations.
- St. Philips Nursery School on 2nd August 2024, engaging 43 children in a similar activity, fostering creativity and storytelling skills among the young learners.

With gratitude to all benefactors, staff, and well-wishers, Calcutta SEED continues its journey of transforming lives—one child at a time.





## Curtains Down Ceremony - 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

The curtain-down program of the 30th Jubilee Celebration of the Calcutta Society for Encouragement of Education and Development (Calcutta SEED) was held on 30th November, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary from 10:30am to 5:00pm. The event marked three decades of dedicated service in education, community development, and disaster relief.. A brief synopsis of the program follows:

**Welcoming the Guests** The program commenced at 10:30 a.m. with the arrival and registration of guests. The ushers and coordinators ensured a smooth welcome, guiding the attendees to their respective places. Refreshments were arranged for the participants, fostering an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie.

**Opening Ceremony** At 11:00 a.m., the event began with an introductory address by the Emcee, Alex, who set the tone for the day's proceedings. This was followed by a soulful rendition of the prayer song, Bless the Lord My Soul, performed by students of the Knowledge Tree Learning Centre. The Archbishop led the congregation in prayer, invoking blessings on the milestone occasion.

**Honouring the Visionaries** Sandra Singh delivered a heartfelt welcome address, acknowledging the efforts of all those who contributed to the organization's journey. The Archbishop was then felicitated by a child, symbolizing the organization's commitment to nurturing young minds. Friends of Calcutta SEED, including Councillor, Bishop Cyprian Monis, Mrs. Sophie Picard, Mr. Agarwalla (Minu Sarees), Mr. B. Periwal (Auditor), and Mr. Farrell Shah, were also honoured for their unwavering support.



**Celebrating the Journey** A PowerPoint presentation by Fr. Franklin highlighted the rich history of Calcutta SEED, tracing its inception under the leadership of Fr. Franklin Menezes and Fr. John Noronha. The audience was taken through the organization's landmark achievements, including sponsorship of children's education, disaster relief efforts, and the introduction of vocational training programs.

**Cultural Performances** The students of St. Philip's School energized the gathering with a dance performance to Bum Bum Bole, followed by the felicitation of the Executive Board by Bishop Cyprian Monis. The Board members recognized for their contributions included Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (President), Fr. Dominic Gomes (Vice President), Fr. Franklin Menezes (Secretary), Fr. Patrick Rodrigues (Treasurer), and other key members.

**Inspirational Addresses** Bishop Monis addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts in education and community development. His speech was followed by another cultural presentation—a mesmerizing dance by students of the Solo Bigha Learning Tree Centre to the song Bandeya re Bandeya. Mr. Manabendra Mondal, a founding member, then took the stage to share insights on the organization's future direction.

**Expressions of Talent and Gratitude** The students of Knowledge Tree Learning Centre captivated the audience with a soulful song performance, followed by a vibrant dance by students of the Roshnee Tailoring Centre. A short video showcasing the various projects of Calcutta SEED was screened, leaving a deep impact on the attendees.

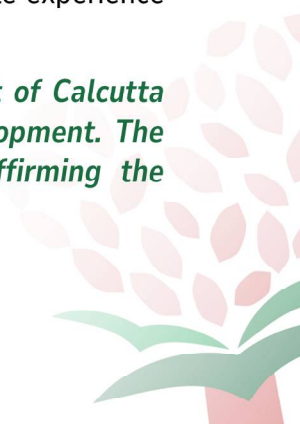
**Key Announcements** The Archbishop delivered an address, commending the efforts of all those involved in shaping the organization's journey. A major highlight was the announcement of the establishment of a Corpus Fund in memory of Fr. John Noronha, aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of Calcutta SEED's initiatives towards Education.

**Recognizing Dedication** The dedication of staff members was acknowledged through a special felicitation ceremony, led by the Archbishop. Those honoured included Sr. Prativa Baa (St. Philip's Nursery School), Sr. Lavina (Selai Sokthi Project), Sr. Therese Simon (Roshnee Tailoring Training Centre), Mrs. Marina (Knowledge Tree Learning Centre), Priyanka (Learning Tree – Solo Bigha Learning Centre), and Mr. Nilratan Sarkar (Accountant). Their tireless efforts in nurturing and supporting children were deeply appreciated.

**Closing Ceremony** Mr. K. Veigas (Executive Board Member) delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the event. The celebration concluded with a Thanksgiving Song led by Alex, followed by the National Anthem, marking a fitting tribute to the organization's commitment to education and social upliftment.

**Post-Event Activities** Following the formal proceedings, an exhibition was held, showcasing the achievements and activities of Calcutta SEED. Lunch was arranged for the guests, and interactive games were organized for children outside the venue, making the celebration a joyful and memorable experience for all.

*The 30th Jubilee Celebration stood as a testament to the unwavering commitment of Calcutta SEED towards empowering underprivileged children through education and development. The event not only honoured the past but also set a vision for the future, reaffirming the organization's pledge to continue its transformative journey.*







Heartfelt congratulations to Calcutta SEED on completing 30 years of invaluable service in the field of education and development! Your unwavering commitment to empowering the underprivileged and shaping the lives of children and communities is truly inspiring.

Over three decades, you have not only transformed individual lives but also laid the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future. May you continue to grow, inspire, and uplift the society you serve with the same dedication and passion.

## **The Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary**

"Do you want to do a good deed? Teach the young! Do you want to perform a holy act? Teach the young! Truly, now and for the future, among holy things, this is the holiest."

(St. John Bosco)

