



**LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST**

*Empowering the last, the least and the 10<sup>th</sup>*

# Case Stories 2023

**Interventions that changed Lives**





# Story of Change:

**Emotional Support that can change lives**

Open Shelter Project,  
Kolkata Unit

Monalisa Naiya is an 8-year-old girl child who lives at Hathat Colony (a nearby slum). She was identified by the outreach workers through community visits. She lives with her father, grandparents, and other extended family members. Her parents are separated and her mother has remarried. The living conditions of the family are very poor and unhygienic. The child used to read in class 2, at a government school. Post her parents' separation, she stopped going to school due to a lack of adult guidance, since her father stayed engaged in work (driver) throughout the day. She used to stay without any adult supervision and was found in need of care and protection. Besides, her house is just beside a railway track which makes her extremely vulnerable. She was also found in an emotional crisis because of the detachment of her mother.

When the child was brought to the open shelter, she used to stay quiet and isolated but never lacked an interest in her studies. Intervention and care were planned for her. She was encouraged to take part in group activities and recreational classes like, dance, arts and crafts, drawing and yoga- meditation for relaxation. Through time, Monalisa became comfortable with other children in the open shelter and took part in programs like Rabindra Jayanti, Teacher's Day celebration, Independence Day celebration and so on. Her father was contacted and a home visit was done. He tried to make them sensitized about her school retention. He was assured that Monalisa's studies would be taken care of. Her father then contacted the school and shared about Monalisa's present condition. She started going to school again. She is regularly attending school, returning to the open shelter and taking nutrition, protection and education support from the open shelter. She has also appeared for the annual examination this year. Her development is being tracked through quarterly progress reports.

## Gender Empowerment Project, Kolkata Unit

### Case Story of Mrs. Kaushalaya Jana

#### Action by Women Leadership Towards Resolving Workplace Violence

Several cases related to violence have been resolved by the Domestic Workers Association formed in 2018, registered under the Society Registration Act, Govt. of West Bengal. As the Secretary of DWA "Mrs Brihaspati Patra" stated, on 11th August 2023, a member of the Association (Mrs Kaushalya Jana) faced workplace violence. Her house owner brings an allegation on Mrs Kaushalya, that she has stolen Rs.10,000/- and 2 iPhones from the household, that CCTV footage has records of such things. The next day house owner called Kausalya and their family members to recover the stolen items. Kausalya lives with her husband and works as a domestic worker in 5 houses and earns monthly income to run family expenditures. Her husband is a van puller who earns a livelihood daily labour basis. So, she did not have enough wealth to repay such an amount. She came and reported to the Secretary of DWA, and members of the association visited the accuser's house to discuss this issue. When a group approached them, they refused to meet with the group. When the secretary asked the house owner about the false statement and wanted to see the recordings of CCTV footage, the house owner could not able to show any records, rather informing the Police station to arrest the members. Mrs Kaushalaya Jana in front of her house.

Finally, DWA members returned to their communities confronting that, the allegation was false. The police officers visited the house of Kaushalya and asked her to visit the Police station the next day by 8 p.m. As per the order of the police officer, Kaushalya and the DWA secretary visited the police at 8p.m but they were made to wait for a long time without any interaction. They were supposed to call the accuser also, but they did not attend the proper time for a face-to-face argument. Moreover, Police officers started threatening to secretary raise the issue of why they had been called alone. As the police threatened to put them under lock up, the secretary replied "As per the law, no woman can be arrested during nighttime". Knowing this entire thing, police called the accuser to have a face-to-face argument about this stolen case. Finally, the house owner accepted that they assumed that Kaushalya might have taken their money and phones, which is why they told about CCTV footage, but no such records were provided to them. The House owner asked for forgiveness from Kaushalya and said in writing that this case was false, and they had to pay a full month's salary and bonus amount, they also warned them that they should not disclose to others for her job security and to protect her modesty and integrity.



The Secretary stated, "Since I have taken many Legal Rights training, and attended, a workshop for women's rights from the Lutheran unit, it was easy for me to confront the police officers and house owners". They returned from the Police station with confidence and with a big smile, that they were able to pay a full one-month salary to Kaushalya Jana. This was a successful attempt by the DWA members with the leadership of Secretary Mrs. Bihaspati Patra with the guidance of LWSIT community officers. She shares this initiative with other members as inspiration not to victimise the blame game but to take bold action against workplace violence.



## Story of a Girl persuing her Higher Studies with a purpose

**Miss Kabilota Narzary:** Miss Kabilota Narzary is the elder daughter of Mr. Loben Narzary and Mrs. Somela Narzary. She lives with her parents and younger brother in Malaguri village which is about 8 km from Gossaigaon Town. She was supported for Admission with Books by LWSIT while studying in a Higher Secondary School in the year 2015 and later in 2018 to pursue her course Degree under the Girls Student Higher Studies Support for poor and needy students. The support encouraged her to continue her studies. She completed the B. A (Bachelor in Arts) course from Gossaigaon College in the year 2018 obtaining 1st Division rank with 72.8 percent. Continuing her studies, she completed the Master's Degree course in Bodo Medium at Guwahati University in the year 2020 retaining the 1st Division rank with 69.94 per cent. After the completion of Master's Degree, she again admitted herself at Gossaigaon B. Ed. College in 2021 and will be completing the B.Ed Course this year in June 2023. Mr. Loben Narzary father of Kabilota Narzary is a farmer. They have 9 bighas of agricultural land and agriculture is only the main source of income and livelihood for their family. Mrs. Somela Narzary mother of Kabilota Narzary, sells vegetables at Gossaigaon Weekly market from their field to help the family. The parents of Kabilota Narzary are both illiterate, but very eager for their children's education. Miss Kabilota Narzary appeared in the TET Exam conducted for the Six Schedule Councils area in Assam on 30th April 2023. She expects to clear the exam successfully. She said that she wanted to become a good teacher. She expressed that she feels sad to see that many Govt. Lower Primary school students are not taught properly. She desires to contribute to improving the teaching methods in schools. So, she wanted to become a good teacher applying the new teaching techniques, which she has learned during her studies.



# STEER Project, Bankura Unit

**Girls are Happy after receiving the book support**



During the interaction of LWSIT Staff with the community people, 6 poor and needy female students from the marginalised ST community who have completed the Madhyamik /HS Examination but whose parents are not interested in admission to the school for their higher education standard XI, XII, 1st Year & 2nd Year. These girls of the SHG members shared their problems on admission & book support matters in the group meeting and the decision was taken in the meeting with the opinion of the group members and agreed to support them in this year-2023. Parents have shown their interest in continuing their education in the meeting but due to financial constraints, they are unable to provide the required study materials. Parents of the selected students belong to the marginalized category of the ST community. So, the group requested LWSIT to provide and were supported with study materials and guidebooks as additional support for their higher education. These girl students Guide books for continued & better education.



## CAP-R Project, Assam Unit

**Santal Women  
supports family by  
Vending vegetables**

This is the story of Mrs. Rubina Murmu aged 25 years, who runs her family by earning income from vending vegetables. She is a resident of Failaguri village, Santal Colony Mauza under Gossaigaon Sub Divisional of Kokrajhar BTR, Assam. She lives with her husband and a son. She also looks after the son of his brother who stays with them as his parents have gone elsewhere to work. The family has only homestead land which is not sufficient to sustain their livelihood. The husband of Rubina is hardly able to manage the family through his irregular fishing job.

The poor conditions of the family led Mrs. Rubina Murmu to take up vegetable vending at the Failaguri daily market. She started buying and selling vegetables by investing Rs. 600/-. Every morning she goes to Srirampur Bazar which is about 8 KM, as early as 5 A.M. to buy some vegetables and sell them at the Failaguri daily evening market. She has been doing this business for the last four to five years. At present her working capital is about Rs. 3000/-. From vegetable vending, she earns about Rs. 250/- to 300/- per day. With this income, she can help sustain the family and send her son to a private English Medium school which is nearby. Besides, she bears the cost of medical treatment and other expenses of the family. Rubina says that she faced many problems while taking up this small business as their son was only 1 year old. It was difficult doing business and at the same time taking care of the family members and the daily work of the family. But she persisted and the condition of the family is improving. She says the intervention and programs of LWSIT in their village since 2019 have encouraged her preserver in her venture. She says that she wants to expand her business and establish a more secure vegetable shop at Failguri market if LWSIT could support her for the same.



# Transboundary Flood Resilience (TFR) Project in South Asia, Assam, India:

## Safety Life Jacket a preparedness measure of safety life



The Sankosh River is one of the tributary rivers of Brahmaputra which generally flows in narrow gorges with, a steep gradient up to the Indo-Bhutan border and then flows with a flatter slope. The lower reach of the river downward to Srirampur is subjected to flood annually. During the rainy season, the river Sankosh seems more furious with its high-flowing & severe current. There are eight numbers of villages that belong to project operational area of the TFR Project in Assam There are more than 500 Households with 2,500 populations as the permanent inhabitant are located on the river bank and they absolutely depend on boats at Surendrapur Ghat as the only source of communication for their routine needs and also to access their basic amenities. Though there are no other means of communication, people are compelled to move through the high-flowing river by not daring their life security. Students and Teachers also come through the river for their schools. Vulnerable people patients, pregnant mothers, children, and aged people are also compelled to cross the river without any safety measures. Farmers have to sell their agricultural products as well as procure their agricultural inputs like seeds & fertilizers using the boat only. So, the boat is the lifeline, whatever maybe they have to cross the river every day through the boat only.

When LWSIT asked the community about the dangerous sailing, they were reminded of the incident where four persons, including three school students, were killed in a boat mishap at Surendrapur ghat in Sankosh. The boat carrying over 50 people, mostly students of Kasiabari School, capsized soon after it set sail towards Kasibari from Surendrapur ghat. Though most of them managed to swim or were rescued, four people were swept off because of strong currents. Recently 2 Women went missing after a Boat capsized in Sankosh.

Under this circumstance the the TFR-Project realised the need for life Jackets and provided 50 nos of Safety Life Jacket to the boat's man by developing certain modalities with prior consultation with the local community, line Department & local self-government people's representatives. On the day of support, there was an event with the above persons along with an expert who demonstrated the Life Jacket for scientific use. Local pear pressure & imposition was made on the Boat's Man to maintain & use the Safety Life Jackets with compulsion. No person will be allowed to sail in a boat without wearing a Safety Life Jacket. The attempt was highlighted & propagated among the target communities & they are now coming forward to use the safety equipment wisely for their safety life. A Safety Life Jacket helps to stay afloat and prevent drowning. Now, the Safety Life Jacket provides safety to all the daily passengers of Surendrapur Ghat & prevents them from drowning death.

## Livelihood Security for the Tribal and Dalit Families in Odisha

**Basanti Shows the Way to survive with Support from The Hans Foundation**



Basanti Baskey, W/o Late Chhotray around 50 years of Age is a tribal inhabitant of Dhabanijoda Village under Bhuasuni Gram Panchayat in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. She stays with her only Son & Daughter-in-law at home. People here fail to depend solely on agriculture nowadays due to the high and undulating land structure. Moreover, erratic rain affects the monsoon paddy crop almost every year. Since irrigation facilities are very less, the farmers fail to save the standing crop. As a result of this people usually migrate to the towns & cities in search of livelihood-earning options. Basanti and her Son used to work as daily Laborers earlier. However, after COVID situations changed and they didn't have any work. It was difficult for her to run the household.

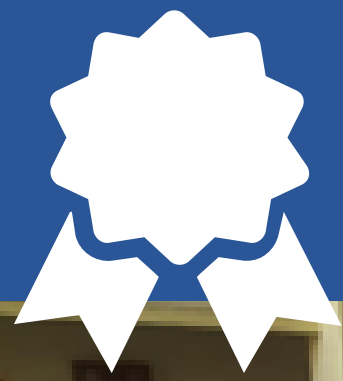
She approached the CBO and her name was ultimately enlisted to avail the opportunity. Basanti with her participation of Rs. 5,000 got material support worth Rs. 25,000 to run a grocery unit at her home. She made an extension counter at home to run the avenue. She has not looked back since then. Her Son and Daughter-in-law support her in running the avenue. She also attends weekly markets nearby. The avenue continued well. To enhance income further with adequate engagement of all the members she has started utilizing her skills in stitching mattresses. She has purchased one sewing machine and has put it in front of her shop. Both the mother and Son have stopped moving out for the daily wage earning. For better transportation, she has purchased one moped through loan. She pays back the loan in instalments on schedule. She no longer moves out to borrow money for farming rather she invests in farming as and when required. With good food, dress, health care and other amenities there has been a significant improvement in the quality of life of the entire family. She wishes further to bring enhancement to the avenue and open a big outlet in the village. Basanti as the exemplar shows the way to the fellow women and Girls in the vicinity.

## DSSQC Project, Birbhum Unit

**“Eye Opening for Govt. Schemes”**

Manu Dehari age 42, married to Parwati Rani is the son of the Late Charan Dehari from Dudhahal Mirgipara. He belongs to the Paharia Community. Manu Dehari is a member of FIG named Tilka Majhi Moneyan Chasa Dal. He has three sons out of them two sons are going to school. He has 2.66 acres of land but the cultivable land is only one acre. In 0.66 acres of land, he cultivates Paddy and in the rest, 0.33 acres farm lands Maize and Millet. Most of the season he gets low production from the cultivation because most of the lands are high with no irrigation facility. He has to depend on rainwater for cultivation. Mainly he was busy with agriculture-related work throughout the year and had no connection with government authorities like Gram Panchayet and block-level offices. He has no idea about any govt. facilities and benefits. After the intervention of LWSIT in Dudhahal Mirgipara he got lots of awareness and training on various right-based issues such as different government-sponsored social and food security schemes and training on Advocacy and Communication Skills along with other community people to enhance their knowledge. After getting those training and awareness he started to keep information regarding govt. facilities available for them. At that time he came to know that Govt of Jharkhand had announced a scheme on the provision of a House under Birsha Awas yojana for the poor Paharia right holders along with many other facilities and benefits. He realized the situation and decides to avail the scheme and check his eligibility. After contacting the local self-government authority and came to know that he was entitled to receive the house. Then he applied for the scheme with the support of a government member of the area at the Paharia Office in Dumka. After verification of his eligibility, Manu got the benefit of Rs. 1,31,500/- in total for making the house in three instalments through his bank account under the scheme “Birsa Awas Yojana”. He is also receiving other benefits like Monthly Food materials supply, and free education with hostel facilities for children under Paharia Yojna provided by Govt. of Jharkhand with the intervention and negotiation of LWSIT personnel. At present having those schemes Manu and Parwati are living happily in good health and the children are studying in Paharia School provided by the Government of Jharkhand.





## CCI project: Best practices



Karate is a form of Japanese Art and Culture that tends to be highly disciplined and organized. The training provides many benefits to the children, especially self defense, Physical strength & self discipline that is required in today's world to lead a safe and secure life. The CCI children have learned the techniques very well on which they are progressing from one level to the next, accessing belts and ranks. CCI students have qualified for Orange Belt-1, Green belt- 2, Blue- 8 and White belt-9 children under training period. Out of their performances 3 students have been qualified to participate in the Tournament on International Karate Championship 2023, Indian challenges Cup. This is a big achievement for the CCI children, Parents expressed their gratefulness for the achievements and progress of their children.

## Shunning behind the stereotypical mindset GEP, Bhubaneswar



Tanushree Behera (28) spent her childhood in a difficult situation and faced abusive behaviour from her family as well as from Society. Tanu's childhood name was Dinabandhu Behera. At the age of 13, he realized his physical difference as a girl. He was scared and shared his family about it, his siblings and even his parents were upset and didn't like him. He was rejected by the family and left Cuttack City. He roamed around other cities begging. He has to depend on Badhe and Begging for his survival. He came to know about LWSIT working amongst the transgender community and participated in the Self-help group and is leading the group as president. Now, she went through surgery to become a girl with the support of her group members.

In 2021, Tanu stepped into the Cuttack Municipal Corporation election and filed her nomination for the Counselor of Ward No. 38 as an independent candidate. She visited every household in her Ward like any other candidate and seek vote for her, but she lost the election because she did not receive any support from any political party nor had money or power. She set an example for other genders, broke the bias of gender inequality and gender disparity in political participation and paved the way for Transgender Gender to participate in the election.

She is very encouraged by LWSIT and her communities, collectively they shared greetings and thanked LWSIT for support and guidance. Now she is sensitizing her community in the city against begging on the trains and involving in immoral and anti-social activities. At present, she is engaged in a good job and earning a good salary to lead life respectfully. She has been recognized and awarded by various Govt. and Non. Govt. organizations for their tireless work for the upliftment of the rights of the transgender community and also for the betterment of poor and downtrodden sections of society.