

## **FROM A DOMESTIC HELP TO A TAEKWONDO CHAMP**

About 4 years back, Puja Kachu would seem like any ordinary girl whom the society had sidelined.

“I never enjoyed the work, never had any freedom, my employer reprimanded me for every trivial mistake” she explained speaking before a host of journalist that gathered at the Press Club of India today.

At a young age of 10, she was left to do all sorts of household chores, work in the field and take care of two kids nearly her own age.

Fortunately for Puja, today she could leave her past behind. Rescued in 2012, she started responding to opportunities provided to her through a Caritas project being implemented a Bal Suraksha Abhiyan (BSA), a local NGO in Darjeeling.

Like many rescued children, she has the knack for sports. She has played two hockey matches so far for the West Bengal State team with outstanding performance.

In August this year, she has bagged a bronze medal in a State level Taikwondo match. “Her bold nature supports her personality” explained Sr. Subheshna, Director, BSA and also a member of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Darjeeling.

She has been mainstreamed to formal education. She is presently studying in standard five at St. Michael’ School, Darjeeling. BSA is presently giving her all financial assistance she needs.

Like Puja, there are about 256 promising children today under the care of BSA. Some have excelled in the field of Law, BSc-forestry, Hotel Management and Computer Engineering. Some others show more potential in the field of sports, Sr. Subheshna narrated.

One concern however that stands between these children is the lack of basic education and that is why BSA in collaboration with Caritas enrolls these children for open schooling through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

## OTHER QUICK AND IMPACTFUL TRUE STORIES FROM THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

### School Wapsi

Livelihood induced migration is causing school drop outs in Odisha. The competencies in this kids are hugely challenged due lack of parental guidance. Caritas worked an antidote. We are enrolling them to formal schools effective tutorial assistance that up their confidence, moral and competencies in all major subjects.

Birendra Adhikari, Age-15

Kanha Patra, Age-15

Samiya Adhikar, Age-15,

Jalendra Parichha, Age-15



### All work and no fun!

School was so boring for Manoj, a student of standard V that he bunked as often as he could. The table turned on him when he was made to discover his talent of painting. He presently is a proving to be a serious student with an aim to be a teacher when he grows up.



## Studying Mother

Rupa is a working and studying mother in Bihar. She is determined to living her life with dignity while she takes her right to education seriously. And she winner!



## Marriage takes a back seat

For Rinku Kumari and two of friends, it was not all that easy to escape early marriage as the tradition is.

The trio later proved the worth as they became the first one to crack the state board from Ranti, a Musahar tola in Bihar.



Mushars are mahadalits and among the most backward communities.

### **Reality is more dramatic sometimes**

Her father is no more, mother is a daily laborer, and brother is a migrant laborer. Agatha Bhengra, a tribal girl was economically forced to drop out of school under this circumstances in 2013.

Thankfully, that is an old story. Today she is enrolled back to formal schooling and is hope to her family.



### **Girl makes even with odds**

Dropping out of school in 2010 due to poor economic conditions, Banita was pushed to doing labor works. May be she could have grown up to work as a domestic help for all her life.

Her determination to acquire new skills and learn new trade is leading her to be an entrepreneur. She is all set to start her

own tailoring unit.

### **When the odds run out!**

For Akshaya Nag hailing from a village in Odisha, it is not the end of the world until he says it is.

He has shown extra ordinary courage to re-attempt the 10<sup>th</sup> exam after a paralyzing road accident in 2014. Today he is nothing less than a miracle and undoubtedly a promising scholar.







## A Good Dad

With no education, no property; a thatched roof, a wife and four kids to feed, this blacksmith's love for his wife could hardly match his responsibilities under these conditions.



Nonetheless, when he took efforts to immunize his infant daughter while agreeing to enroll her for nutrition food program, we decided to call him a 'good dad'.

## Breaking the cycle of Ignorance

Mira's ignorance kept five of her children deprived of government sponsored immunization and nutrition program.

She took an informed choice in 2014 by stepping into the government program center for the first time. This broke the record for the entire village as immunization and nutrition program stands regularized since then.

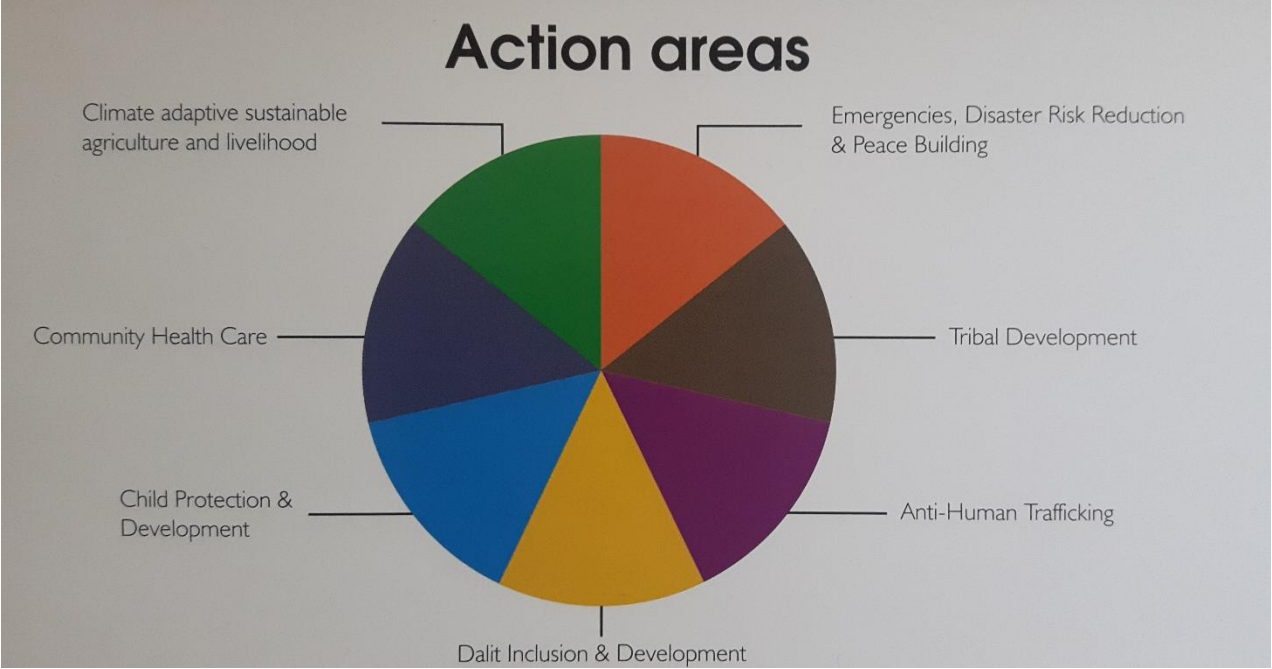


## About Caritas India

Since inception in 1962, Caritas India as a development organization is synonymous to 'love in action' with last-mile connectivity through a network of more than 200 implementing partners. Aligned with the Indian

Constitution, Caritas India reaches out to marginalize communities through hundreds of development programs. We continue to look for innovative and effective ways of engagement in order to bring about a sustainable change in the society.





Program Achievements	Inviting partnerships for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Child labor free zones</li> <li>• 2 Child friendly police stations</li> <li>• 4 Child labor free gram panchayats</li> <li>• Child rights protection desk with 24x7 helpline</li> <li>• 2220 children vaccinated against diseases.</li> <li>• 30 complimentary education centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complementary education centers and facilities</li> <li>• Education materials</li> <li>• Basic infrastructure toilets, drinking water facilities</li> <li>• Sports, recreational spaces and equipment</li> <li>• Affordable, local and environment friendly hygiene kits</li> </ul>