

“Dear Friends of Don Bosco Ashalayam,

Let me begin with words of appreciation for Fr. Anthony Thaiparambil, Fr. Mathew Parakonath and Fr. George Chempakathinal who have led Ashalayam to greater heights lots of new initiatives. Fr. Jose Chunkapura, a dynamic person lots of love for young people began as the Director in June 2009 but he was called to Rome by our Rector Major and there comes my return after nine long years. It was a great joy to have been with Ashalayam in its initial years and now in a new way.



with
with

Presently it is my privilege to present you this annual report. The year 2008-09 had been very fruitful. Of the 26 children who wrote the class ten examinations 23 children passed with flying colours even to the extent of scoring 86%. That encourages us. A child deprived of basic necessities too can perform like anyone else.

During the year 5 young adults with a house of their own and 6 of them have settled down with their life partners. Well, all this could be accomplished due to your support, encouragement and hard work. Thanks to all of you.

Boys have taken jobs in Pondicherry, Kerala, Ahmedabad and Rajasthan besides the number of them in Kolkata. Everyone is more convinced that jobs are available and that they have to be ready to work. Very inspiring for the others who are still on their way to a bright future. Mr. Probhat Bose another senior boy completed his Master Degree in Social work and joined Ashalayam as one of the Coordinators. He has years of Ashalayam training, with work experience in Delhi and the needed qualification to guide young minds in Ashalayam.

2009 is immediately leading into the Silver Jubilee year. I would like to remember with gratitude and admiration the hard work of Fr. Antony Thaiparambil who initiated the work in the year 1985. Various evaluations were conducted at staff and children's level to make the work for children more professional and effective. The annual camps with the theme “care and share” were very educative for all the children

Another initiative of the year was to inspire earning past pupils to support the inmates. Many of them have started their monthly “widow's mite” and one among them is Mangal, probably the most illiterate from Howrah station, presently a rickshaw puller, having his own house with his wife and child, offers Rs.50/- every month.

I need to mention very specially the support and collaboration I received from Fr. Mathew, Fr. Jose and Fr Saju. The untiring efforts of all the Coordinators with a dedicated set of staff members have helped the organization to be efficient and effective for every child that came on our way. May I mention also the Government and non-governmental agencies that have been with us to be effective in empowering children.

Before I conclude let me thank you for your presence, concern and support which enable/inspire all of us in Ashalayam. The watchwords of the year for Ashalayam children

were: be happy, stay happy and make others happy. All were happy and thanks once again to you all

Sincerely,

Fr. George Chempakathinal

Director

A HAVEN OF HOPE FOR THE STREET AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN

Don Bosco Ashalayam Howrah is a registered NGO working with roofless, rootless, hopeless, helpless and consequently restless children of the city. It is an organization run by the Salesians of Don Bosco since 1985 in Howrah, and is working for rehabilitation / restoration of street and destitute children irrespective of race, gender, caste and creed. Ashalayam gives these needy children the means to build their own future, through education or vocational training.



In Howrah & Kolkata, thousands of children are still suffering from the scourge of malnutrition, illiteracy, and poor standard of living. Most of them are born and brought up in the vulnerable environments like streets, railway platforms, red light areas and slums, face the brunt of the myriad forms of miseries and deprivations from their early childhood. This means lack of proper care and protection from the family, absent or incomplete education (early drop out from schools), early entry in the exploitative job market, substance addiction, sexual and physical abuse, that sums up a standard of living far from what one perceives as 'satisfactory'.

Among the vulnerable groups of children, India has the largest number of street children and children living in slums. These children are vulnerable on account of the environment they live in; where socio-economic disadvantages add to their miseries and plight. These Street children face abuse at the hands of antisocial elements who try to suppress them using force and position in the locality as well as in the community at large.

The psychology of these street children is affected largely on account of the lack of love and care they experience in their daily lives. Homelessness is one more factor along the continuum of a child's experience of poverty. In Don Bosco Ashalayam's working area we see children who are lost, run away, abandoned and those working as child labor. There is a tendency among the street children to work in sectors related to transportation, like in a garage, or as a helper in a matador, a rickshaw puller etc. Quite a large number of street children are engaged in hawking.

The plight of these children often seems "invisible" to us today. They make their way in the world, with little or no societal protection against exploitation, abuse, and violence. Their 'present and 'future' seems non-existent. These are often children separated from their

parents for many reasons that is mainly related to poverty and insecurity and are pushed aside or are underestimated because of a lack of resources and understanding.

Don Bosco Ashalayam strives to protect these children, promoting their best interests and creating positive and fruitful environments in which they can grow up amidst respect, hope and social justice. In this context, the need for a permanent centre for rehabilitating these street youth / children of Howrah was a social concern. A permanent shelter which could serve as a sort of "home" for the street youth is the objective with which Don Bosco Ashalayam was born. Today it inspires thousands of adults and young minds nationally and internationally to empower children for restoration and rehabilitation.

1. ANNUAL CAMP

Every year Ashalayam organizes summer camps for all the children of its Homes. The idea behind these camps is to provide an opportunity to combine learning with fun. The main objectives of these camps are:

- Groups and personality building
- Social Awareness
- Creative activities
- Training in First Aid / HIV and Basic care
- Adventure Activities
- Awareness on HIV / AIDS
- Group Activities



health

2. CHILD CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Capacity Building or Life Skills Education program is conducted throughout the year. These training programmes clubbed with formal education are a very vital aspect in the empowerment and rehabilitation process. The Trainings are based on effective communication and interpersonal skills, mental and sexual health issues, entrepreneurship development and value education. This has made a great difference in their attitude towards life and has developed their life coping skills. 191 children (105 boys & 86 girls) were covered under this program during the year.



3. STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Staff training programmes are undertaken groom trainers, which is also a very vital aspect and is thus given utmost



to

importance. All the staff members are given service training as and when required. Besides these staff members are trained in their specific field of activity. The Home staff is given training on issues such as managing the Homes of children, educational methodology, child psychology, conflict resolution etc. The staff training programmes have made difference in their attitudes towards children and have motivated them to be effective in their teaching practices and guiding children. 75 Staff members attended the Training programmes during the year.

4. EDUCATION

Almost all street children are illiterate and have never gone to school; either they could not afford it or had to go and earn their livelihood to support their families. Thus schooling seems simply irrelevant to them. Moreover, regular and standard classroom teachings do not work with impulse-driven children who are used to fending for themselves and who expect immediate results from any effort they put in. Yet, if education is the key to development, it has to be imparted. Don Bosco Ashaylam has developed an in-house methodology for street children to impart to them an elementary education and a basis for planning a future ahead. It begins with children at the various Non-Formal educational centers and in the shelter-homes itself; and if the child is willing and able, is enrolled into the regular schooling system. To date around 75% of remedially tutored children have been enrolled into the schooling system. These children also have the option of attending daily 'homework help' sessions.

In the Shelter Homes priority is given to education for one and all. Children are given basic education and admitted to public and private schools. Children are also given the opportunity of being incorporated into English Medium schools. 410 children from the Shelter Homes of Don Bosco Ashalayam have been incorporated into the formal education system and regular follow-ups are made in this regard. Necessary tuitions in language, science and homework are provided through the services of tuition teachers. Regular Spoken English Classes are conducted to improve their reading and writing habits and skills.

A national seminar on "Emerging Trends in Childcare" was inaugurated on 21st February 2009, at Nitika Don Bosco in Kolkata. The three day seminar was organized by Don Bosco Ashalayam. The Forum for the YaR (Young at Risk) has brought together 90 Salesians and lay collaborators from 51 YaR centres from all over India. The expression 'Young at Risk' (YaR) embraces children and young people whose safety, growth and development are put at risk through indifference and neglect on the part of parents as well as society. Generally, the term refers to runaway children, school dropouts, rag-pickers, street children, child workers, young drug addicts, orphans; those abandoned, abused or exploited; refugee-children, victims of war, violence and calamities.

Inaugurating the seminar, Fr. Thomas Ellicherail S.D.B., Provincial of Kolkata, said, "in order to mould the future citizens of the nation, learning to act for social change is the crying need of our times". Taking cue from a speech made by the Rector Major in India two years ago, Fr Thomas reiterated the importance of "giving most to those who received the least". He

also paid rich tributes to the great pioneers in this field of work, whose courageous example set in motion a new trend in Salesian response to the plight of the young at risk across India.

The Chief Guest Mr. K. P. Sinha, Director of the Department of Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, whom Fr. George Chembakathinal, Director of Ashalayam, described as a man 'with a heart for the marginalized children' called for greater concern for the marginalized among the marginalized. He invited Don Bosco institutions to network with Government Children's Homes, particularly in the areas of health care, recreation and vocational training. The seminar had sessions on Mental and emotional health of children by Sr. Cyril of Loreto Convent, Adolescent sexual health issues by Ms. Veena Lakhmalani Dy. Director CINI Asha and Stakeholder and community influence by Mr. Roop Sen, Director Groupe Developpement South Asia.

Awareness of the need for child protection and juvenile justice is growing in India. The Salesians, who are the front-runners in the fight for human rights and justice among marginalized youth and children, need to constantly understand the rapid changes and emerging issues of childcare in the context of globalisation. This seminar is a concerted effort by the Don Bosco Forum for the Young at Risk to understand the gravity of the issue of childcare in India.

5. SPORTS & GAMES

Sports and games form an important part in the daily routine of all Homes in DBA. Regular sports activities for boys and girls include; basketball, football, volleyball, swimming, cricket, rugby, yoga, karate and athletics. DBA boys and girls have excelled in sports and games and many of them represent their schools in tournaments. The children have access to coaching in various disciplines and Ashalayam boys are regularly selected in the 'Jungle Crows' rugby team. The rugby team has participated in different tournaments in Orissa, Chennai, Mumbai and other places whilst the karate squad put up a creditable showing winning two golds and one silver medal in the national meet in Mumbai.



We are grateful to the donors for generously sponsoring the sports teams.

6. ASSP (Asha Sishu Siksha Project)

ASSP project runs 9 Non Formal Education Centres at several railway squatter colonies and slums of Howrah and Hooghly.



These centers provide facilities such as Basic Education, Medication and Nutrition to the children who are mostly found in stations, in the surrounding slums, streets, pavements, platforms etc. The aim is to provide the necessary basic facilities to these children and consequently rehabilitate and reinstate them in society.

7. NCLP (National Child Labour Project)

NCLP is a programme under the Ministry of Labour—Government of India; and focuses on working children, aiming to provide necessary opportunities for formal education for a better and secure future. Professional and qualified personnel reach out to these exploited children and bring to their doorstep facilities like basic education, nutrition and medical care.

8. Placement Cell

The Placement Cell places Ashalayam boys and girls who have completed their Vocational training and education in suitable jobs or



helps them to become self-employed. The Placement Cell also helps the young adults to buy land and in building a house for them. After being placed in a job, regular follow ups are done.

9. SANJOG (LINKAGE) PROJECT

Sanjog Project is an initiative to provide multi-level service and intervention with regard to issues of trafficking and exploitation of street children in South Asia. DBA works in coordination with the Government and other NGO's like Prajak, CINI Asha, Sanlaap etc.

The main aim of this project is to cater to children who are either trafficked, or who are prone to trafficking. The other central aim is to prevent children in the streets from being economically and sexually exploited. The Sanjog Project is supported by the European Commission and Groupe Developpement.

10. Documentation & Research Centre at Don Bosco Ashalayam

Don Bosco Ashalayam also has its own Documentation and Research Centre. Documentation of all activities is vital to assess the work done as also to enable the Administration of Ashalayam to take necessary steps to accelerate the rate of progress in areas which need attention. Through a specially designed software called HOMELINK, the Documentation and Research Centre of Don Bosco Ashalayam uses this programme to create a link with other NGOs all over India in order to provide a flexible solution to document the organisational activities under the Street and Missing child details, Home details, Alumni details. Through this software the Documentation centre also uploads the details of children who are missing (Missing Child Search) to facilitate and stimulate the various linked organisations to trace out the concerned missing children within a short span of time.

11. Vocational Training Centre 2008-09

After arriving in Don Bosco Ashalayam, children face many difficulties that are related to social integration and decorum. When this is overcome and done with, schooling and education is another challenge, as most of them have not received any education at all. Don Bosco Ashalayam tries imparting vocational training to them, in order to make them skilled enough to find a job; as earning their living is one condition of their independence and success of Ashalayam today. 187 boys and girls learnt various skills in the Don Bosco Ashalayam's 4 Vocational Training Centres.



	Center	Male	Female	Total
1	Uluberia	27	23	50
2	B'gangarampur	28	24	52
3	Sijberia	30	26	56
4	Chengail	30	24	54
5	Dasnagar	28	19	47
6	Tikiapara	20	13	33
7	Pilkhana	32	27	59
8		16	7	23



12. CHILDLINE



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CHILDLINE is a nation-wide hour,

emergency free phone outreach service committed to respond to children in difficult circumstances, and trying to link them to long term services like repatriation, shelter, medical assistance, etc. Its primary aim is to reach out to children who need emergency assistance. Any child in distress, or a person coming across a helpless child in distress, can dial 1098; toll free, to access the service. Apart from Kolkata, CHILDLINE is already established in 77 cities throughout India.

Call Types	April 1999 to March 2006	April 2006 to Mar 2009
Medical Assistance	2115	351
Shelter	1850	164
Restoration	3191	458
Missing Child	1816	212
Rescued from abuse	1375	246
Emotional Support & Guidance	14891	149
Info. And Referral service	4018	105
Info. About Childline and Volunteer	14962	1705
Death related	39	00
Follow up	12594	838
Total	55,551	3982



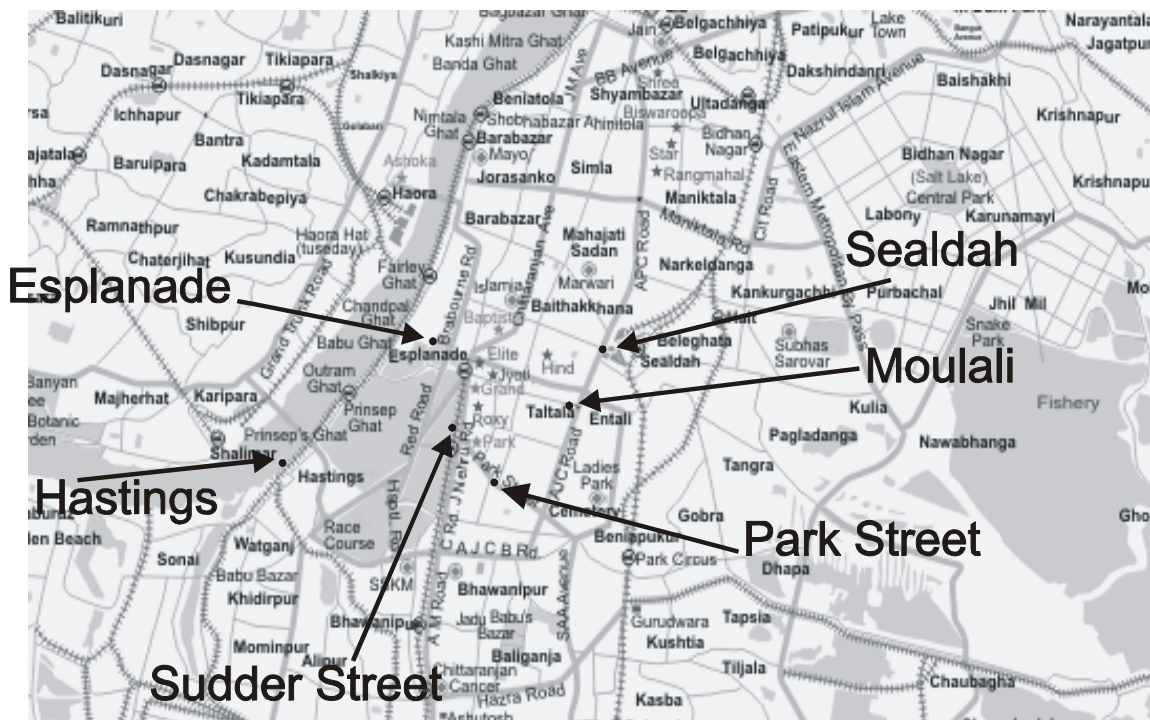
13. SCRP (Street Children Rehabilitation Project)

The Street Children Rehabilitation Project caters to the street children of Kolkata. The objective is the social and economic empowerment of teenagers living on the street and platform areas and proposing an alternative to street life. The counseling and Outreach staff are in regular contact with the street and station children to wean them away from street life. The Project



has six shelter Homes and outreach activities are conducted at various points in the city. Other activities include non formal and formal education, vocational training, counseling, sports and games, outings, educational tours and life skills education. SCRП is sponsored by the Government of Luxembourg and Groupe Developpement.

Kolkata Outreach Area map



DON BOSCO ASHALYAM HOWRAH TRUST

Sl.	Homes	Boys	Girls
1	Ashalayam	56	
2	Asha Anand I	23	
3	Asha Anand II	6	
4	Mayer Asha Ichapur		27
5	Mayer Asha Baltikuri		26
6	Asha Prottek (Boys Night Shelter)	54	
7	Asha Karunamoyee (Girls Night Shelter)		21
	TOTAL	139	74



DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM
158/ 18, BELLIOUS ROAD,
HOWRAH - 1

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Opening Balance					
Cash and Bank Balance		2,232,239	Project Administration & Maintainence Expenses		1,943,463
Donation & Contribution		11,922,629	Salary & Allowance		416,637
Sponsorship Account		579,827	Educational Expenses		
Scholarship Account		18,000	Sports	168,694	
Bank Interest & VTCSales		680,385	Entertainment / Picnic	63,367	
Sundry Receipts		48,546	Summer camp	444,837	
			Staff Training	14,600	
			LSE Training	17,621	
			Life skill Training	13,988	
			Livelihood Training	13,618	
			Miscelleneous	<u>285,783</u>	1,022,507
			House/ Boarding Expenses		
			Food	1,443,105	
			Stationary	161,639	
			Clothes/ outfits	285,404	
			Fuel for cooking	102,031	
			Doctor/ Medicines	251,415	
			Domestic Articles	24,060	2,267,654
			Other Expenses		249,015
			Vocational Training Expenses		1,333,224
			Donation/ Contribution & Charity		266,964
			Advance paid for the new Research, Child Care & Protection Centre		3,631,874
			Sundry Payments		48,546
			Capital Expenditure		1,213,833
			Closing Balance		
			Cash and bank balance		3,087,910
		15,481,627			15,481,627

DON BOSCO ASHALYAM KOLKATA TRUST

Sl.	Homes	Boys	Girls
1	Asha Nayan	52	
2	Asha Bosco	15	
3	Asha Bhavan	19	
4	Asha Drishti	12	
5	Asha Deep	18	
6	Asha Deepti		20
7	Asha Nayan (Night Shelter)	33	
TOTAL		149	20



DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM KOLKATA TRUST
64 K, LINTON STREET
KOLKATA

RECEIPT	AMOUNT	TOTAL	PAYMENT	AMOUNT	TOTAL
AMOUNT		AMOUNT		AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Opening Balance					
Cash and Bank balance		187,359	Project Administration & Maintenance Expenses		872,388
Donation & Contribution		5,837,835	Salary & Allowance		1,818,475
Bank Interest & Sundry Receipts		113,024	Educational Expenses		623,051
			House/ Boarding		
			Food	1,172,400	
			Home stationary	40,835	
			Clothes/ Outfits	48,185	
			Fuel for cooking	85,101	
			Doctor and Medicines	151,808	
			Domestic articles	<u>19,524</u>	1,517,854
			Vocational Training Expenses		355,650
			Charity & Social Work		2,500
			Capital Expenditure		392,105
			Sundry Payments		65,325
			Closing Balance		
			Cash and bank balance		490,870
		6,138,218			6,138,218

DON BOSCO ASHALYAM LILUAHTRUST

Sl.	Homes	Boys	Girls
1	Asha Maria	25	
2	Asha Nivas	28	
3	Asha Neer	24	
4	Asha James	16	
5	Asha Jyoti	15	
6	Asha Arunodaya		13
TOTAL		108	13



DON BOSCO ASHALYAM KALYANI TRUST

Sl.	Homes	Boys	Girls
1	Asha Nirmala		42
2	Asha Selvan	16	
3	Asha Uday	17	
4	Asha Dan	14	
5	Asha Niketan	24	
TOTAL		71	42



**DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM LILUAH TRUST
SMPC COMPLEX BHATTANAGAR
HOWRAH - 711203**

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT	PAYMENT	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Opening Balance			Project Administration & Maintainence Expenses		1,548,772
Cash and Bank balance		179,292	Salary & Allowance		159,050
Donation & Contribution		4,609,453	Educational Expenses		786,231
Bank Interest		44,728	House & Boarding Expenses		
			Food	944,771	
			Clothes / Outfits	48,113	
			fuel for cooking	112,170	
			Doctor / Medicines	151,209	
			Home stationary	78,920	
			Domestic Articles	<u>22,614</u>	1,357,797
			Donation & Contribution		17,309
			Farm Expenses		3,100
			Sundry Payments		39,452
			Capital Expenses		323,700
			Closing Balance		
			Cash and Bank balance		598,062
		4,833,473			4,833,473

**DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM KALYANI TRUST
SAGUNA PALPARA
NADIA**

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Opening Balance			Project Administration & Maintainence Expenses		521,162
Cash and Bank balance		403,062	Salary & Allowance		577,353
Donation & Contribution		2,825,578	Educational Expenses		661,506
Farm Income		273,526	House & Boarding Expenses		
Bank Interest		14,254	Food	592,925	
Sundry Receipts		58,710	Stationary	78,771	
			Clothes / Outfits	33,693	
			Fuel for cooking	56,969	
			Doctor / medicines	80,937	
			Domestic Articles	2,681	
					845,975
			Vocational Training Expenses		73,500
			Social & Charity work		75,182
			Farm Expenses		307,696
			Sundry Payments		52,737
			Capital Expenses		145,929
			Closing Balance Cash and Bank balance		314,090
		3,575,130			3,575,130

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In our endeavor to work with the street and destitute children we have come in contact with innumerable people and organizations who have joined hands in working for our cause and have now become part and parcel of our organization and our children. We are grateful to our friends and benefactors for their generous support, especially to the Ashalayam children, for their contribution. I hope that they will continue to inspire many more people to get involved in supporting the less fortunate children. If these children can contribute from the little that they have, then it is time we realize our role in supporting the less privileged, considering the ever growing economy of India adding to the problems of the less privileged.

1. DBA partners-Indian Government Departments

Ministry of Women & Child Development,
Government of India

Ministry of Labour Government of India

Child welfare Committee

Juvenile Justice Board

Department of Social Welfare,
Government of West Bengal

The District Magistrate, Howrah.

Howrah Municipal Corporation and
Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Kolkata and Howrah Police

Superintendent of Police (GRP-Howrah)

DRM-Howrah (Eastern Railways)

DRM-Kharagpur (South Eastern Railways)

RPF Commandant-Sealdah Division

Kolkata and Howrah Railway Police and
Authorities.

2. DBA Partners-Local NGOs and various organizations

Missionaries of Charity

Calcutta Samaritans

Mennonite Central Committee,
Kolkata

General Konsulat Der Bundersrepublik

Groupe Developpement South Asia

Don Bosco Development Society of
Kolkata (DBDOC)

CLPOA

SEED

Catholic Relief Society

Sanlaap

Seva Kendra Calcutta

CINI-ASHA

Loreto, Sealdah

Smile Foundation

SKIP-Bangalore

Calcutta Rescue

South Point Howrah

Deutschland, Kolkata.

Lafarge Ltd.

Terra Indica

ITC Sonar Bangla

The Fortune Park Panchavati

Rotary Club, Kolkata

R.N. Tagore Institute

Swabhumi Restaurant

Orko's Restaurant, City Centre

3. DBA Partners-Schools

Mother Mary School

Shree Jogosree RKM Prathamik
Vidyalaya

South Bantra Ramakrishna Institution

Kulakamini Vidya Mandir

Bantra Madusudan Pal Chowdhury
HS School

Mahadeva School

Chapala Devi Balika Vidhlaya

Holy Family Convent school

Swaika Girls Primary & High School

Indumoti Shiksha Niketan

Surendra Nath Ghosh Memorial High
School

Bani Mandir

Tara Sundari Higher Secondary School

St. Peter's High School

Carey High School

St. Sebastian School

St. Anthony's School, Chandanagar

Mary Immaculate School, Ranaghat

Mary Immaculate School, Chapra

Auxilium School, Kalyani

Jogendranath Vidya Mandir

Radhagobindo Primary School

Janata Adarsh Vidyalaya

4. Facilitating professional competency and social concern through academic partnership

Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Loyola College Trivandrum

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Jaiprakash Institute of Social Sciences

Bhopal School of Social Sciences

IGNOU

St. Xaviers College, Kolkata

Delhi Public School

Carmel School Joka

Rabindra Bharti University

Sacred Heart Collge Shillong

Salesian College, Sonada

Don Bosco School, Park Circus

Don Bosco College, Angadikadavu

Don Bosco School, Liluah