



Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

(Registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act 1961. # S/2L/21943 of 2014-2015)

1, Convent Lane, Tangra, Kolkata, India. Pin – 700 015,

Ph.: (+91) (33) Email: kmwscloreto@gmail.com Website: www.kolkatamarywardsc.org

(Regd. Office: Loreto Provincialate, 7, Middleton Row, Kolkata – 700 071)

Our Journey of Hope

The Background:

The Loreto Congregation has been developing educational institutions in India for nearly 184 years, committed to the upliftment of girls irrespective of their economic, social, or religious background. Guided by the vision of Mary Ward, these institutions have worked tirelessly to bring education and empowerment to those most in need.

Two decades ago, **Loreto Day School, Sealdah**, extended this legacy by setting up a **resource centre** dedicated to the welfare of underprivileged, marginalised, deprived, and migrant sections of society. Over time, several outreach programmes evolved from this centre, addressing the needs of people not only in West Bengal but also in other parts of India.

As these initiatives multiplied and diversified, the increasing project activities created the need for a separate social development entity — one that could streamline the work across different thematic areas, ensure organisational growth, and enhance impact.

The Transition:

With changes in the administrative structure of the Loreto Congregation came the vision to establish a dedicated platform for social action. This vision led to the formation of **Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)**, which took over the administration of all the outreach projects previously managed by Loreto Sealdah.

In **June 2014**, KMWSC was formally registered in Kolkata under the **West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961**, as a non-governmental and non-profit organisation. The registration marked a significant step in consolidating and expanding the Loreto social mission — giving it both structure and sustainability.

The Expansion Modality (The Branching Out):

The establishment of KMWSC as a distinct social entity enabled the initiation of numerous new projects, leading to an increase in staff strength and a growing number of beneficiaries. The space at the Sealdah resource centre soon became inadequate to accommodate the expanding operations.

As programmes began incorporating residential training for staff and community members, the need for larger facilities became essential. Consequently, **KMWSC moved to new premises at Loreto Convent, Entally**, located at **1 Convent Lane, Tangra, Kolkata**, from where it now operates.

From this new base, KMWSC continues to reach diverse communities across **multiple districts of West Bengal** and in **Nawada district of Bihar**, carrying forward the Loreto spirit of service with renewed focus, compassion, and scale.

Our Thematic Areas of Work

At KMWSC, we believe real change must be holistic, weaving together education, health, livelihoods, protection, environment, and preparedness. With this vision, we work across five **thematic areas**:

- 1. Women & Child Protection** – Safeguarding children and women from exploitation, and supporting survivors of trafficking and abuse.



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- 2. Education & Health** – Ensuring that vulnerable children learn and grow, while communities access health services and awareness.
- 3. Community & Skill Development** – Empowering women, youth, and families through livelihood skills, self-help groups, and life skills.
- 4. Environment & Sustainability** – Building eco-friendly, climate-resilient communities through farming, composting, and conservation.
- 5. Disaster & Pandemic Management** – Providing timely relief and equipping communities to respond effectively in times of crisis.

Our Projects

Each of our projects is a reflection of KMWSC's commitment to walk alongside the most vulnerable. Rooted in compassion and community needs, these initiatives span protection, education, health, livelihoods, environment, and disaster response — creating pathways of hope and transformation for thousands of children, women, and families every year.

1. Providing Education and Protection to Vulnerable Children at Sonagachi:

This initiative supports children of sex workers in Sonagachi, offering them safe spaces, education, and protection from exploitation. It nurtures their growth through remedial learning, life skills, and healthcare while also empowering mothers with awareness and support. By breaking intergenerational cycles of abuse and marginalisation, the project gives children a chance to dream of a better future, free from stigma and exploitation, and opens pathways to dignity, education, and hope.

2. Sensitisation of Communities at Risk (SCAR):

The SCAR project combats trafficking and child protection concerns in Basirhat, a key Indo–Bangladesh transit point. It builds vigilance through child parliaments, peer leaders, and awareness programmes, engaging children, families, and stakeholders to create strong protection mechanisms. SCAR ensures safer childhoods and resilient communities by empowering children as watchdogs and partners in safeguarding their peers from exploitation and abuse.

3. Empowering Mothers in Sex Trade (MIST):

MIST supports mothers in the sex trade with literacy, health awareness, and life skills to reclaim dignity and agency. Through education, counselling, and support groups, it empowers them to make informed choices, reduce health risks, and explore alternative livelihoods. By fostering resilience and confidence, MIST nurtures social acceptance and enables mothers to act as change agents, protecting their children and striving for a more secure, dignified life.



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4. Leadership and Empowerment of Survivors (LES):

LES empowers survivors of trafficking and exploitation by providing safe spaces for healing and leadership. Through counselling, peer support, skills training, and advocacy, it helps survivors rebuild confidence, independence, and resilience. They are encouraged to lead support groups and spread awareness, becoming role models in their communities. LES transforms pain into power, enabling survivors not only to recover but also to drive social change with dignity

5. SurakshitSaisav:

The SurakshitSaisav Project works in Basirhat's border villages to protect childhoods and prevent exploitation. It raises child protection awareness, promotes education, and mobilises communities in trafficking-prone areas. By engaging parents, teachers, and children in creating safe environments, the project strengthens community resilience. SurakshitSaisav ensures children grow in safety, with access to learning, care, and the freedom to enjoy their childhood without fear

6. I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. (Involvement, Development and Empowerment of in-Need Individuals Through You):

The I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. Project supports children and families in Hastings, Dhapa, and Motijheel. It provides remedial education to out-of-school children and child labours, later mainstreaming them into government schools. Alongside learning, it ensures preventive healthcare, access to identity documentation like Aadhaar, and awareness of child rights. By addressing multiple deprivations, the project helps children and families reclaim dignity, protection, and opportunities for a better future

7. Sohochari

Sohochari supports children of sex workers in Sonagachi and Matia, addressing stigma and exploitation through education and protection. It creates safe spaces for dignity and growth while raising awareness on child rights. With remedial learning, life skills, and protection measures, the project helps children resist marginalisation. By nurturing resilience and hope, Sohochari empowers them to dream beyond boundaries imposed by stigma and exclusion

8. Kolkata Slums Project

The Kolkata Slums Project supports children forced into rag-picking, begging, or exploitative work. It provides safe learning spaces, remedial education, healthcare, and life skills for adolescents. Families are helped to secure identity documents and access schemes. By breaking cycles of poverty and exclusion, the project ensures slum children and youth can envision brighter, healthier, and more secure futures, moving from mere survival to hope and opportunity.

9. NayaDisha

The NayaDisha Project supports survivors of trafficking, child marriage, elopement, and domestic violence in Hingaljanj, a vulnerable border area. It focuses on healing, empowerment, and reintegration through counselling, awareness, and livelihood opportunities. By addressing trauma and stigma, the project restores dignity and fosters community acceptance. Survivors gain



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confidence to rebuild their lives with independence and courage, making NayaDisha a true “new direction” of hope

10. Silver Lining:

Silver Lining brings hope to children, women, persons with disabilities, and youth in vulnerable communities. It fosters safe, inclusive spaces where dignity and equity thrive. Combining education, protection, healthcare, and empowerment, the project creates opportunities for the most marginalised. By embracing diversity and resilience, Silver Lining ensures no one is left behind, enabling every individual to experience the strength of compassion, inclusion, and the chance to flourish.

11. Brickfield School Project (BFS)

The Brickfield School Project provides education and protection to children of migrant brickfield workers, often excluded from schooling. It offers flexible, age-appropriate classes aligned with mainstream curricula, ensuring learning continuity despite migration. The project also provides health check-ups, safe migration awareness, and extracurricular. By turning brickfields into spaces of learning and care, BFS gives children hope, dignity, and the chance to break free from poverty.

12. Barefoot Teachers’ Training Programme

This programme empowers aspiring educators from marginalised communities with practical teaching skills, even without formal qualifications. Focused on those who may not have completed Class X, it equips them to deliver remedial education locally. Through training, mentoring, and exposure, it nurtures grassroots teachers as role models. By ensuring education reaches the last mile, the programme transforms individuals into catalysts of change and strengthens community-led learning solutions

13. Lotus Child Project

The Lotus Child Project supports vulnerable children and families in South 24 Parganas and the Sundarbans, including ‘tiger widows’ facing poverty and loss. It offers remedial education, menstrual health awareness, child rights sensitisation, and livelihood support for women. By nurturing children and mothers, the project helps communities overcome marginalisation and restores dignity, resilience, and opportunity, enabling families to envision a secure and hopeful future.

14. Arogya – Healing with Dignity, Caring with Love

The Arogya Project provides healthcare and dignity to sex workers and their children, often neglected and at high risk. It offers free health check-ups, medicines, counselling, and nutrition kits for children’s growth. The project raises awareness on preventive healthcare, hygiene, and well-being, fostering resilience in marginalised families. By combining compassion with essential services, Arogya restores hope and ensures vulnerable communities receive the care and dignity they deserve.



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15. Skill Development Project

The Skill Development Project empowers underprivileged girls, women, and boys in Kolkata with vocational training, life skills, and health education. Focusing on tailoring, fashion design, beautician, and employability, it opens pathways to dignified livelihoods. By nurturing skills and confidence, the project helps participants break cycles of poverty and dependence. Graduates gain income opportunities, resilience, and independence, enabling them to contribute positively to their communities.

16. Café & Bakery Project

The Café & Bakery Project offers marginalised youth training in baking and food services while providing a safe, inclusive space for growth. Alongside technical skills, participants learn teamwork, discipline, and customer service, preparing for stable jobs. The café also acts as a community hub, where youth gain dignity and belonging. By combining vocational skills with confidence-building, the project creates pathways to self-reliance and transforms young lives with opportunity.

17. Landing Pad Project – Menstrual Hygiene & Dignity

The Landing Pad Project tackles stigma around menstruation in underserved communities. It distributes free sanitary pads, promotes hygiene education, and introduces eco-friendly disposal practices. By breaking taboos and encouraging open dialogue, the project empowers girls and women to manage health with dignity. It restores confidence, reduces school absenteeism, and strengthens gender equity, ensuring menstruation is no longer a barrier to education, health, or empowerment.

18. FOOD ATM – Feeding Hope

The FOOD ATM programme combats hunger in Kolkata's most vulnerable neighbourhoods by serving free, nutritious hot meals twice a week. Operated in collaboration with the Café & Bakery Unit, the project not only addresses food insecurity but also restores dignity by ensuring no one sleeps hungry. It promotes inclusion by reaching children, the elderly, and the destitute without discrimination. FOOD ATM is more than a feeding programme — it is a symbol of compassion and community care in action.

19. Tribal Community Development & Empowerment (TCDE) Project

The TCDE Project supports Santhali and fisherman families in Gangasagar, marginalised for decades with little access to land rights, education, or schemes. It works to reduce dropouts, prevent child labour, and protect children from trafficking while improving livelihoods. Families are aided with documentation, education, and empowerment initiatives. By addressing exclusion on multiple fronts, TCDE restores dignity and rights, helping tribal communities break free from poverty and invisibility.

20. Nari Shakti – Empowering Women in the Sundarbans

Nari Shakti empowers women in remote Sundarbans villages, where poverty, poor health, and gender inequality dominate life. The project promotes alternative livelihoods, healthcare awareness, and leadership training, enabling women to take active roles in their communities. By



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fostering resilience and self-reliance, it improves family well-being and builds stronger, more equitable communities. Nari Shakti ensures women move from the margins to the centre of decision-making and development.

21. Nutrition Project – Because No One Should Sleep Hungry

The Nutrition Project ensures children and mothers in Kolkata's underserved neighbourhoods do not go to bed hungry. It identifies malnourished individuals and provides nutritious meals, care, and follow-up support. Beyond tackling immediate hunger, it restores dignity, reduces health risks, and offers families healthier, stronger futures. The project reflects KMWSC's belief that compassion can nourish and nourishment can transform lives, making food security a cornerstone of empowerment.

22. Adolescent Girls Empowerment Programme (AGEP)

AGEP empowers adolescent girls with knowledge, skills, and confidence to resist exploitation and embrace education and livelihood opportunities. Through life skills, awareness sessions, and mentorship, it builds resilience and independence. Girls are encouraged to continue schooling, delay early marriage, and pursue aspirations. By breaking barriers of gender inequality and vulnerability, AGEP helps them step into adulthood with dignity, courage, and the confidence to lead change

23. Organic Sack Farming – A Smart Solution for Space-Starved Communities

The Organic Sack Farming Project offers an innovative way for migrant families in brickfields to grow vegetables despite lacking land. Using sacks as portable farms, families cultivate nutritious produce at their doorsteps, improving food security and reducing costs. The project also raises awareness on organic farming and environmental care. Beyond food, sack farming restores dignity, builds resilience, and empowers families to adopt sustainable solutions in deprived environments

24. Climate Action & Biodiversity (CAB) – Protecting Nature, Empowering Communities

The CAB Project supports vulnerable families in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove ecosystem, threatened by cyclones, rising seas, and shrinking livelihoods. It restores biodiversity, protects ecosystems, and promotes sustainable livelihoods like eco-friendly farming and nursery development. By combining conservation with community empowerment, the project strengthens resilience to climate change and ensures families not only adapt but also become guardians of nature and their futures.

25. Kiran – III Project

The Kiran-III Project drives holistic slum development through waste management and women's empowerment. Women's groups are trained in recycling, vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation, and nursery development, enabling sustainable incomes while ensuring cleaner surroundings. By turning waste into wealth, the project nurtures environmental responsibility, strengthens community livelihoods, and transforms slums into healthier, resilient, and sustainable neighbourhoods led by empowered women.



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26. KMWSC Cares

KMWSC Cares was born during the COVID-19 pandemic when thousands of daily wage earners lost their livelihoods overnight. Guided by compassion, the initiative reached vulnerable families with rations, cooked meals, baby food, and safety kits. Its mission later expanded to cyclone relief—Amphan, Yash, and Remal—through food, shelter materials, and rebuilding support. Today, KMWSC Cares stands as a dedicated disaster-response arm, ensuring dignity, safety, and resilience for families facing crises.

Where We Work

KMWSC works across urban Kolkata, rural West Bengal in the districts of Nadia, North & South 24 Parganas, and the source villages of migrant families in Nawada district of Bihar and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand. This dual presence allows us to support families at both their places of origin and destinations of work, ensuring continuity of care and education.

Impact at a Glance

Each year, thousands of children and families are supported through our interventions:

- Migrant children receive education at brickfield schools and are mainstreamed into formal schools.
- Survivors of trafficking access protection, counselling, and livelihoods.
- Women in urban slums and villages gain skills in waste management, tailoring, and small enterprises.
- Families affected by disasters receive immediate relief and long-term recovery support.

Behind every statistic is a story of courage, resilience, and transformation — a child who enters a classroom for the first time, a woman who begins to earn her own income, or a family that finds hope after devastation.

Our Promise

At KMWSC, we hold fast to the belief that **every person deserves dignity, justice, and opportunity**. Guided by compassion and conviction, we continue to stand with the marginalised, building resilient communities and pathways of hope for generations to come.
