



Moitrisanjog Society
Cooch Behar

MOITRISANJOG
SOCIETY
COOCH BEHAR

Annual Report
2023 – 2024





Message from the Secretary:

Moitrisanjog: A Decade of Advocacy and Empowerment

For over ten years, Moitrisanjog has been unwavering in its mission to uphold the rights and dignity of individuals from marginalized gender and sexual identities, with a strong focus on the transgender community. In a society dominated by patriarchy, toxic masculinity, and rigid heteronormative norms, these communities often face denial of rights, silencing of voices, and social invisibility. Our work is dedicated to challenging these oppressive systems and paving the way toward justice, equality, and inclusion.

Our commitment goes beyond advocacy—we focus on the holistic well-being of transgender individuals. This includes educational support for underprivileged children and a strong emphasis on mental health care, especially for those facing bullying, violence, and isolation. Moitrisanjog stands firmly against all forms of violence—both physical and psychological—targeted at the LGBTQIA+ community.

We believe that raising awareness is only the first step. Through initiatives such as livelihood training and economic empowerment programs, we ensure that transgender, kothi, and queer individuals can access the social and economic rights they are entitled to. These efforts aim to foster independence, self-worth, and community inclusion.

Our vision centers on achieving social, political, and economic justice for transgender and intersex individuals, and advocating for their civil and legal rights. We work to create safe, affirming spaces where gender-diverse individuals can live freely—without fear of discrimination or marginalization. Our efforts also confront intersecting systems of oppression, including those based on caste, class, race, religion, legal status, age, and sexual orientation.

At Moitrisanjog, we imagine a future where no one is excluded or devalued for who they are—a world where everyone is recognized, respected, and protected, regardless of gender identity.

Arindam Das (Sumi)



BACKGROUND

In a society still deeply entrenched in patriarchal norms, those who do not conform to traditional gender binaries or heteronormative expectations—such as transgender individuals, gender-nonconforming people, and marginalized women—continue to face severe discrimination and violence. Growing up with dignity, equal rights, and opportunities remains a formidable challenge for those who identify outside the conventional gender spectrum or have diverse sexual orientations. Often, they are rejected by their families and communities, leading to social alienation and economic vulnerability. Many are forced into begging or sex work for survival, while others succumb to despair, with suicide becoming a tragic escape for some. The situation is even more dire in rural areas, where social stigma is harsher and resources are scarcer.

Given that back in 2011, a few transgender / gender variant persons based at Cooch Behar, North Bengal used to regularly meet and share their own stories of struggle and painful lives in order to vent out their pain and find solidarity in each other. Gradually more people were added to the informal group. Their ideas and thoughts started taking shape, they got enough strength from each other to collectively fight against the discrimination and violence inflicted on them. This solidarity group eventually turned out to be a community based organization (CBO) back in 2011.

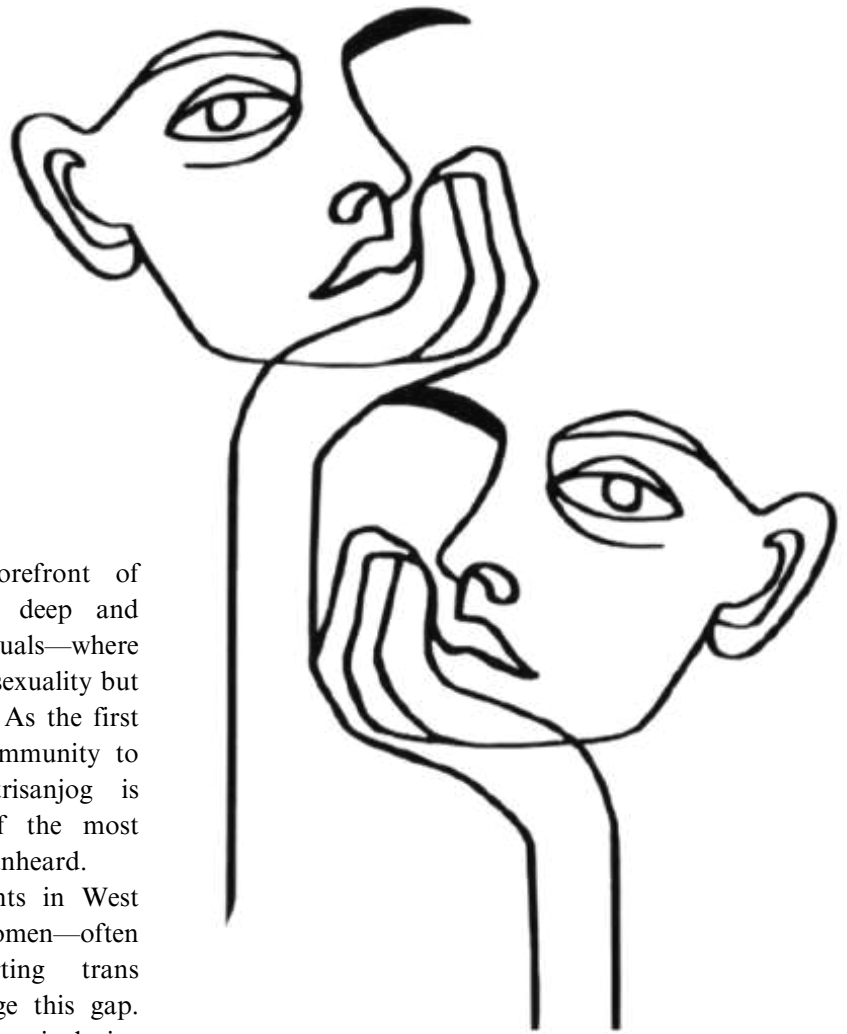
The CBO was named Moitrisanjog, meaning “a network to connect friends”. Thus, the Moitrisanjog Society got officially registered under Society Act as a NGO in the year 2011. The society is committed to protest the violence against the queer community. The main objective of our society is to provide a supportive network to ensure that everyone from the queer community gets equal opportunity, rights and entitlements to grow as a human being with dignity and respect. Our society strives to provide financial security to the community through establishing alternative livelihoods such as the craftsmanship program. We offer community members essential support services, including healthcare, counseling, and legal aid. Additionally, we advocate for equal access to education and employment opportunities. Beyond direct support, we actively organize awareness programs to challenge discrimination and combat violence in society.

VISION

Moitrisanjog Society stands at the forefront of intersectional activism, recognizing the deep and layered struggles faced by queer individuals—where discrimination is not just about gender or sexuality but also intersects with caste, class, and race. As the first organization in West Bengal's LGBT community to champion intersectional politics, Moitrisanjog is committed to amplifying the voices of the most marginalized and reaching those often left unheard.

In a landscape where feminist movements in West Bengal largely center cisgender women—often overlooking or inadequately supporting trans individuals—Moitrisanjog strives to bridge this gap. The organization is dedicated to fostering an inclusive dialogue on trans feminism, ensuring that the experiences and rights of trans and non-binary individuals are not just acknowledged but actively defended.

At its heart, Moitrisanjog is more than just an organization; it is a safe haven, a movement, and a family that stands in solidarity with those who have been pushed to the margins. It envisions a world where every queer and trans person can exist with dignity, free from oppression, and embraced in all their complexity and humanity.



MISSION

The mission of the organization is to reach out to people in Cooch Behar who are transgender or gender variant and mobilize them to protest against socio-domestic violence. The mission also includes developing solidarity networks in society to sensitize them to issues faced by these marginalized communities and advocate for social protections such as access to healthcare and employment.

Contact Information:

Registered Office: Balarampur Road, Near Das Bekary, PO: Dinhata,

District - Cooch Behar, WB - 736135, India

Present Project Office: Gangaler kuthi (near boshar hat bazar) post,

Gheghirhat pin. 736134 Dist. Coochbehar west Bengal, India

Website: www.moitrisanjog.org

Contact: +91 7063418696

Email - moitrisanjog2011@gmail.com



Sources of Funding

To sustain and expand these vital initiatives, Moitrisanjog Society relies on various sources of funding:

Individual Donations: Financial support from compassionate individuals who believe in the cause and wish to contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Membership Subscriptions: Contributions from the community and members who actively engage with Moitrisanjog Society's mission and programs.

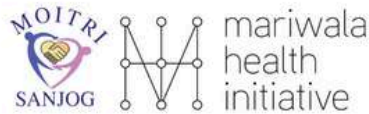
Mariwala Health Foundation: A dedicated partnership with the Mariwala Health Foundation, which provides support for the organization's health and wellness initiatives.

Conclusion

Moitrisanjog Society is committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of transgender and queer individuals by providing access to education, vocational training, shelter, and a supportive community. By continuing to raise awareness, reduce discrimination, and empower community members to take on leadership roles, Moitrisanjog aims to foster a future where everyone, regardless of gender identity, can live with dignity, respect, and equal opportunities. The future of the community depends on the collective efforts of all, and Moitrisanjog Society is at the forefront of driving these essential changes.



ESO KOTHA BOLI



ESO
KOTHA
BOLI



ESO KOTHA BOLI: A Safe Space for Empowerment and Change

ESO KOTHA BOLI is more than a movement—it is a safe, affirming space created for transgender individuals to share their experiences, voice concerns, and find community. Our mission is to uplift, empower, and support the transgender community through open dialogue, mutual understanding, and collective action for meaningful change.

Transgender people often face systemic discrimination—from family rejection to limited access to employment, housing, healthcare, and legal protection. Unfortunately, mainstream counseling centers frequently fail to meet their needs and may even expose them to further bias or mistreatment, intensifying their trauma.

Recognizing this, ESO KOTHA BOLI advocates for the creation of dedicated support spaces that provide safety, dignity, and compassion, where transgender individuals can access services without fear or stigma.

At its core, ESO KOTHA BOLI believes that every transgender person deserves to be seen, heard, and valued. We aim to build a supportive community where no one feels alone, and where shared experiences foster resilience and solidarity.

Our work is rooted in honest communication and mutual respect, creating a culture of trust that encourages individuals to share their stories and connect with others who understand their journey.

We offer essential services such as counseling, legal aid, and vocational training to promote stability, self-reliance, and dignity.

Together, we are not only building a support system but advancing a movement grounded in compassion, resilience, and community power.



Child Education Program

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Child Care Center Background

Moitrisanjog Society was founded in 2009 with the primary goal of advocating for the rights of the transgender community. Members of this community have long faced bullying and discrimination, often struggling to find employment simply because of their identity. The society was created to address these issues and stand up for the rights of transgender individuals. After receiving formal registration in 2011, Moitrisanjog Society has been committed to improving the lives of transgender people and fighting for their inclusion in society.

Recognizing the challenges faced by transgender individuals in education, Moitrisanjog Society became aware that many had not had the opportunity to attend school. Even those who did attend often dropped out due to constant bullying from peers. This experience led transgender individuals to feel that society was unjust and unequal, catering only to those in power.

To address these issues, Moitrisanjog Society, alongside transgender community members, established an educational center for children. This center was created to support children who may experience bullying in schools or whose parents lack the financial resources to send them to school. Since transgender individuals cannot biologically become mothers, Moitrisanjog Society also launched a "Gurukul" initiative to ensure a brighter future for children, while challenging the narrow-minded views present in today's society.



Activities of Gurukul

Moitrisanjog Society operates 24 hours a day to serve the transgender community and those in need. However, the Gurukul is open from Monday to Friday, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and on Sundays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Many of the children attending Gurukul go to nearby government schools, but due to their home environments lacking an educational focus and their parents being less educated, these children need a better educational environment. The Gurukul provides this by offering not only a supportive learning atmosphere but also two meals a day. Children can also learn computer skills and participate in extracurricular activities.

Currently, there are 24 children attending the Gurukul, all from disadvantaged backgrounds. These children were previously removed from government schools by their parents, but with the encouragement of Moitrisanjog Society, they are continuing their education in government schools. The children receive full support from the Gurukul at no cost. When they first joined the Gurukul two years ago, some were in class 2, while others were in class 6. The Gurukul aims to guide these 24 children until they complete their 10th grade, taking the state board exams.

As the Gurukul is run by members of the transgender community, who understand that they can never be biological mothers, they are committed to giving their all to ensure the children have a bright and successful future.

The Gurukul was started during the COVID-19 lockdown period, and for the first two years, it was funded by local donations. However, with businesses reopening and people returning to work, the level of donations has significantly decreased. As a result, the Gurukul is facing financial challenges and is struggling to maintain its operations. We are seeking your support through donations to help continue the Gurukul's work. Attached is an estimated budget for the next year to support the 24 children attending.

Media Advocacy:



Sumi Das, A Transgender, Has Founded A Gurukul In Cooch Behar In West Bengal Where The Teachers And The Non Teaching Staff Are Also From The LGBTQIA+ Community.

Danish Iqbal 📅 October 9, 2023



Number of peoples impacted this Years:

no	Innervation	Total no of innerv	Total no of people	Wome n	Youth	Regio nal minori	LGBT Q+	Disabi lity
1	Drop in Centre		768	126	108	103	406	11
2	drop in centre counselling		460				460	
3	Over Telephone Counselling		1129				1129	
4	community support group	9	399	42	45		291	21
5	police Sensitization	3	97	35	40		22	
6	Govt Hospital Meeting	3	82	32	40		10	
7	Street Drama	4	950					
8	Pride Event	1	389	90	120	35	144	
9	Emergency Relief Drive (Health	3	77					

Number of Community peoples impacted this Years:

Sl no	Innervation	Total no of peoples Impacted	LGBTQ+
1	Bank account	27	27
2	Pan card	12	12
3	Sastho Sathi card (Govt. health Insurance)	32	32
4	Khaddo Sathi card (Retion card)	56	56
5	Transgender Id card	26	26
6	How many people stayed overnight in the our shelter home	54	54

Pride Month Celebration:

Pride Month is a time of celebration and empowerment for the LGBTQ+ community around the world. It is an opportunity for individuals to express their authentic selves, raise awareness about LGBTQ+ rights, and promote equality and acceptance. Alipurduar District, located in West Bengal, India, has witnessed a remarkable transformation on the month of June, LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies have come together to celebrate Pride Month. This report the significance of Pride Month celebrations in Alipurduar District, highlighting the progress made, challenges overcome, and the impact of these events on the LGBTQ+ community and society at large.

Building a Supportive Community

In Alipurduar District, Pride Month has played a vital role in building a supportive and inclusive community for LGBTQ+ individuals. The celebrations provide a safe space for people to gather, connect, and share their stories and experiences. LGBTQ+ individuals can find solace in knowing that they are not alone and that there is a network of people who understand and accept them. The establishment of support groups, community organizations, and LGBTQ+ centers has further strengthened the bonds within the community, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment.

Promoting Awareness and Acceptance

Pride Month celebrations in Alipurduar District have helped raise awareness about LGBTQ+ issues and promote acceptance within society. Through various events, such as pride parades, film screenings, panel discussions, and art exhibitions, the community has been able to engage with the wider public. In the panel discussion there were psychiaristics Pushpendu Dhar, social worker Ratul Biswas, transgender activist Sumi Das were present. These events serve as platforms for dialogue, education, and dispelling myths and stereotypes surrounding LGBTQ+ individuals. As a result, attitudes and perceptions have evolved, leading to increased acceptance and support from the broader community.

Challenging Discrimination and Advocacy

While progress has been made, the LGBTQ+ community in Alipurduar District continues to face discrimination and prejudice. However, Pride Month celebrations have become a powerful platform for advocacy and challenging societal norms. By raising their voices, LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies have pushed for legal protections, equal rights, and anti-discrimination laws. Pride events have served as a public reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by the community and have acted as catalysts for change. Such advocacy efforts have contributed to a more inclusive and accepting environment, providing hope for a brighter future.

PRIDE RALLY

AILIPUR DUAR NORTH BENGAL

Inspiring Future Generations

One of the most significant outcomes of Pride Month celebrations in Alipurduar District has been the inspiration it has provided to future generations. The visibility of LGBTQ+ role models, stories, and achievements has created a more positive environment for young people questioning their own identities. LGBTQ+ youth in the district now have access to supportive resources, mentorship, and guidance, helping them navigate their journeys with confidence and pride. By fostering a more inclusive society, Pride Month celebrations contribute to a future where every individual can embrace their authentic selves without fear or judgment.

The celebration of Pride Month in Alipurduar District is a testament to the progress made by the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Through these events, the district has seen the emergence of a supportive community, increased awareness and acceptance, and a collective effort to challenge discrimination and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

Impact on Mental Health and Well-being

The celebration of Pride Month has had a profound impact on the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals in Alipurduar District. Historically, LGBTQ+ individuals have faced higher rates of mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and suicide. However, the supportive community and Pride Month celebrations have helped combat this by fostering a sense of pride, self-acceptance, and empowerment. The visibility and recognition of LGBTQ+ identities have given individuals the courage to live their truth openly, leading to improved mental health outcomes and increased self-esteem.



Menstrual Health & Hygiene Workshop and Sanitary Pad Distribution

Introduction:

In rural areas, lack of access to menstrual hygiene products can lead to serious health issues like reproductive and urinary tract infections. Menstrual stigma also contributes to social isolation and disrupts girls' education.

Workshop Overview:

On March 25, 2023, Moitrisanjog NGO organized a free sanitary pad distribution camp for adolescent girls in rural Cooch Behar, West Bengal, aimed at supporting those facing financial constraints.

The event began with a session highlighting the importance of menstrual hygiene and the specific challenges faced by rural girls. Interactive discussions followed, covering proper hygiene practices, safe pad usage, and the health impacts of poor hygiene.

In the second phase, volunteers conducted door-to-door distribution, reaching multiple villages with free pads and awareness messages. While cultural taboos led to some initial hesitation, the overall community response was positive and supportive.

Though home visits were resource-intensive, they offered valuable insight into community needs, enabling Moitrisanjog to tailor future efforts. The organization plans to expand its outreach to more underserved areas.

Conclusion:

The initiative successfully delivered essential menstrual products and education, enhancing health and dignity for adolescent girls. Such efforts are vital in recognizing menstrual hygiene as a basic human right, ensuring access regardless of socioeconomic background.



Moitrisanjog NGO recently presented a compelling street drama that shed light on transgender experiences, discrimination, and the path toward acceptance. The narrative centered on Bijoy, a transgender child facing societal rejection.

Act 1: Discrimination at School

Bijoy's feminine behavior subjected her to ridicule and exclusion from classmates, highlighting the harsh stigma faced by gender-nonconforming children.

Act 2: A Mother's Conflict

Her mother, a Panchayat Pradhan, struggled between social expectations and maternal love, initially reacting with shame and reprimand—mirroring the emotional battles many families endure.

Act 3: Bijoy Leaves Home

Unable to cope with the lack of acceptance, Bijoy left home, sparking a period of deep reflection for her mother.

Act 4: Awakening and Acceptance

Bijoy's absence led to the mother's transformation, as she began to understand and embrace her child's identity.

Act 5: From Guilt to Advocacy

The mother re-emerged as a passionate advocate for transgender rights, using her position to promote acceptance and inclusion in the community.

Epilogue: Inspiring Change

The drama made a significant impact, encouraging open dialogue and promoting awareness. Bijoy's story powerfully conveyed the message that everyone deserves to be seen, respected, and heard.

MOITRISANJOG NGO's TRANSFORMATIVE STREET DRAMA: A JOURNEY OF ACCEPTANCE AND ADVOCACY

Street Drama / পথ নাটক

Organized by-
Moitrisanjog society



Supported by-
Mariwala health initiative



Moitrisanjog's 12th Anniversary & Magazine Inauguration: A Celebration of Equality and Expression



On 19th November 2023, Moitrisanjog marked 12 years of dedicated work toward equality and happiness with a vibrant celebration at Uttaranchal Hall, Khagra Bari, Cooch Behar. The highlight was the launch of the NGO's magazine, "Lingo Porichoy Er Gorar Kotha", offering a rich exploration of transgender lives through personal stories, scientific insights, and cultural reflections—aimed at fostering empathy, awareness, and dialogue within the LGBTQ+ community.

Secretary Sumi Das opened the event by thanking supporters and highlighting the NGO's transformative impact over the years. The inauguration featured a captivating dance by Subho Das and a heartfelt speech by Sumi Das, setting a reflective and celebratory tone.

The magazine was formally launched by Dr. Devdas Mukherjee, Miss Sunita Kar, and Mr. Anupam Mitra, joined by Ms. Chandra Dev Bhaumik and Vikramshil, symbolizing the collective effort behind the initiative.

Distinguished guests enriched the event, including:

- Dr. Pompi Bhattacharjee (doctor and philanthropist)
- Miss Pinky Barman (founder of Jibon Gadi Feriwala, an old age home)
- Dipankar Mandal (social worker)
- Miss Sunita Kar (social activist, Lok Adalat judge, educator, and Joint Secretary of Kritika)
- Mr. Anupam Mitra (founder, Mind Zone Counselling Centre)
- Ms. Chandra Dev Bhaumik (teacher, editor, municipal representative)
- Vikramshil (engineering student, poet, and composer)

The cultural segment included a graceful dance by Sudipta Bagchi from Nithya Bitan and a soulful performance by Chandana Dey. The event concluded with Vikram's original musical performances, adding a heartfelt artistic touch.

Sumi Das presented mementos to all honored guests, acknowledging their support and contributions.

The celebration blended art, advocacy, and community spirit, making it a memorable tribute to inclusivity, talent, and Moitrisanjog's ongoing mission.



MOITRISANJOG
SOCIETY
12 YEARS OF PROMOTING EQUALITY AND HAPPINESS



DATE & TIME : 19TH NOVEMBER 2023, 5PM TO 7.30 PM
VENUE : UTTARANCHAL (NEAR RAMBHOLO HIGH SCHOOL)
SILIGURI ROAD, NH-31 COOCHBEHAR, WEST BENGAL
CONTACT 7063418696





Relief Drive: Moitrisanjog Society Supports Special Needs Teen

Moitrisanjog Society, a human rights organization based in Cooch Behar, recently extended crucial support to Puja, a 14-year-old girl with special needs. Once a lively dancer, Puja abruptly stopped speaking six months ago, alarming her parents.

Her father, a migrant worker in Hyderabad, and her mother, who takes on odd jobs, struggled to find effective treatment despite multiple consultations in Cooch Behar and a visit to a mental health facility in Tufanganj.

Moved by the family's situation and their past engagement with migrant children's education, Moitrisanjog stepped in. Through crowdfunding efforts and its contingency fund, the organization raised enough money to arrange for Puja's treatment in Siliguri.

Beyond financial aid, Moitrisanjog offered emotional support and worked closely with Puja's parents to ensure access to qualified healthcare professionals. A cheque was provided to cover treatment expenses.

This intervention highlights Moitrisanjog Society's broader mission of supporting marginalized individuals and responding to urgent needs within the community. The initiative reflects the organization's continued commitment to building a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Governing Board List:

1. Mr. Souvik Ghosal – President
2. Mr. Nabin Roy – Vice-President
3. Mr. Arindam Das – Secretary
4. Mr. Pintu Sutradhar – Assistant Secretary
5. Mr. Jayanta Mondal – Treasurer
6. Mr. Sanjib Dey – Member
7. Mr. Raja Das – Member
8. Mr. Bikram Mahato – Member

Working Group List:

Sl no	Name	Position
1	Arindam Das	Program Coordinator
2	Subhajit Dey	Counsellor
3	Iswar Chanda	Field Worker
4	Aprojit Mandal	Field Worker
5	Riya Dey	Accounts
6	Tamanna Dey	Gurukul Teacher
7	Riya pain	Gurukul Teacher

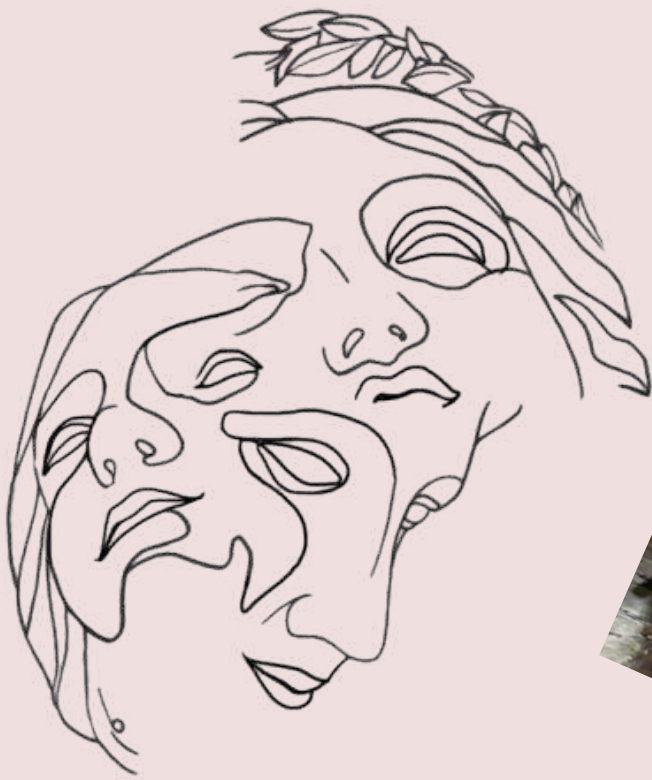


“Linggo Porichoyer Gorar Kotha
“Book Opening Issues LGBTQ
Gender Sexuality Rights.



We are speaking with the Government officials. About our
social security. District Transgender Protection Cell First
Meeting Cooch Behar Magistrate Office.





Our festival our Joy, New Dress
durga festival. Childs our
Gurukul .



Free Blanket Distribution
Bosarhat panchayet Cooch
Behar



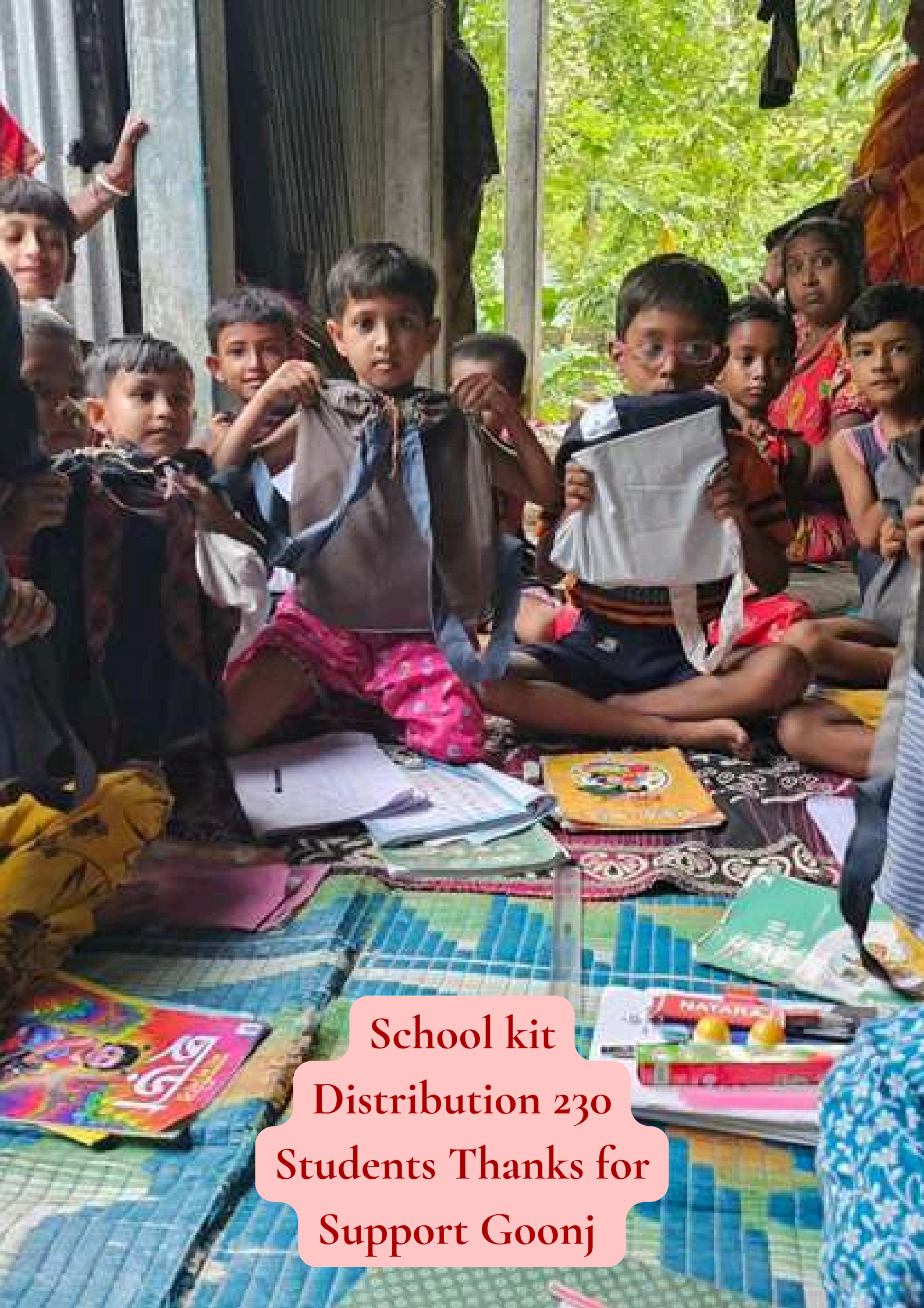
Community Support Group
Meeting: The discussion is how to
keep our mind good. Because every
moment bullying has to be
accepted in our society. As a result
of this panic attack, how can it be
cut? Psychologist Anupam Mitra,
head of Cooch Behar Mind Zone, is
discussing.



Internship Law Students



Celebrating Independent Day
our Child Care Centre



School kit

Distribution 230

Students Thanks for
Support Goonj

Future Plans of Moitrisanjog Society

At Moitrisanjog Society, we remain committed to building an inclusive and empowered community. To further strengthen our efforts, we have outlined the following key focus areas for our future initiatives:

A) Expansion of Vocational Training and Market Linkages

We aim to introduce more vocational training programs tailored to the community's needs, focusing on skill development and economic self-reliance. The goal is to connect trainees with markets, trade fairs, and local cottage industries, ensuring that their skills lead to tangible income opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

B) Reducing School Dropout Rates

Recognizing that low academic attainment is a major barrier to employment, we plan to work actively to reduce the dropout rate among children and young adults. This involves providing educational support, counseling, and resources to help keep students engaged in their studies and improve their future job prospects.

C) Establishment of a Full-Service Shelter Home

Many in the LGBTQ+ community face homelessness, often after being rejected by their families. We plan to develop a comprehensive shelter home that not only provides safe housing but also emotional, educational, and vocational support—especially critical for aging members of the community.

D) Mass Awareness and Youth Engagement

We believe that lasting change begins with awareness and allyship. We aim to organize community events, campaigns, and interactive programs that involve men and boys as allies, encouraging them to speak up in support of gender inclusivity. Engaging youth as advocates is key—they are the strongest pillars of society, and when they speak for us, it creates deeper social impact than when the community speaks only for itself.

E) Creating a Gender-Bias-Free Social Environment

Our vision is to foster a social climate free of gender-based biases, starting within Cooch Behar and expanding outward. We strive to build a world where no individual feels excluded or alienated because of their identity, ensuring dignity and equal treatment for all.

F) Developing Community Leadership

To amplify our reach and impact, we plan to nurture leadership within the community. This will include organizing workshops, training sessions, and group discussions to equip individuals with the confidence and skills needed to lead awareness campaigns, support peers, and represent community interests effectively.

