



LORETO SOUTH ASIA DEVELOPMENT **NEWS LETTER**

APRIL - JUNE'2026



Protecting Children. Empowering Communities. Transforming Lives.

Featuring the work of:

- Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
- Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre
- Loreto Rainbow Homes Foundation
- Nepal Loreto Shiksha Sadan

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KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE

TOP NEWS

- The Child Protection team intervened in over 180 cases involving human trafficking, missing children, child marriage, POCSO, domestic violence, school dropouts, and families at risk, ensuring timely rescue, counselling, and rehabilitation.
- Several vulnerable children and adolescents achieved remarkable academic success, with large numbers successfully passing the Madhyamik (105) and Higher Secondary Examinations (42) across different projects.
- New livelihood opportunities were created through training in jewellery making, tailoring, handicrafts, mushroom cultivation, water hyacinth products, and skill development, enabling many women and survivors to begin earning independently.





KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE



- Health initiatives included health camps, mental health sessions, eye camps, prenatal healthcare support, institutional deliveries, nutrition programmes, and the installation of Sanitary Pad ATMs to promote menstrual hygiene.
- Climate resilience and environmental sustainability remained a priority through mangrove plantation, fruit sapling distribution, sustainable farming, poultry farming, and organic sack farming initiatives.
- Children and adolescents actively participated in leadership programmes, child clubs, awareness campaigns on child rights, trafficking prevention, menstrual hygiene, World Environment Day, and World Day Against Child Labour.
- Several inspiring success stories emerged during the quarter, reflecting the resilience of survivors and the transformative impact of timely intervention, education, and community support.

DARJEELING MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE

Highlights!

- Capacity-building programmes for staff enhanced organizational systems, safeguarding practices, child rights, documentation, and programme implementation.
- Community legal awareness programmes reached tea garden communities, creating awareness on legal rights, government schemes, cyber safety, child labour, and child protection.



- Livelihood initiatives included reusable sanitary pad making, momo making, knitting, and handicraft training, creating opportunities for women's economic empowerment.
- Eye health camps, health awareness programmes, menstrual hygiene campaigns, and material support reached vulnerable families across intervention areas.

Darjeeling Mary Ward

Social Centre

- A felicitation programme celebrated 147 students appearing for Class X and XII Board Examinations, encouraging children to continue their educational journey.
- The Centre also strengthened collaboration with government departments, child protection networks, and partner organizations through district, state, and cross-border consultations.



- On 13th June, the President of Loreto South Asia Sr. Monica Suchiang visited DMWSC and interacted with staff to review ongoing programmes and appreciate their commitment to community development. The visit encouraged reflection, motivation, and continued dedication towards serving vulnerable communities.
- Children's leadership training strengthened awareness on Child Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, and child-led advocacy, while awareness programmes on anti-drug abuse, trafficking, cybercrime, and child labour reached thousands of children and community members.



LORETO RAINBOW HOMES FOUNDATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- Students recorded outstanding academic achievements, including 100% ICSE Class X success, an 89.4% Higher Secondary topper, and excellent Madhyamik results, celebrated through various scholarship and felicitation programmes.
- A three-day Summer Camp equipped adolescents with life skills, leadership, financial literacy, cyber safety, emotional well-being, legal awareness, and health education.
- LRHF launched the Youth Support Group Committee and the Yuva Shakti Forum, creating platforms for young people to participate in decision-making and lead community action on child marriage, mental health, women's safety, environmental protection, and drug prevention.
- International Yoga Day, World Environment Day, plantation drives, and the establishment of kitchen gardens encouraged healthy living and environmental stewardship among children.
- The Interfaith Dining Hall initiative strengthened inclusion by bringing children from diverse backgrounds together while ensuring nutritious meals through new partnerships
- Children and young adults overcame barriers to education and employment through continuous counselling, vocational training, and family support, demonstrating the transformative impact of sustained care





Nepal Loreto Shiksha Sadan

TOP NEWS



- Health services included a medical camp benefiting approximately 75 community members, providing health screening and medical consultation.
- Infrastructure improvements included new toilets for Bal Vikas children, installation of CCTV cameras, educational technology support, and improved learning facilities.



A new tuition centre was established for government school children, while computer education and vocational training continued to strengthen youth employability.

- Hostel and Bal Vikas children participated in educational, recreational, and life-enrichment activities, including annual celebrations, yoga sessions, picnics, and parent engagement programmes.
- Awareness programmes in villages covered child rights, anti-trafficking, child labour, women's rights, digital safety, family planning, income generation, and self-defence, empowering both children and women.



SUCCESS STORY

From Despondency to a New Beginning

My name is Ganga Kumari Das. Seven years ago, at the age of 17, I chose a love marriage. At that time, everything seemed perfect. My husband worked as a mechanic, and together we managed our small home with happiness. Soon, we were blessed with a baby boy, and life felt complete.

However, as my son grew older and turned six, I began to worry constantly about his education and our family's future. Then, a few months ago, tragedy struck. A devastating fire engulfed our home, reducing everything to ashes. Overnight, we lost our shelter, food, clothes, and all our belongings. We had nowhere to live and nothing left to survive on.

The fire also shattered my husband's livelihood. As a mechanic, he repaired electrical appliances from our home, but all the televisions, refrigerators, coolers, and other items entrusted to him by customers were destroyed in the blaze. The financial loss was overwhelming, and we were left burdened with uncertainty. During this difficult time, even my mother and sister distanced themselves from me. I felt completely helpless, broken, and without hope.

It was during this darkest phase of my life that Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) reached out to support me. They enrolled me in their free Skill Development Project, where I received professional beautician training. The programme offered much more than technical skills—it restored my confidence, gave me hope, and taught me that I could become financially independent and support my family with dignity.

Today, I work as a beautician, providing door-to-door beauty services in my community. I am now able to earn an income, contribute to my household, care for my son, and spend quality time with him. The training has transformed me into a confident and empowered woman.

As I visit clients, I also share information about my husband's mechanical repair services. Through these conversations, he has gradually started receiving new work orders and is slowly rebuilding his livelihood.

KMWSC did not simply teach me a skill—they became the backbone of my recovery. They helped me rebuild my confidence, restore my family's dignity, and believe in a future filled with hope. Today, I no longer see myself as a victim of tragedy. I see myself as a woman with the strength, skills, and determination to create a better future for my family.



SUCCESS STORY

BREAKING THE CYCLE: SUJATA'S JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Sujata's journey is a powerful example of how timely support and skill development can transform lives. The eldest of three sisters who grew up at Loreto Rainbow Home, Dharmatala, Sujata came from a family facing significant financial hardship. Her father worked as a rickshaw driver, her mother as a domestic worker, and her brother sold fish to help support the family.

After the Dharmatala home was relocated, Sujata returned to live with her family. The transition was difficult, and she eventually dropped out of school. With no opportunities for further education or employment, she spent her days confined to household responsibilities, unsure of what the future held.

A turning point came when Loreto Rainbow Home introduced the Bajaj Project to support its young adults and alumnae. Encouraged by her sister and guided by the Rainbow Home team through counselling and mentoring, Sujata found the confidence to take a new path. She enrolled in a Bakery Course along with a Vocational Hotel Management Course at BNG, determined to build a better future.

Today, Sujata is completing her On-the-Job Training (OJT) at Barbeque Nation in Hyderabad, where she is gaining valuable professional experience and earning her own income. Her journey from being confined to household chores to becoming an independent young professional reflects the transformative power of opportunity, guidance, and perseverance.

Sujata's story is not only one of personal success but also an inspiration to other young women, proving that with the right support, new beginnings are always possible.



A Note of Thanks

As we conclude this quarter, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve. Your continued trust and support make it possible to protect children, empower women and youth, strengthen education, and create sustainable opportunities for vulnerable families.

Every achievement featured in this newsletter reflects the power of collaboration and our shared commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and hopeful future.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. We look forward to your continued partnership in transforming lives.

With gratitude,

Zeenat Bano

Development Coordinator

Loreto South Asia Province

"In all things, love and serve." – Mary Ward