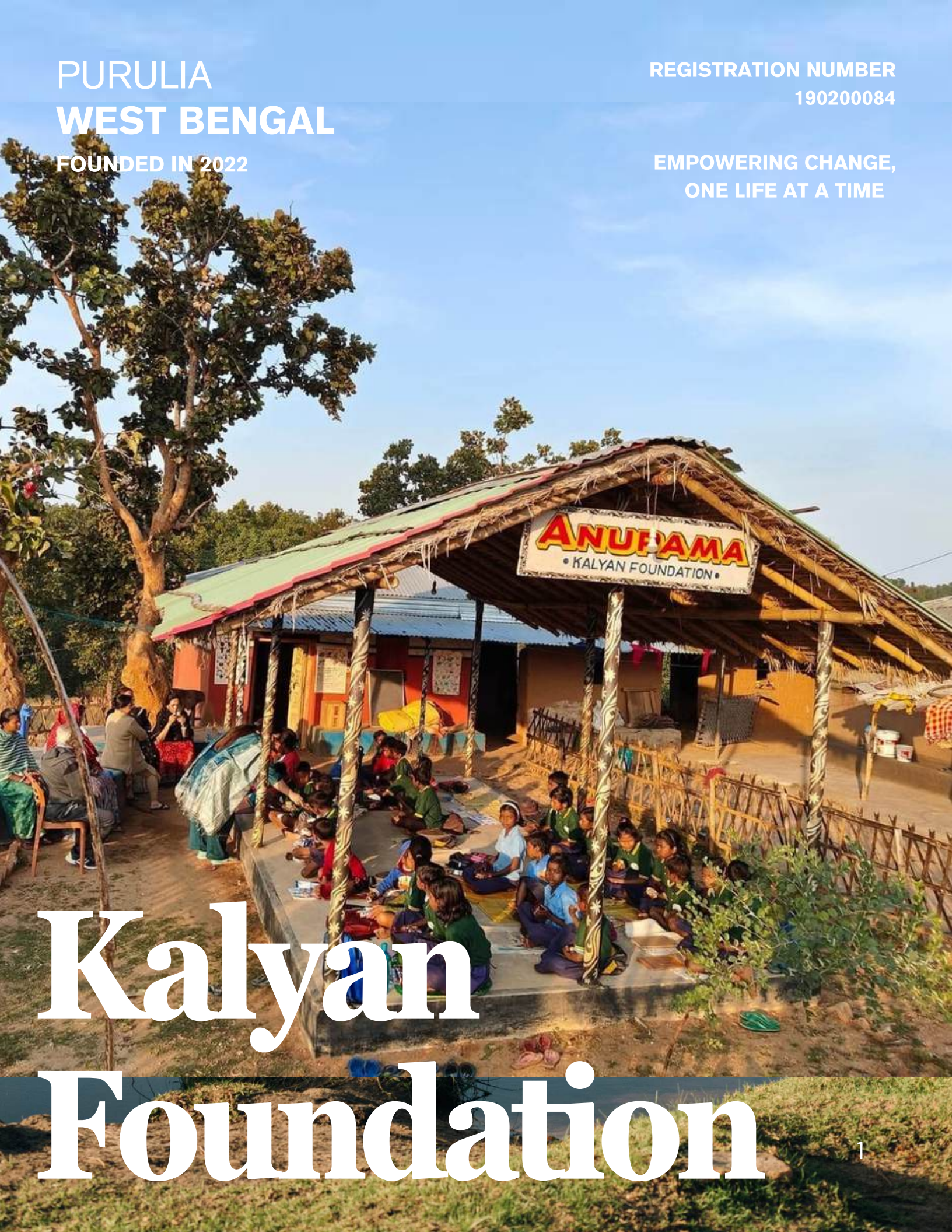


PURULIA
WEST BENGAL

FOUNDED IN 2022

REGISTRATION NUMBER
190200084

EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ONE LIFE AT A TIME



Kalyan Foundation



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Kalyan Foundation



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FROM THE EDITOR

I grew up watching Purulia through a different lens – not just as my home, but as a place where potential remained hidden beneath hardship. The Santhal and Munda children I met along the way carried dreams far larger than the circumstances they were born into, yet had no paths leading toward them. Their lives were defined by distances: the distance to school, the distance to hospitals, the distance between their abilities and their opportunities. Starting Kalyan Foundation was not a choice as much as it was a responsibility born out of love for my hometown. Every child we teach, every meal we serve, every small smile we witness reinforces a belief that has guided us from the beginning: the world is not equal, but compassion can build its bridges.

We live on the same planet. Yet, somehow, we come from two different worlds. My hope is that through our work, these worlds can move closer – that a child in Ajodhya Hills can look up one day and believe they are worthy of the same dreams as any child anywhere.

Our journey is young. Our challenges are many. But our purpose is unwavering. And with every person who chooses to support us, the distance these children must travel grows a little shorter.

– Kaira Ghosh, Founder, Kalyan Foundation



Kaira Ghosh

Founder, Kalyan Foundation



In the quiet, sun-touched villages around the Ajodhya Hills, childhood often begins with hunger before it begins with learning. Kalyan Foundation was created to change that story. We are a youth-led, registered non-profit rooted in Purulia, dedicated to bringing education, nourishment, dignity, and possibility to children and families who have long lived on the margins of opportunity.

Our journey began with a simple truth: geography should never determine the worth of a child's dreams. And yet, in these remote tribal hamlets, education remains a distant luxury, food an uncertain comfort, and healthcare a journey that many cannot afford to begin.

Families often survive on less than a hundred dollars a month, stretching every rupee to feed their children, leaving little room for schooling or medical care. To serve here is to understand resilience. Our ground staff, many without formal education themselves, teach with devotion, cook with love, and stand as constant pillars in their communities. We support them behind the scenes, ensuring that every child who walks into our learning circle is met with warmth, encouragement, and a meal that reminds them they matter.

PURULIA: THE REALITY



WE LIVE ON THE SAME PLANET — JUST IN TWO DIFFERENT
WORLDS.





Life in the tribal belts of Purulia is shaped by forces that most of the world never sees. The Ajodhya Hills region, where we work, is geographically stunning yet profoundly underserved. Roads cut sharply through forests and rocky slopes, leaving villages isolated from basic services. During monsoons, many hamlets become nearly unreachable. This isolation affects every aspect of life – from health to education to the simplest routines of survival.

In Ajodhya village, literacy averages 41.63 percent, a figure that reveals how deeply the cycle of educational deprivation runs. Male literacy reaches 55.06 percent, while female literacy remains painfully low at just 25.86 percent. Many children are first-generation learners. For some families, education is viewed as a luxury simply because daily life demands labour from every member, even the youngest. When a family earns less than the equivalent of 100 USD a month, sending a child to school often means losing a necessary pair of working hands.

Access to healthcare is equally limited. There are no hospitals or clinics within the hills themselves. Any medical emergency – no matter how small – requires a long walk downhill and then hours of travel to Purulia town. Families who cannot afford transportation must rely on their own strength, carrying sick relatives or walking miles on foot. Preventable illnesses become life-threatening, and treatable complications become irreversible.

Schools exist, but distance, infrastructure, and the absence of trained teachers make attendance unpredictable. Many children walk several kilometers each way, often without shoes, water, or food. Others drop out after early primary levels because the journey becomes too demanding. In some hamlets, children have never seen a functioning classroom. When education does occur, it often happens informally, under open skies, with limited materials and no structured curriculum.

Food insecurity shadows daily life. Meals are often sparse and repetitive. Most families stretch whatever they have – rice, salt, occasional vegetables – to sustain large households. For many children, hunger is a constant companion, shaping their ability to concentrate, learn, or even play. On the days we distribute meals, children arrive early not out of impatience, but out of relief.

Girls face a deeper set of barriers. Low female literacy is tied to early responsibilities, cultural norms, and limited awareness about education. Girls are often expected to help with household work, care for siblings, or accompany parents to collect firewood and water. Their schooling is interrupted first and longest.

**NEQUALITY HERE IS NOT ABSTRACT —
IT IS VISIBLE IN EVERY HOME, EVERY
DISTANCE, EVERY MISSED CHANCE.**

The reality is not only about poverty; it is about layers of systemic neglect – historical marginalization of tribal communities, decades of underinvestment in rural infrastructure, and the physical isolation of the hills themselves. It is about children who grow up intelligent, hopeful, and capable, yet are offered almost nothing to nurture that potential.

And yet, despite all of this, the resilience here is extraordinary. Families survive without complaint. Children adapt quickly and learn eagerly. Communities share whatever they have. Hope persists in small forms – in the laughter during our classes, the excitement of holding a new notebook, the warmth of a shared meal, the pride of writing one’s name for the first time.

This is the reality we step into every week. This is why our work must continue. Not because we want to do charity, but because no child’s future should be determined by the landscape they were born into.

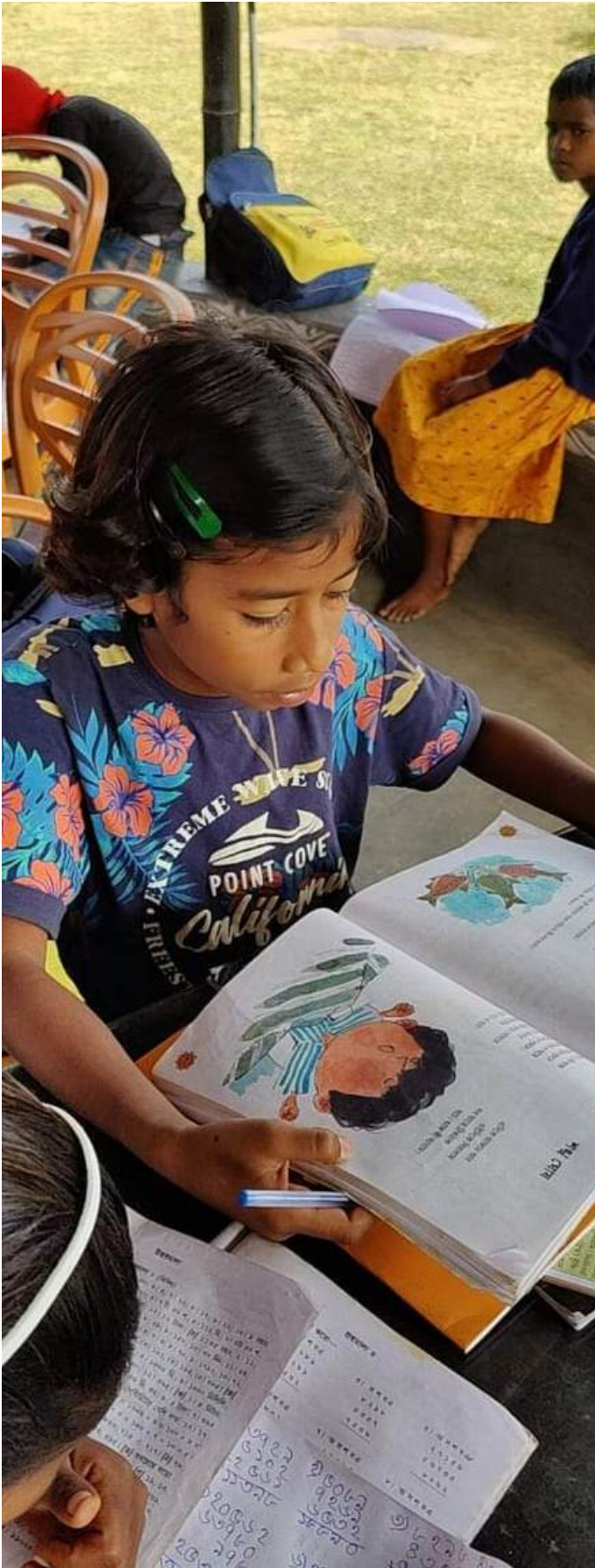


KALYAN FOUNDATION '25



THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

The Santhal and Munda tribes of Purulia carry centuries of heritage in their songs, their craftsmanship, their rhythms, and their collective spirit. Their culture is rich, layered, and deeply connected to the land they inhabit. But despite this vibrancy, generations have been denied access to education, healthcare, and steady income simply because of their geography and identity. Children in these communities grow up surrounded by stories and traditions, yet distant from the opportunities that could transform their futures. Many have never held a textbook. Some do not know their own age. Most have dreams far greater than the limits imposed on them. Their innocence, curiosity, and instinctive kindness reveal a potential that has yet to be nurtured. Working with them is an honour. They welcome us with open hearts. They learn with unstoppable eagerness. Their families trust us with the hopes they rarely voice aloud. And in return, we promise to stand beside them – not as saviors, but as partners in their journey toward possibility.



9 YEAR OLD SARASWATI READING A CHILDREN'S POEM BOOK IN BENGALI



A PENCIL MIGHT LOOK SMALL. BUT FOR A CHILD HERE, IT'S THE BEGINNING OF A DIFFERENT LIFE

When a child learns to write their name, they also learn they matter.

Every smile captured here carries more than just happiness – it carries a story of hope, care, and the belief that every child deserves a fair chance. At Kalyaan Foundation, we stand beside children whose potential is limitless but whose opportunities have often been limited. Through support, learning, nourishment, and moments of simple joy, we're helping them discover the confidence to dream bigger and reach higher.

These smiles remind us why this work matters. They reflect a childhood protected, a heart encouraged, and a future slowly opening up. Each child we meet teaches us that kindness is powerful, community is transformative, and even small acts can ripple into lasting change. Together, we are working toward a world where every child feels seen, valued, and supported – not just today, but for all the years ahead.



Every child deserves a childhood — not a workload.



WHY WE TEACH AN INSIGHT INTO PURULIA

THEIR DREAMS AREN'T LOST. THEY'RE WAITING



Teaching in the Ajodhya Hills was never simply about education. It began as an act of witnessing — of seeing how deeply the weight of distance, hunger, and forgotten histories had shaped childhood here. Each week, as we gather with the children, we are reminded that our work is not born from convenience, but from necessity. These are the reasons that hold our mission steady.

One of the earliest photos of Kalyan foundation and the kids that joined the foundation , this is sort of thier class photo

- 1 Because learning breaks patterns that poverty tries to repeat**
A single lesson, a single notebook, a single moment of understanding becomes an inheritance. When a child learns to read, they learn to choose. Literacy becomes the first quiet rebellion against a life already decided for them.
- 2 Because girls deserve a future that is bigger than statistics**
In villages where female literacy remains painfully low, every girl who sits with us becomes a new possibility. She becomes a reminder that change begins slowly, but begins all the same.
- 3 Because hunger should not decide who gets to learn**
The children arrive with stomachs empty, eyes hopeful, and hands eager. A warm lunch offered with respect becomes the bridge between survival and schooling. Education cannot begin until hunger is softened.
- 4 Because our ground staff carry the community forward**
They teach with patience, cook with care, and give themselves fully despite never having received the chances they now fight to give others. Their presence shows children what strength rooted in humility looks like.
- 5 Because hope is a right, not a privilege**
Every child deserves to imagine tomorrow. Every child deserves to dream without apology. And so we teach – not just letters and numbers, but the idea that a different life is possible, and that possibility belongs to them.



When you educate one child, you teach an entire village what is possible.

WE DON'T JUST TEACH. WE HEAL. WE EMPOWER. WE GIVE HOPE A HOME.

THE WORLD FORGETS VILLAGES LIKE THESE. WE DON'T.



Education is more than a classroom, a book, or a lesson – it is the quiet force that reshapes futures. For a child, it is the doorway that leads from uncertainty to possibility, from survival to dignity, from silence to a voice that can be heard. When a child learns to read, they learn to dream; when they learn to write, they learn to believe in their own story. Education gives them the courage to question, the confidence to imagine, and the skills to build a life beyond the limitations they were born into. It breaks the chain of generational hardship and replaces it with opportunity, choice, and hope.

For children who have known struggle more than play, education becomes the light that never stops growing – a light that says, 'you matter', 'you can', and 'you deserve more'. Every pencil placed in a small hand, every concept understood, every encouraging word from a teacher becomes a step toward a brighter tomorrow.

And when a child is educated, it is not just one life that changes – families rise, communities strengthen, and the world becomes just a little fairer. In every child's mind lies a universe waiting to bloom, and education is the key that gently, powerfully, opens it.

Every child carries a future inside them – all they need is a chance to reach it.

Every dream begins with a lesson.

And with education, no child's light ever has to go unnoticed again.





Some children grow up too fast... not because they want to, but because life doesn't wait for them.



OUR INITIATIVES

Every week, our learning circle becomes a space where books replace burdens and meals replace worries. We focus on primary education because it is the first step toward empowerment. Children learn to write their names, trace letters in their mother tongue, count with stones and chalk, and slowly build confidence in a world that has seldom encouraged them.

The promise of food brings them to us, but it is the experience of being valued that makes them stay. Our weekly meal drives feed more than a hundred children and young adults, giving them a sense of security that stretches beyond the afternoon. For many, these are the most nourishing meals of their week. For some, the only ones.

Clothing drives follow the rhythm of the seasons. A sweater in winter or a pair of slippers in summer is not merely material support – it is comfort, dignity, and care in tangible form. We hope one day to expand into medical support, because illness here is not just dangerous; it is isolating.

And as we grow, we are preparing for a new chapter: bringing international volunteers into the learning process through video-based lessons translated into rural Bengali. If the world cannot come to Purulia, we will bring Purulia to the world – and bring the world back to its children.

COLLABORATION WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL AT ANOTHER VILLAGE OF WEST BENGAL





For many of these children, the world ends where their village roads do. They don't know what exists beyond the hills they walk every day, or the fields they work in before they're old enough to understand why. No one ever told them there were other possibilities—books to open, places to see, choices to make.

Their world stays small not because they want it that way, but because no one has ever shown them anything bigger.



**THEY AREN'T ASKING FOR
MUCH, JUST A CHANCE.**

HOPE GROWS HERE — IN DUSTY
CLASSROOMS, TINY HANDS, AND
BRAVE LITTLE HEARTS.



When you light one lamp, darkness steps back. When you teach one child, ignorance does too.





In Purulia, some children have never held a book — not because they don't want to, but because no one ever placed one in their hands.



**SAME LAND. SAME SKY. BUT
WORLDS APART. KALYAN
FOUNDATION IS THE BRIDGE**



IMPACT

Change in Purulia does not happen in loud bursts; it unfolds quietly, child by child. Our weekly sessions bring together thirty to fifty children who wake up knowing they will learn something new. More than a hundred children wait patiently for meals during our drives, forming lines filled with excitement rather than need. Over two hundred meals are shared each time – plates that fill stomachs, but also hearts.

These moments of impact may appear small compared to the world's enormous inequalities, but here, they are life-defining. A child who has never attended school learns her first letter. A teenager who once dropped out returns with curiosity. A young boy who works in the fields arrives early just to listen to a story. This is how change begins – in gestures that seem modest, but ripple forward into futures we may never fully see.



A child shouldn't have to choose between work and school. Childhood shouldn't feel like a burden.



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