Gopali Youth Welfare Society is a registered non-governmental voluntary organization, primarily managed by some students of IIT Kharagpur under the guidance of its esteemed professors, with the support of local members from Gopali.

It was established in 2002 with a mission to improve the living standard of the people of Gopali, a village 5 km from IIT Kharagpur. Registered in 2004 under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act of 1961 with Reg. No. S/IL/23893, it has been advancing with the twin objectives of making the youth and society aware and ensuring socio-economic welfare for underprivileged and weaker sections of the society.

Through its programmes of free education, social awareness campaigns and vocational training, GYWS has seen many lives changed for the better.
Mission

We aim to provide quality education to underprivileged children residing in and around Kharagpur along with stable income sources to their families by channelizing the help and efforts of I.I.T. Kharagpur community.

To overcome poverty and illiteracy and to ensure a life of dignity for everyone living around Kharagpur.

We aim to build a network of autonomous and self-sufficient student-run centers across India to provide a platform for the quality youth, helping them to execute their ideas for socio-economic development of the country.
Founder Speaks

There is a natural law, a divine law that obliges us to believe the sufferings of the distressed and the destitute. A service for the poor is a supreme virtue and the great channel through which the mercy of God is passed on to mankind.

As members of GOPALI YOUTH WELFARE SOCIETY, the board and staff of Society are committed to adhering as closely as possible to its intentions, as reflected in our guiding principle. GYWS is a rural-based registered organization, by and for the people. Despite the many ups and downs, it has pulled on with real favor to serve the disadvantaged and underprivileged. Our journey would not have been smooth if it was not for the support by the wholehearted participation and cooperation from the community as well as from the other partners (agencies) who have helped a lot to sustain the activities.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all, who in whatever capacity, might have contributed to one’s might to sustain our noble endeavour. We earnestly hope the coming year will be fruitful and meaningful.

Mrinal Kanti Bhanja  
(Founder and President)
Our Journey

- **2002**: GYWS was established in 2002 with a mission to improve the living standards of the people of Gopali like villages.
- **2004**: Registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act of 1961.
- **2008**: GYWS embarked on an education program Jagriti Vidya Mandir in a rented building, focused upon providing quality education.
- **2012**: 2 acres of land was purchased, foundation of Jagriti Vidya Mandir was laid.
- **2017**: GYWS came up with the initiative named LIGHT to reach to masses all over India, to reciprocate similar models of social upliftment throughout the nation.
- **2019**: GYWS successfully got registered under GuideStar India, one of India’s largest and most reliable NGO information repository.
WE ARE WORKING ON

1. Child Education
2. Women Empowerment
3. Blood Donation
4. Teaching Quality
5. Child Abuse Prevention
6. Innovative Teaching
7. Skill Development
8. Farmer Training
9. Expanding Our Reach

- Number of Teacher Training sessions conducted: 10+
- Number of women who attended tailoring workshop: 100+
- Potential blood donors database was collected: 1000+
- Number of Bicycles donated: 25+
- Number of people who attended Computer Workshop: 100+
- Number of states covered: 5+
- Number of children rescued from Child Labour: 400+
Jagriti Vidya Mandir

Jagriti Vidya Mandir (JVM), an English medium primary school which is the major initiative of the society having its motto: “To educate each and every child for a better tomorrow” with the aim to provide quality education to underprivileged children absolutely free of cost.

What We Do...

PARENTS TEACHER MEET

Involvement of parents is a necessity for students to learn and grow. Parents Meet provides us with a chance to personally involve parents, make them aware of their child and their education. We run a healthy discussion about students’ performance and the problems faced by them and discuss the ways to tackle them. We also run several awareness programs on this day about health, basic sanitation and the importance of education.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Apart from academics, extracurricular activities play an important role in developing the personality of individuals. Such activities in school help discover their interests and talents while developing values and competencies.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Our Members conduct interactive sessions in the classes, integrating technology into classrooms, using different techniques namely presentations, models, games and quizzes. This not just exhilarates students about the subjects but also presents to them a different insight into distinct topics which plays a salient role in their cognizance of different concepts.

ATAL TINKERING LAB

Atal Tinkering Lab provides a golden opportunity for the students to interact directly with science. Students of JVM visited DAV Model School for this workshop. This involved several hands-on session like Salt Water Battery, Robotics Session, 3D printing. This program was meant to create a conducive environment for students to innovate and to introduce new skills of innovation. These programs build confidence within students and also brings in an internal push towards science and learning.
Students enrolled classwise per year

Life Stories...

Aashayein is an expression of the calibre, capacity and expectations of the innocent pure students of JVM, Salua. Since the children are as pure as the souls within them, so also the cultural performances at this annual program (AASHAYEIN) of JVM are equally pure & innocent. While the parents, teachers and special invitees are treated to a grand spectacle of colours, vibrancy, life and zest, what is most commendable in this program is the sincere effort of teachers and GYWS members involved in the preparations which result in such a perfect presentation. I wish the students, teachers, staff & administration of JVM all the best in all their endeavours. My special appreciation and gratitude to the GYWS members.

Seema Singh
Associate professor, HSS
IIT Kharagpur

I am Vishal Damai. I am currently studying at Hijli High School in the seventh standard. I passed out from JVM 2 years back. The environment in JVM is very friendly and motivating. The teachers are very cooperative and always willing to help, which I clearly miss in my present school. I thank GYWS for the educational foundation they brought to my life.

JVM PASSOUT

I am currently a student of class 4 at JVM. I dream of becoming a pilot in life. JVM not only provides me with a step to reach my dream but also helps me find my interest in arts and science. The events at JVM give me exposure in different fields. I hope that I will accomplish my dreams by working hard in the future.

Avay Rajak (Class IV, JVM)
**ARE CHILDREN LEARNING?**

Enrollment levels in school have seen a jump over the last decade, but is it helping to produce desirable outcomes? The quality of education still remains a doubtful question.

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**ASER Annual Status of Education Report**

This is an annual survey that aims to provide reliable annual estimates of children's schooling status and basic learning levels for each state and rural district in India.

Children in the age group 5-16 are tested in basic reading and arithmetic. Simple tests are conducted in the school itself after which students can be grouped separately according to their performances and taught accordingly.

The Arithmetic and Reading are progressive tool. For example, the Arithmetic graph for JVM Class 3 students (green coloured) means that there is no one (0%) who cannot recognize numbers (0-9). 35% students can recognize numbers (0-100) but cannot do subtraction. 52% students can do subtraction but not division and 13% can do division.

For more details: [http://www.asercentre.org](http://www.asercentre.org)

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**ARITHMETIC**

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**CULTURAL EVENTS**

Aashayein, the Annual day function of JVM gives a chance to all the students to participate in various co-curricular activities and cultural events. It helps to bring out the talent of the students and develop an interest in extracurricular activities along with the development of several social values like cooperation, team spirit and confidence.

**CHILD ABUSE**

Members of Dignity March conducted a workshop on child abuse for students of class 3, 4 and 5 and their parents about good touch, bad touch and what to do if someone is misbehaving with them. Also, they were taught about taking preventive measures against the same. Such values, often ignored, is very necessary for children to know to prevent any abuses to them.

**KSHITIJ**

Our students attended the activities of KSHITIJ, the annual techno-management festival of IIT Kharagpur. They observed several science exhibitions and robotics competitions held there. This helps to improve their technical knowledge, drifts them towards education and bring in them an internal motivation to study well and perform better.

**VISIT**

Sports develop a sense of friendliness, team spirit and confidence among children. Sport events in our school like Sports day gives a chance to all the students to participate in various sports activities and promote values and develop the overall personality of students.

**GIRL EDUCATION**

Girls are often discriminated in society and still remain as a major illiterate section of the society. We not just hold awareness programs regarding the same but even focus on involving girls as major stakeholders working on their conditions in the area. Creating employment for them through tailoring workshops and making them educated through JVM.
Expanding Our Reach

Light Samvedna
Light IIITDM Kancheepuram
Light Gaya
Light Bhopal
Light FFI
Light Kurukshetra
Light Sikkim
Light Raipur
Light Mandla
PRAYAS
Program Associating Youth and Society

PRAYAS aims to transform the youth’s perception by making them cognizant about the existing social challenges and opportunities. PRAYAS through its initiatives aims to inculcate a feeling of social responsiveness among the people to engender new opportunities for uplifting the underprivileged sections of the society.

With an aim to provide computer education to underprivileged youth, we conduct computer training workshops. So far 112 students have completed these workshops, thus creating employment opportunities for them.

Skill Development

CLOTHING AND STITCHING CENTER

Running under the tailoring project of the Skill Development team it aims to employ women of Gopali village who have done the tailoring training course (period of 6 months). The center provides a platform for exploring their skill in tailoring, stitching and marketing of products as well, enabling them to achieve employment and well-settled livelihood and help them keep track of the marketing environment and increase revenue.

This workshop helps to impart vocational skills to the women of Gopali village and help them to generate a livelihood to support their family. 96 people have been benefited by this workshop in last 3 years.
CLOTH DONATION

An annual program for cloth donation to underprivileged people. We collect clothes from the students of IIT Kharagpur and distribute among the ones who cannot afford them.

RURAL INNOVATION PROGRAM

GYWS organised this five day program in association with the MHRD Institution Innovation Council - IIT Delhi. The objective of the program was to provide ground level exposure to the students of some of the nation’s best universities regarding the socio-economic problems of rural India by providing them with an opportunity of real-life one to one interaction with the rural people.

LIVE PROJECT

We conducted a survey with National Student Service in nearby area of Kharagpur so as to analyse ground level realities and to provide sustainable development of underprivileged section of society.

GREENOVATION

The motto is to educate and help local farmers in adopting modern sustainable farming techniques. These techniques help farmers to increase their earnings from agricultural practices.

Life Story

I am Nisa Rai. I have been fortunate to be a part of the tailoring workshop conducted by GYWS. I have been learning to tailor here for the past 5 months and have learnt a lot throughout the time including sewing kurtas, frocks etc. The teachers here are very cooperative and always willing to teach different techniques. This has provided me with a means of livelihood and save and earn money for my family. I also plan to start a business with the knowledge I gained here.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The vision of Skill Development is to fulfill the need of the skilled manpower across Gopali village by providing tailoring workshops and basic computer training.
KGP BLOOD CONNECT

1000+
Potential blood donors identified

KGP Blood Connect is a social initiative to help those in dire need of blood as efficiently as possible. The principle of this initiative is to create a database of all the willing donors in the vicinity and these donors are requested to come and donate blood when required.

Under this program, the second hand cycles of the willing graduating students of IIT Kharagpur are given to the students of Hijli High School who do not have any mode to commute to decrease the students drop out rates due to transportation issue.

UDYAT

Teacher Training

The Undergraduate and Research Scholars of GYWS along with some other students of IIT train teachers to improve their communication skills and equip them with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom.

Working with teachers to improve the quality of education and learning ability of the students.

Innovate to Teach

Workshops and recreational visits are organized for students and they are taught using models, puzzles, practical experiments and videos to push them to become curious and see a broader picture of the world.
GYWS got certified by **GuideStar India**, an organization that certifies NGOs based on their level of transparency & public accountability.

LIGHT, an expansion team of GYWS which helps to build a network of socially motivated students have **9 centres** all over INDIA.

Empanelled in **National CSR Hub** by Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

GYWS has successfully increased its reach through social media (Facebook and Instagram) and currently has **18k** followers on the Facebook page.

The activities of GYWS are recognized and appreciated by the entire academic community of IIT Kharagpur. Praise for GYWS has come from all quarters, including **alumni, professors, and students**.

GYWS and its activities have been showcased on a number of platforms. The society had a stall at the PAN-IIT Alumni Meet in December 2018 and at the arena of Spring Fest– the annual social and cultural fest of IIT Kharagpur, in January 2019.
Words of Appreciation

Mr. Sailesh Gandhi
Former Chief Information Commissioner,
Government of India

I was happy to see the diverse activities being taken up by the Gopali Youth Welfare Society. I was also impressed with the details of expenditure for the last few years which they have displayed on the website. I wish them all the best and send my good wishes.

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakraborty
Former Director,
IIT Kharagpur

Having attended some GYWS events, the determination of the students to make a change amazes me. This is worth applause that they have taken the initiative to work for the underprivileged. I feel privileged to have such students in the campus who seek to give back to the society.

Mr. Roy Da Silva
(IIT Kharagpur, '74 Batch)
Former President, IIT Foundation

I would like to recognize GYWS at IIT Kharagpur at which I found out about when I visited PAN IIT GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2012 and what I said was about, you have got to establish a cause you would like to give back to and I’m extremely happy this organisation exists within IIT KGP Campus.

Prof. Amit Patra
Professor, Electrical Engineering,
IIT Kharagpur

Running a school is no small task. It is only possible due to the hard work and determination showed by the members of GYWS in striving to maintain Jagruti Vidya Mandir. The students of IIT KGP should feel proud of all of their success in providing each child the privilege of good education.
Our Reach

Press Conference
To spread awareness regarding our work and create a reach among the people, GYWS conducted a press conference in which our members addressed journalists of different esteemed Media Houses.

Reach In India
We are constantly trying to spread the work which we are doing by establishing LiGHT centres across the country. We also conduct Helping Hands, an annual donation drive to spread the word.

Facebook Likes
From 2012, after creating our page, the likes of GYWS on Facebook has increased linearly. We have around 18k people following our page.

Instagram Followers
GYWS is active on Instagram and posts photos very often. We have around 700 followers on Instagram.

Other Platforms: LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Medium, Quora
We are very grateful to all our donors, from our Corporate Sponsors and Foundations to the Alumni and students of IIT Kharagpur and other Individual donors who contributed so generously to help build a future for these underprivileged children and bring a smile on their faces.

THANK YOU
How Can You Help?

Just Scan And Donate
Because

"We make a living by what we get,
But we make a life by what we give"

- Winston Churchill

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