



**GOPALI YOUTH
WELFARE SOCIETY**



LIGHT
Living in greater
horizons together
IIT KHARAGPUR

HELPING HANDS

Gopali Youth Welfare Society(GYWS) is a government registered non-government organization run by students of **IIT Kharagpur** under the guidance of its esteemed faculty with the support of local members from Gopali village. It was established in the year 2002 and was registered in 2004 under the **West Bengal Societies registration act** of 1961 with Reg. No S/IL/23893. However even before GYWS was listed as an NGO, it had been advancing with the twin objectives of making the youth and society aware of the underlying problem and ensuring socio-economic welfare for underprivileged and weaker sections of the society. Mr. Mrinal Bhanja, the founder of the society along with some of the students of IIT Kharagpur conducted extensive surveys in the village area and concluded that illiteracy was one of the major root cause of the plethora of problems faced by the under-developed area. Thus, marking illiteracy as its prime concern, GYWS embarked on an education program in April 2008: **Jagriti Vidya Mandir(JVM)**, an English medium primary school which provides quality education to underprivileged children absolutely free of cost. At present, JVM functions till 5th class in its own campus having 8 classrooms with permanent teachers hired ensuring holistic education of around 230 students.

Helping hands is a pan India donation drive conducted by Executive Members of Gopali Youth Welfare Society with the objective to gather funds for the purpose of child education and to motivate and inspire the youth and to instil a sense of social responsibility at an early age as it is essential for the growth and progress of the society. Under this initiative, we look forward to contact and associate with schools, and get the students of the school to raise funds from family, friends and neighbours. This activity provides an opportunity to the students to go out and talk people, hence building confidence. Further, the students also gain a sense of satisfaction, as they help provide back to the society for the welfare of the underprivileged. Additionally, a workshop will be conducted for the students of the school, by a member of the society. The workshop will be aimed at enlightening the students about the broad variety of career choices available. The funds collected will be used to expand our school as well as our society as currently there are 5 other centres across the country which work in similar direction but are financially unstable.

LIGHT is the expansion initiative of our society, under which we look forward to expand our model and ideology across the nation and reach out and help as many people as possible. Under this program, we collaborate with educational institutes and/or groups of social enthusiasts and provide them with strategies based on our long drawn experience, to bring about development in their region. We wish to take this opportunity to form a long-term association with your prestigious institute by making it a **Helping Hands Centre**. This form of symbiotic relation will be mutually beneficial and will also help eradicate social issues. Being a Helping Hands Centre your institute needs to conduct atleast one social event like cloth donation drive, tree plantation, awareness rally, etc every year under the guidance of LIGHT executive members which would be financially backed by our society. A LIGHT Coordinator from your institute would be the point of contact with our society.