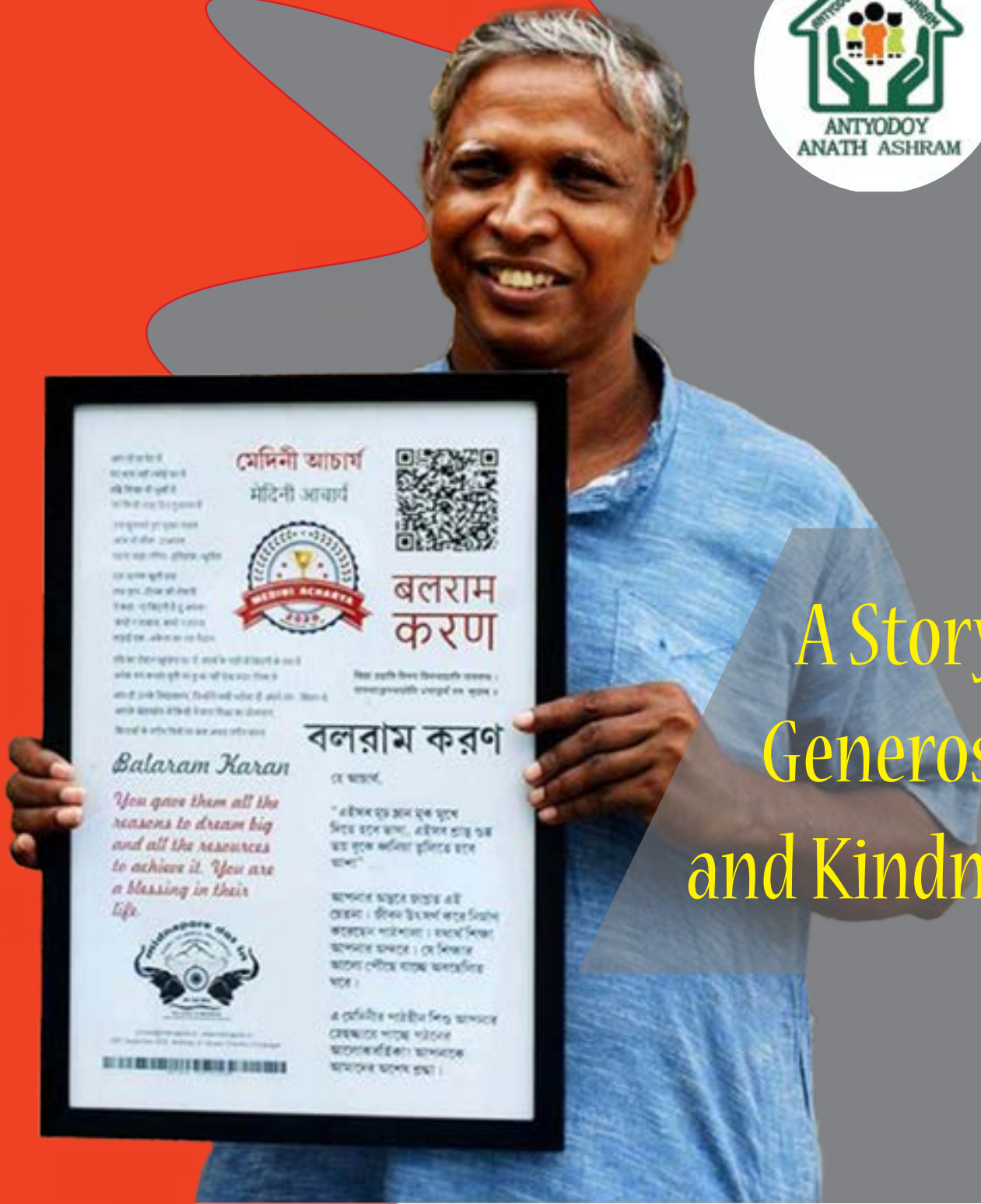


Balaram Karan

Founder, Antyodoy Anath Ashram



মেদিনী আচার্য
মেদিনী আচার্য



**বলরাম
করণ**

বলরাম করণ
ডে. অধ্যাপক,

"You gave them all the reasons to dream big and all the resources to achieve it. You are a blessing in their life."



এই সমস্ত কাজে আপনি আমাদের সৈনিক।
আপনার অতুল্য সাহায্যে এই
প্রকল্পটি চালানো সম্ভব হয়েছে।
আপনার অতুল্য সাহায্যে
আমাদের অনেক অসহায়
সহায়তা পেয়েছে।
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A Story of
Generosity
and Kindness



Balaram Karan is the founder of an orphanage, Antyodoy Anath Ashram (AAA) at Paunsi in Midnapore, West Bengal. The orphanage currently has around 170 children, who are being nurtured, educated and brought up under the watchful eyes of the founder. The orphanage was incepted in 1995 and had been taking care of destitute children since that time.

Early Life

Balaram Karan was born into a poor family in East Medinipur district of West Bengal. Battling economic difficulties growing up was difficult in a family of three brothers and three sisters. Karan attended high school but could not pursue further education due to lack of money. In order to provide for his family, he started a business. Back in 1995, Karan used to own a small medicine shop and ran his household having six members, his four children and wife with the meagre earnings from his shop.

Once while travelling to collect a medicine on-signment or his shop, he came across a child, Rani looking for leftover food from garbage lying on the roadside. Finding the child in apalling conditions he asked around to find out if anyone had any information about the child. He came to know that the child was an orphan. Karan moved by the plight of the child, decided to take her home. Rani was raised as one of his own children. After Rani, Karan started adopting more orphans.

Hardships

With more children, bigger space and more resources were reequired. This led to the development of the orphanage. Running the orphanage and raising destitute children with scant resources was difficult. He had to sell his land and later, even his medicine shop to support the children. Financial constraints were dire and Karan was left with no other options but to beg. For food, Karan decided to approach villagers and seek their help.



A copy of the report from Anandabazar Patrika



PROGRAMMS

- Education
- Orphanage
- Mass Marriage
- Child Protection
- Skill Development



- Healthcare
- Festival



He appealed to the mothers in his village to come forward in support of orphans with a small amount of rice. If every individual can spare a fist full of rice then that will help.

Support and Assistance

Villagers obliged, and thus a plan to secure some food for the children was put into action. An earthen pot was placed in each house that was willing to help, which the villagers filled up everyday with whatever they could spare. Karan would collect them each day and bring them to the orphans. In 2004, before Poush Sankranti festival, Karan decided to form a



team with a few of his friends and go to Digha, a tourist place which attracts a lot of travellers during the festival to collect donations. The team reached Digha with coupons of Rs. 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 with hope that they can raise funds from visitors. However, they were disappointed as they did not get much donations. They met a journalist in Digha, Subrata Guha

who was curious about their story and took down their address. A few days later, Subrata turned up at the Ashram and on June 14, 2004 his report on the Ashram was featured at the Anandabazar Patrika, a bengali-language daily newspaper entitled, “Balaram’s orphanage runs on food begged from house to house”. The story was also featured in the *probashi* version of the paper, read by Bengalis living abroad. rice, that would work. It caught the attention of Bimal Roy, a Bengali businessman staying in Germany. He was a wealthy man, and decided to help Karan with funds for his orphanage. He landed in Kolkata and met Karan to learn about his orphanage. Roy took his time and questioned Karan about his intentions, until he was convinced that they were genuine. He agreed to provide funds to Karan for constructing a building for the orphanage. Although the building was constructed, with number of inmates increasing, more resources were required to run the orphanage. Help started to pour in bits and pieces from various sources.

Ashram Objectives

While the prime objectives of the Ashram are to give shelter to the hapless orphans/des-tute, facilitate proper education for all and to groom them in a manner that they get professionally established in future, it also tries its best to maintain a proper and nutritious diet chart for physical and mental development of children of the orphanage. Although, AAA Paunsi has been able to shelter for the inmates but it could not be maintained proper nutritious food to them due to paucity of permanent contribution. In one year ago, an estimated maximum number of children basically girls’ children of the orphanage were underweight. On other hand, children had come from various vulnerable section of the society as a undernourished child.

Broad based objectives of Antyoday Anath Ashram in the area of child welfare are mentioned below:

- To set up an orphanage for providing shelters to the under privileged destitute children of the adjoining areas. All the inmates should join schools for regular/formal education. and its adjacent localities. They would also be imparted vocational/professional trainings, so as to make them self sufficient and live with dignity.
- To protect the vulnerable children from being abused and exploited in the society.
- To open a nursery/primary school for the benefit of the infants/kids of the orphanage. To operate crèche centres for looking after the kids, whose parents remain outside their homes during the day for various assignments.
- To provide medical support & services for the children of the area.
- To organize tours & excursions for fun & enjoyment of the children.
- To facilitate higher education for the meritorious students.
- To take part in the festivals, cultural programs etc.

Awards and Accolades

Karan and his Ashram had won a lot of awards because of their outstanding contribution to society. Some of the awards are listed below:

Sl. No.	Awarding Organization	Name of Award	Year of Award	Award Category
1	24 Ghanta	Ananya Samman	2011	Social Upliftment
2	Health And Education Development Association, New Delhi	Life Time Social Development	2009	Social Upliftment
3	Rotary Club of Calcutta Conclave	Mass Marriage	2018	Social Development
4	SMILE, Tamluk, Purba Midnapur	Social Development	2017	Social Development
5	Maniktala Jalchhatra, Kolkata	Do	2015	Social Development
6	Contai Book Fair, Purba Midnapur	Do	2017	Education
7	Santipur Bandhu Sangha	Samajbandhu Sammanana	2019	Education
8	Anandan	Social Development	2008	Social Development
9	Bajkool Manishi Charcha Kendra, Purba Medinipur	Samajpriti Samman	2019	Education
10	Manjis Sarkar Memorial Trust, Kolkata	Manjis Sarkar Memorial Trust Award	2015	Education
11	Shalimar Chemical Works Private Ltd.	Shalimar Samaj Kalyan Samman	2019	Social Development
12	Midnapore.in	Medini Acharya 2020	2020	Holistic Child Development
13	The Telegraph Education Foundation	The Telegraph School Awards for Excellence	2020	Caring Minds for A School that cares



AWARDS

