

What We Do

Juktibadi Sanskritik Sanastha, Canning, West Bengal, India (JSSC) was formed by a few enthusiast young in their twenties in 1986 in Canning, West Bengal, India, the gateway to the world's large biodiversity area near Sunderbans, the home of Royal Bengal tigers and variety of snakes. JSSC constantly adopted new approaches to reach the local people over these years.

Working with snakes and snakebite victims

- Survey of snakebite victims in almost all districts in 24-Parganas - covering an area of about 20 miles radius
- Various publications on superstitions, common diseases, snakebites, etc.
- Over a decade, we started a help-line for free medical advice to snakebite victims living in local and distant places over the phone 24 hours a day

Zero-death due to snakebites

Year	Hospitals	Snakebite Patients	Non-venomous	Venomous	Deaths
2008	Canning S. D. hospital	750	720	30	0
2009	Basanti Block hospital	420	403	17	0
2018	Canning S. D. hospital	1198	1105	93	0

Source: Canning S. D. Hospital & Basanti Block hospital

Working with local people

- Working against superstitions and ignorance by hosting awareness campaigns over the years
- Publish snake maps of 24-Parganas, Bengal, and India
- Perform puppet shows, songs, dramas, snake identification to educate people about snakebites
- Bicycle rally distributing leaflets on various issues
- Empowering women, mostly mothers of the children of the tutoring center

Our Publications

Books

1. पॉकेट में साँप (Snakes in the pocket) (Hindi), 2023
2. পকেটে সাঁপ (Snakes in the pocket) (Bengali), 2021
3. Snakebites help-line report, 2020
4. Snakebites help-line book, 2010
(Sponsored by NRHM)
5. Snakes, Snakebites, and Treatments 2015
(An extensive & painstaking survey of South 24 Parganas: 2008-2012)
(i) Bengali Version (212 pages)
(ii) English Version (244 pages)
6. Snakes of Bengal (English - 125 pp) 2005
7. Snakes of Bengal (Bengali - 34 pp) 1995
8. Various booklets on snakes (Bengali), 1989-98

Maps

Vinyl hanging posters (2 'x 3')

1. Identification of Snakebites and other Animals (Bengali), 2018 (English), 2023
2. Common Snakes of India (English) 2012
3. Snake map of West Bengal (Bengali) 2008
4. Snake map of 24-Parganas (Bengali) 2002
5. বাংলার সাঁপ (Snakes of Bengal) (Bengali), 2000

Video

We produced a video in 2005 on the snakes of Sunderbans (Sponsored by Sunderbans Tiger Project). It covers many topics including the superstitions of the villagers regarding snakes, and snakebites, identifying the snakes, and educating the villagers on how to handle snakebite victims properly.



Zero-death due to Snakebites by 2030

A Dream or a Possible Reality

Dr. Samarendranath Roy

March 2023

An invited talk at the

Workshop on Snakebite Envenoming

National Action Plan (NAP)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

New Delhi, India

Juktibadi Sanskritik Sanstha (JSSC) has been working tirelessly since 1986 on the snakebite issues in and around Canning, WB, India. JSSC believes that after many workshops, awareness campaigns, and working with the local hospitals, we are finally achieved the dream of near *Zero-death due to Snakebites* a reality.



JSSC presented awards to the CMOH (S 24 Parganas) at Canning S. D. Hospital in 2008 and 2018 for achieving Zero-Death due to snakebite goal.

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Our Activities

Our area, Sundarbans is a snakebite-prone area due to climatic conditions, the salinity of the soil, high population pressure (820/sq. km.), and the presence of 3 venomous snakes such as Common Krait, Russell's Viper, and Monocled Cobra.

- **Awareness campaigns on superstitions**

Since 1986, we have been conducting these awareness campaigns consisting of puppet shows, street dramas, cycle rallies, publication of booklets & maps, and holding workshops and seminars. We teach the villagers what to do with the snakebite victims and motivate them to go to the hospitals immediately instead of going to the *Ojhas*.



As a result of our continued campaigns, we do not see that many *Mandas* (raft made of Banana trees), carrying dead bodies of snakebite victims.

- **Initiations of Free Help-Line in March 2009**

Snakebites Help Line

Call +91 96359 95476

+91 97338 22825

+91 98304 79696

for advices 24 hours a day

We give free medical advices to snakebite victims over the phone 24 hours a day. We posted Help-line flex poster signs at many locations in and around 24 Parganas. Through the word of mouth, we do get phone calls not only from the local areas but also from all over West Bengal even in the middle of the night.

- **A broad epidemiological survey (2008-12)**

We conducted awareness programs and surveyed 23 Lacs families in 27 blocks of 24 Parganas (S) on snakebites at the *sansad* level. The project was funded by National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)



- **Sensitization workshops on snakebites**

We have been holding a series of workshops with the doctors and other staff in the Canning Sub-Division Hospital and many other places. Our goal is zero deaths due to snakebites.



- **Workshops with traditional healers (*Ojhas*)**

Since 2003 we held a series of workshops with the *Ojhas* about the proper treatment of venomous snakebite patients. We awarded the *Ojhas* who left their profession and joined us to help the victims to go to the hospitals.



- **No more child deaths due to snakebites**

From March 1 through 10, 2022, we held many rallies in 29 blocks of 24 Parganas (S). We stopped at selected places and held short meetings with reasonable gatherings and made people aware of the issue of child deaths due to snakebites. We plan to do this every year throughout our state. We propose to make March 10 "Save the children from Snakebites" day.



- **Mothers to save children from snakebites**

We have been holding awareness campaigns with the mothers along with the children in various areas of 24 Parganas (S) explaining what to teach their children so they do not get bitten by snakes especially by Common Kraits which very prevalent in our areas. We definitely do see the results of our campaign.

