

## The Carring Minds International Award for 'A School That Cares'

30 No. Andiran Primary School , Beldanga, Murshidabad

**M**urshidabad in India faces extremely high rates of child marriage, with recent surveys indicating about 65% of women aged 20-29 married before 18—almost three times the national average. The school combats this with a Child Marriage Awareness initiative, regularly educating students and guardians about its dangers and supporting girls in making informed choices.

Major student-focused and wellbeing initiatives include monthly birthday celebrations, an annual birthday for a 65-year-old banyan tree, and the "Each One Plant One" drive linking birthdays to tree planting. The school offers innovative learning through the Kishor Travelling Library—West Bengal's first mobile teen library, an in-house library, and project-based learning using books.

Social engagement is fostered with communal harmony lessons, a "Moner Kotha" drop box for student concerns, annual Mother Worshiping Day, and the *Bon Phota* cere-

mony celebrating female students. Health and environment programs feature a daily water bell, regular doctor checkups, playground equipment, ceiling fans, and environmental protection efforts such as water conservation, plastic-free campus, and a kitchen garden.

Democratic participation is encouraged through child cabinet elections, digital attendance, and QR

codes for easy access to school info. The school holds cultural events, brings in grandparents for stories, engages students in hygiene awareness surveys, and supports energy conservation. Daily news updates and parent-teacher meetings round out the comprehensive academic and personal development model. All these facts show the school's broad commitment to holistic education.



Dr. Minu Budhia, Pshytherapist, Author, TEDx Speaker , Founder of - Carring Minds international, I Can Fly International School, I Can Fly TEA Kafi, gave away the awards