

ACTIVISM FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AND ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT

9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th September 2026, Boi-Chitra Sabhagriha, Kolkata

The 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Activism Foundation for Social Research and Action, being held on September 20, 2026, marks another significant milestone in our organization's journey. Over the past eleven years, Activism Foundation has remained committed to bridging the gap between academic research and societal challenges. This AGM serves as an occasion to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, review our ongoing efforts, and chart the way forward in our mission to apply social science to address real-world problems. The Foundation's endeavours over the last year have been focused on empowering individuals, enhancing research, and promoting public awareness through innovative approaches and community engagement. We are gathered here today not only to celebrate these achievements but also to recommit ourselves to the cause of driving social change through research and action.

While it marks our ninth AGM, this year also signifies more than a decade of our relentless pursuit of making social sciences relevant in everyday life. The Foundation's journey is characterized by its unwavering commitment to addressing real-life issues through research-based solutions. Whether addressing functional or dysfunctional societal challenges tied to misconceptions, superstition, or emotional fallacies, Activism has consistently played a pivotal role. Our mission has been to empower individuals by freeing them from these stigmas and guiding them toward transcending limitations through knowledge-driven empowerment.

Foundation Day

The prestigious Foundation Day of Activism was celebrated on March 29th, 2026, at ICMARD Auditorium in Kolkata. The program was conducted by Ms. Eshany Bala, executive of ASSC and co-editor of e-magazine Ekka-Dokka. On this auspicious occasion, there were several presentations. Ms. Soma Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer of the Activism Foundation, delivered a speech on the brief history of Activism's journey over the past eleven years. The 'Keynote Address' on this day was delivered by Dr. Sourish Jha, Chairman of the Activism Foundation. This year, the anniversary celebration was themed for the first time. The theme was 'Introducing Active Social Science'. Through his speech, Dr. Sourish Jha highlighted how the knowledge of social science can be made effective in daily life through research, and how Activism is constantly



making that effort. This year, the title of the Foundation Day Lecture was "**Encountering the State in Everyday Life and the Problem of Democracy**" and the speaker was eminent Political Scientist **Professor Sobhanlal Dattagupta**, member of the Activism Foundation's advisory board. During his lecture, he presented an overall theoretical subject in the simplest and most straightforward manner, bringing up contexts such as neoliberalism and the market economy in this regard. Following this, the Valedictory Speech was delivered by **Professor Ajit Kumar Roy**, another member of the Activism Foundation's advisory board and a distinguished professor. Through his speech, he highlighted the overall goals, objectives, and uniqueness of Activism's work since its inception. In this context, he referenced Arundhati Roy's novel '*The God of Small Things*' and commended Activism.

Units and Activities

Activism functions through two complementary wings: Activism Social Science Club and Activism Scholars Forum. These units collaboratively undertake research projects that bridge academic practices and real-life social issues. Together, these units contribute to a holistic understanding and application of social sciences in everyday life. Research on Rejection, Non-Recognition and Adolescent Depression: A Socio-Functional Study of School Experience and Family Support. A recent initiative was taken for school-going teenagers to know how these experiences contribute to emotional withdrawal and depression. This study also emphasizes a non-clinical, dialogue-based process with the students, teachers and guardians absolutely free of cost. Recently, we visited Habra Kamal Kamini Vidyalaya for this purpose, and the school authorities wholeheartedly welcomed our efforts, and we were able to collect 193 responses from the students of Standards VIII & IX. Now we have proceeded to the next step of research and have already conducted a focus group discussion with the teachers. During this discussion, we got very positive responses from the teachers, who are the stakeholders in one sense.

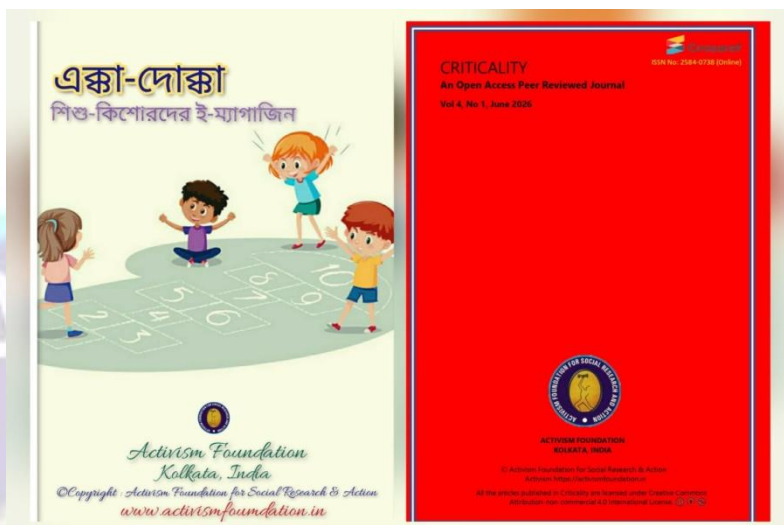


In the previous year, we successfully organized an online National Seminar, namely, 'Rethinking Violence: Socio-Political Perspective and Counter Functional Strategies'. Prof. Rukmini Sen, Ambedkar University Delhi, was the keynote speaker, and Prof. Saswati Biswas, North Bengal University and member of the Advisory Board of Activism Foundation was the Valedictory speaker. In this conference, we got several papers from across the country.

Magazine & Journal

There are two colourful feathers in Activism's crown. One is the e-magazine 'Ekka-Dokka' for the teenagers, and the other is the e-magazine 'Criticality' for students-scholars-researchers.

With the untiring efforts of the members of Activism the eighth and ninth issues of the magazine were published in the months of March & September 2026. The response from the school-going teenagers to the e-magazine is



truly admirable and literally indicates a bright prospect for the future. The response to the e-journal 'Criticality' is inspiring too. We have got several articles based on different contemporary burning issues, written by many eminent persons, which are a treasure for our future. With the diligent efforts of the entire team of the e-journal, we were able to publish Volume 02, Issue 01, and the next issue is also in progress. The ISSN accreditation of Criticality further solidifies its academic value on a global scale. 'Criticality' also has accreditation with Crossref & a Creative Commons license.

Social media & Out-reach Program

Our Outreach Program is a critical initiative to disseminate Activism's thoughts and research through social media. Using platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, we engage with the public by raising awareness of everyday issues rooted in commonsense misconceptions. This program teaches participants how to challenge any form of irrationality and how to better understand and use social science knowledge in their daily lives in order to deal with stressful situations. The program has received encouraging responses, with members contributing write-ups, further driving our movement forward. Recently, in several of our posts, common people have given their reflections either in the form of questions or in the form of praise, which indicates that they are able to relate to the topics. We believe that in order to advance the cause in the future, the Out-Reach Program will be crucial in using Facebook Pages, YouTube Channels, X handles, and other platforms in a way that is more structured, engaging, and dynamic. In continuation, a podcast video has also reached a large number of people with a serious note.

Life-Members Meeting

Life Members are the backbone of Activism Foundation, serving as both an extended family and a driving force behind its mission. Their active involvement is key to sustaining the movement

and successfully implementing various projects and programs throughout the year. To enhance communication and maintain momentum, several initiatives are undertaken annually. Over the past year, we organized several lectures where students, scholars, and professors—primarily Life Members of Activism—presented on various contemporary issues.

In conclusion, as we look back at the past year, we take immense pride in our accomplishments and remain committed to our mission of uniting theory and practice in the social sciences. The unwavering dedication of our members and supporters continues to fuel our journey toward addressing societal challenges with informed, research-based solutions. Let us forge ahead together in our quest for knowledge and social justice.

