



MUKTI

NEWS LETTER

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THE SEASON OF FALL

With the advent of the fall, Mother Nature begins to shade off the old. Trees across the world would get rid off their old leaves. However, the mangrove delta of the Sunderbans is different. It is evergreen, ever immortal. The spirit of Mukti is quite analogous. Our members kept on thriving to do the good work through the fall season. Few important site visits, one workshop to prepare pupils for the class X board exams, uniting members globally by teleconferences and planning an ecotourism project was parts of the proceedings made during the period.

ASHA MEMBER'S SITE VISIT

Sri Ranitendranath Tagore from Asha, Yale visited the Mukti site on 20th Dec 2006. He was much impressed on the progress and the type of arrangement within limited resources that has been made by the coaching centers. He also exchanged some ideas to improve certain areas and advised to keep records on question bank and marks obtained in class tests. On the local schools, he discussed issues like:

- Library with some reference books
- Toilet for the teachers and students
- Visiting coaching classes both for the teachers and students from elite teachers of Kolkata.

His visit has inspired the local volunteers, members, teachers and students largely.



With girls student at a school in Delta.

A VISIT FOR A CAUSE



Dr. Gupta and Prof. Dasgupta meet the villagers

On November 18th 2006, Dr. Amaresh Gupta, a German resident, and Prof. D K Dasgupta form Kolkata visited the Mukti site and made some meetings at the local schools and Mukti office. He discussed certain urgent infrastructural requirements involving health care, nutrition, sanitation, solar power, library and computer education. Both Dr. Gupta and Prof. Dasgupta were touched by Mukti's work and its deep association with the human cause. They listened with great care and deep compassion to the problems and needs of the villagers.

Dr. Gupta, over and again, expressed his deep concern for the lack of the basic health and educational infrastructure in the islands. He was deeply moved and promised to help on returning to Germany in January 2007.

ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

On 23rd and 24th of December, a workshop was held to help the class X students of the local schools to prepare better for the board examinations at hand. It was organized at the Nagendrapur Hemantakumari High School. As many as 45 girls and 77 boys attended and benefited from the workshop.



Preparing the class X students at the workshop

Dumdum KK Hindu Academy teachers conducted the workshop. Head master, Mr. Radhagabinda Khanda and Mukti Secretary Mr. Madhusudan Bairagi addressed in the workshop.

Among the noted teachers present were President Award recipient Sharbasree Deeptiman Dutta, Basabranjan Chakrabarty, Debashish Pandey, Prabir Banerjee, Paritosh Kayal, Dipu Biswas and Arijit Roy from Crisis Intervention.

This has helped the students largely in building up their confidence for the board exams.

GLOBAL TELECONS

Multiple teleconferences were conducted during this period to unite members across the globe and share the thought. Different ongoing projects have been discussed and different future projects have been planned. One group has been formed in USA who work with Mukti-India by hand to hand and will try to involve other interested person in the group.

PLAN FOR AN ECOTOURISM RESORT

Considering the proven positive impacts of ecotourism on the local economy and the prospects of generating sustainable employments in the region, few of our members proposed to build an eco tourism resort in the area. The potential of ecotourism is immense in the Sunder bans. Taken into account the local geography, flora, fauna, rich folk culture and the inherent hospitable nature of the delta dwellers, it could be estimated that a globally competent ecotourism industry could be developed in the region with proper planning, investment and dedication. The pilot project will be a resort catering to 100 guests at a time, employing 50 people, mostly locals. This is to be completed over the next one and a half to two years of time. It will consist of modules like for Jungle Visits, Adventure Sports, Yoga & Ayurveda, Dining & Lodging and a Cultural Exchange. One of the long-term targets will be to build a business model out of this project, so that it could be implemented in many other places around the area to develop it as a full-fledged ecotourism industry. Please email any thoughts or suggestions about this to anirban_chakra@rediffmail.com.