

# Mukti-SITE VISIT REPORT

by Jaydeep Mandal

Email contact: mandal.jaydeep@gmail.com

**Project Name** : Book Bank Project-Bankura  
**Name of NGO** : Mukti,Bankura  
**Date** : May 19, 2008(Monday)  
**Location** :Vill. + P.O.-Bansidi,Dist.-Bankura, Pin. 722121,WB.  
**AID Kolkata volunteers** : Jaydeep & Sushant(NIF intern)  
**Mukti contact** : Jitesh Patra, (+91-9732119720(M))

On May 18, 2008, Sunday night, Sushant and I set out around 7 pm for the Mukti office in near Bankura. We boarded Chakradharpur Exp from Howrah station at 11pm and reached their nearest train station, bankura at around 4 am. We took a taxi from Bankura station for Bansidi.We were received by Jitesh of Mukti near Bansidi village. We reached Jitesh's residence by 6.30 am. We talked with Mukti Secretary & members of Bansidi village. We get to know about their different activities like Village Sanitation,Talented Students Sponsorship,Book Bank for underprivileged students & after school coaching program.One year back they started book bank(200 students) & TSS project with 15 students initially.

Around 7am we left for Mukti-Bansidi office compound. We were introduced by Mukti team to the villagers.

Q & A Session with the Villagers/students/mukti members:

1. Do you know about the intension of our visit?

They know that someone is coming from Kolkata for reviewing requirements of book bank & TSS projects, but not in detail.

2. What Mukti do in your Village?

They are running TSS, book bank ,sanitation & lication in nearby villages and help them in different social problems.

3. What about the Social division in these villages?

80% belongs to SC/ST & 50% of total populations are tribal.

4. What are the targeted schools (with student strength) for Book-bank & TSS project?

- Bansidi High School-450 students- 5-10<sup>th</sup> standard
- Bheduasole High School-2000 students-5-12<sup>th</sup> standard
- Bankada Sridurga High School-400 students-5-10<sup>th</sup> standard
- Keliapathar High School-1000 students- 5-10<sup>th</sup> standard

- Boga High School-1000 students-5-10<sup>th</sup> standard
- Chengani High school-onda-1000 students-5-10<sup>th</sup> standard
- Patharmora High School-1000 students-5-10<sup>th</sup> standard
- Biharjuri Hogh school-1000 students-5-10<sup>th</sup> standard

5. How fare these schools are from Bansidi?

In a range of 8-10kms.

6. Anyone of you have received books from Mukti last year?

- Krishna Patra-6<sup>th</sup> Standard-Bengali & Bengali grammar-Bansidi High School
- Santanu Patra-8<sup>th</sup> Standard-Physical Science & Environment Science-Bansidi High School
- Babli Pramanik-9<sup>th</sup> Standard-Bengali,Bengali grammar,Environment Science.

7. Anyone of you have received monetary support from Mukti last year?

- Abhjit Kundu-12<sup>th</sup> standard(Sc)-Bankura Kendwadi School-Rs.800/3 months
- Sumanta Nayak-Beng(Arts-Beng-Hons)-Kaatra Adibasi College-Rs.400/3 months

8. How Book Bank/TSS/coaching class helps you?

Most of the villagers don't have financial capability to bought books for their children or pay for tuition. Most of the schools are overcrowded with students, teachers didn't take proper attention to students.None of the high school teacher stays in the village. So,it will be really helpful for them.

Many guardians came to me requesting to provide books, financial help for their children.We went back to Jitesh's residence for another round of discussion with Mukti members(Jitesh,Lambodor Koiborto,Sunil Patra & some others).They have a plan to start a coaching centre for 1-4<sup>th</sup> standard in their local office by recruiting 5-6 teachers(Rs.1000/month).25% students drops out in this region between 5-8<sup>th</sup> standard due to financial problems of their family.Mr.Tapas Patra has donated 2½Katha land for library.They have planned to keep reference books for graduations also along with normal school books.They want to give 1000 more books to the students in this educational year & add 300 more in coming years.They also want to include 35 more students in their TSS program.They already have selected students for it through survey in nearby schools.Prasanta Patra got 2<sup>nd</sup> place in entire West Bengal in Madhyamik(10th) few years back from this region.They rechecked the background of the selected students from different references. According to their plan they will provide scholarship in following manner:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.300/3months
- 7<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.400/3months
- 8<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.600/3months
- 9<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.750/3months
- 10<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.750/3months
- 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> Standard student-Rs.1200/3months

Then we visited Bansidi High School, students or teachers were not there although it has hostel where 100 students stays. Actually summer vacation was on those days.The school has all sorts of infrastructure facilities & some more expansion was going on.Students from 8 nearby villagers studies there.This year 1<sup>st</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> standard batch of 33 students sat for Madhyanik, results yet to come.All of them have are expecting a decent result. We left Bansidi after taking a round of the village; we interacted with some aged persons who were also keen to see the library as soon as possible.

Lastly, my observation was that the NGO is truly dedicated to work for the people of the village. They believed in their cause and were sure of success. They are learned, well-informed people working for a noble cause and know how to get their work done.The community require help in education their children upto a certain level.Education is the strength of any community; according to my observation we should go ahead with Mukti's planning. These people need help and Mukti is helping them in all possible ways.All Mukti members are convinced about this project.They have all sorts of capabilities to implement this project successfully, we might need to monitor them quarterly out the progress and impact of the project.