



**MUKTI**

"Let Us Serve the Needy"

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**ECOLOGY & LIVELIHOOD**

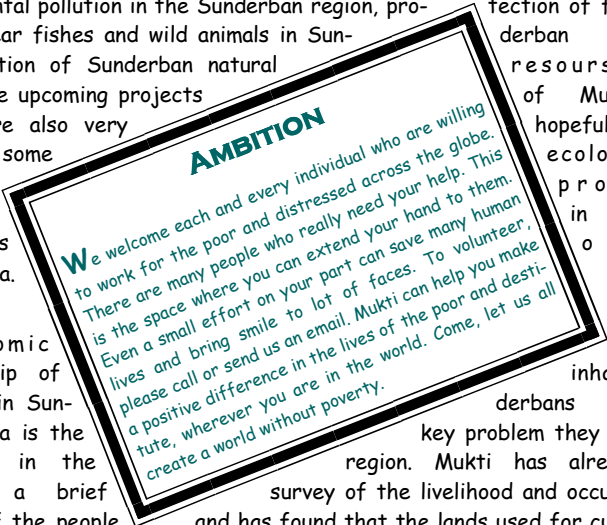
To preserve the ecosystem in favor of mankind is a topic of interest all over the world. The Sunderban ecosystem is a unique natural wonder of South Asia and the world. Millions of people are generating their livelihood from the resources of the region. Some of the activities include agriculture, fishing, woodcutting, honey-collection etc. However, the Sunderban, its flora, fauna, and the people who depend upon it are in danger. The area covered by the mangrove forests have halved in the last two decades. Addressing the problems faced by people living in the area is critical to improve a lot and to return the Sunderbans back towards a path of ecological and economical good health and stability

Protection of the ecosystem by increasing awareness, study every Mukti's development project ecologically, continuing the study on environmental pollution in the Sunderban region, protection of forest, rear fishes and wild animals in Sunderban and protection of Sunderban natural resources are the upcoming projects of Mukti.

We are also very hopeful to solve some ecological problems in dry lands of Bankura.

Economic hardship of inhabitants in Sunderban and Bankura is the key problem they are facing in the region. Mukti has already made a brief survey of the livelihood and occupation of the people and has found that the lands used for cultivation are mostly single-crop and depend primarily on rainwater for irrigation. Most of the people living in and around do not have a job round the year, which is of course main reason behind poverty. Specially in deltas, being surrounded by saline water, are rendered unfit for cultivation. Moreover, owing to communication hurdles with the main land, villagers find it hard to sell their goods in the market.

Mukti is trying to set up a biotechnology lab to help in agriculture and will work to make land bi-fertile or tri-fertile so that the farmer can earn more from the same land. Youth are already being trained in Pigery, Goatry and Poultry etc. for self-dependence. We need more cooperation from other NGOs as well so that our combined efforts could make the youth more self-dependent.



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"There is No Greater Tragedy than Doing Nothing for Fear of Doing Too Little"  
- Unknown

**To Know More about Mukti**  
Email us  
info@muktiweb.org

**Visit Us**  
www.muktiweb.org

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep ....."

- Robert Frost



In 2003, a group of enthusiasts established 'Mukti' (liberation) a non-profit organization, to support relief, rehabilitation and development of under-privileged areas in the Sunderbans. Over the years, the range and scope of this organization has expanded from a handful of members, to two independent chapters across continents (Germany and USA), with several successful philanthropic projects under its belt.

West Bengal is one of the Bengali inhabited states in India. The bay of Bengal is to the south of West Bengal. There are several small islands in the coastal region of the Bay of Bengal. With rivers, plenty of greens and islands- nature's own creation can be seen in Sunderban. The distant areas of Sunderban are surrounded with salty water. There is no electricity, no arrangement for proper treatment, no environment for education and no communication through road except water ways.

Although geometrically different, Bankura, a rural part of West Bengal is also facing somewhat the same scenario mainly because of dry lands. Bankura is beset with problems of poverty, illiteracy, unequal distribution of wealth, exploitation and all the associated ills. This is a result of lack of awareness, illiteracy, scarcity of opportunity and the wanton greed of human society. Our vision is to exonerate the underprivileged in the Bankura and Sunderban of this curse through their empowerment. To be precise, our vision is to create such an environment whereby any and every individual in the society can look forward to a promising future.



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## HEALTH

Health is Wealth. The physical ability and the intensity of intelligence totally depend upon health. People fall sick very easily due to deficiency of food, various superstitions and lack of education. People can get rid of incurable diseases if proper training for prevention can be imparted, making them aware of general health rules. Besides, families are unplanned due to lack of awareness in family planning. Day by day problems are increasing regarding sorrow, misery, family disputes and depression.

International Health Organization has multifarious planning programs. Stretching helping hands, our organization is waiting in faith for sincere co operation. In monsoon, reptile-snakes, the small poisonous creatures of nature badly affect the rural areas in a large extent. Life of the people becomes miserable. No arrangements for proper treatment, only superstition prevails; people have to accept death.



A typical latrine which Mukti has built in the region.

We, the band of Mukti, try to increase the awareness among people. For preventive health care Mukti has decided to build 3000 low-cost latrine for the poorest in Sunderban region. The project has been divided into three phases. In the first phase Mukti has built sanitary for 350 villagers by April 2005. Second phase for 1500 sanitation are about to be built.

Phase-II, currently in progress also aims at preventing water contamination which in turn would prevent many diseases.

We need to set up a primary health centre very shortly for Pulse Polio Vaccination, vaccines for mother and neo natal during birth and complete materialization of Family Planning Programs. We are waiting for the generous people to stretch out their hands for help.

Help Student by Sponsoring him for a Year. Know More about TSS (Talented Student Sponsorship) Project. Visit [www.muktiweb.org/tss](http://www.muktiweb.org/tss)

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## EDUCATION

The primary aspect to build a nation is education. On the basis of the 53<sup>rd</sup> report of NSSC (National Survey committee), the literacy rate of West Bengal is only 72%. Lack of proper education system, scarcity of good schools, economic condition and shortage of proper guidance are the main cause of the poor literacy rate in villages. Mukti has implemented various programs for the development and facilitation of education, such as 'mid-day meal', 'coaching center' project, 'Talented Student Sponsorship' and 'book bank' project to overcome this most challenging issue.



Mukti Book Bank Project

In the current year, Mukti provided books to 3000 students in Sunderban region and 300 students in Bankura region. Mukti has also extended helping hand through TSS project to 75 students in Sunderban region and 15 students in Bankura region, so that they can continue their higher studies to become an eminent citizen in future.

## CULTURE

Life's greatest aim is not to free from only money or financial burdens. What we have highlighted till now is of physique or wellbeing of body. Apart from body, our life has an important part - that is mind. This mind is the monarch of all the organs. Mental strength is spiritual power. The strength of which is incomparable. Weak and depressed mind is the outcome of living in misery, poverty, grief, quarrels, and financial problems. Cultural programs and spiritual discussions are the only way out from this mental blockage. People are divided locally and politically. To bring all of them under a common umbrella and cultivate good culture side by side Mukti is dedicated to address various cultural issues.

Because of poverty and illiteracy of the inhabitants people are isolated from the world. Even the various facilities for the villagers through several projects by Government and non-government organization are not transparent to them. Mukti's project is to circulate local news that could be posted on 20 news boards especially in public places of Sunderban area so that people can read and become aware about the facilities available for them.

Helping local clubs in various sports, conducting annual sports in the regions, launch an awareness program against social evils that have crept into our culture, increasing awareness against dowry are the projects going to be addressed in future.

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