



## **PROFILE**

# **BOOK BANK FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENT**

**FOR**  
**Purbasridharpur Chapter**  
**Sunderbans, West Bengal, India**  
**VERSION 1.0**

**AUG 2005**  
**MUKTI CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY**



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## **1 Organisation MUKTI.**

### **1.1 Formation:**

Charitable and socio-economic development trust MUKTI was established in 2003 from the vision of a Sunderban native Sankar Halder. Sankar grew up in an underprivileged family in the Sunderban and went through the trials and tribulations that people living in Sunderban suffer through. Sankar decided to involve educated and energetic local youth to develop themselves and their communities through various developmental projects. This vision led to the foundation of MUKTI.

### **1.2 By law:**

MUKTI is registered under the Government of India Trust Act Section 64. It has an executive board who frame the policies and action items and pass down the action items to the ground level working committee. There are several different wings of the ground level working committee and every wing has several general members to implement the policies and work items of the board on the ground. A general body meeting is to be held every year. The executive board is elected for a two-year term, and will be dissolved and newly elected by and from the members by an electoral process.

### **1.3 Vision:**

**The** naturally beautiful Sundarban's is home to peoples and nature 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, poor planning and the wanton greed of a section of human society. So our vision is to exonerate the underprivileged in the 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.

### **1.4 Mission:**

MUKTI's mission is to implement programs for upliftment of the underprivileged, illiterate, poor and backward people of mainly the Sunderban region by way of motivation and human resources development thus building a self-reliant society by efficient and effective utilization of local resources and implementation of environmentally sound policies.



## **1.5 Members:**

MUKTI's members are spread all over India and even outside India including the USA but MUKTI has an especially strong presence in the Sunderban area. We have more than 200 locals in the organization who are working for the sole development of the Sunderban region. Our working members are divided in to four wings: health, education, economic and cultural. All interested people with a vision of help and with a broad vision to work for the underprivileged are welcome to the group.

## **2 Why and where the project:**

### **2.1 A Brief Survey of the Problems facing the Sunderban**

The Sunderban ecosystem is a unique natural wonder of South Asia and the world. It is the largest contiguous mangrove ecosystem in the world today, with an area of approximately 10,000 square kilometers spread over India and Bangladesh. The mangrove ecosystem lies between the deltas of three great rivers, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna, and their tributaries. Sunderban is special in the diversity of its plant, marine and animal life of which the tiger is the most famous. Other notable large species include the Gangetic and Irrawady dolphin, estuarine crocodile and the terrapin.

Not only is the Sunderban ecosystem of enormous value to mankind, millions of people generating their livelihood from the resources of the region. Livelihood generating activities include agriculture, fishing, woodcutting, honey collection etc. The Sunderban is a major pathway for nutrient recycling and pollution abatement, apart from playing a crucial role in providing a natural barrier against the cyclones from Bay of Bengal to the people in the delta including the large city of Kolkata.

However, the Sundarban, 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. Many of the species of flora and fauna are endangered. As a result, the Sundarban National Park in India was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 and UNESCO declared the entire Sundarbans region in India a Global Biosphere Reserve in December 2001. Sundarban Reserved Forest in India is in the process of being declared a RAMSAR site while Sunderban of Bangladesh has already been declared a RAMSAR site.

The reason for the problems of the Sunderbans has largely to do with the pressure created by people living in and around it. An estimated 8 million people (2001 census) live in the Sunderbans spread over Bangladesh and India. Low education levels with an estimated 25-30% literacy rate, a high population growth rate, chronic health problems due to lack of health care and ignorance, excess labour, a low skill base, and poor infrastructure are some of the problems being suffered by the people living in the region.

Addressing the problems faced by people living in the area is critical to improving their lot and in returning the Sunderbans back towards a path of ecological and economical good health and stability.



## **2.2 Place of Project:**

The project will be implemented in the village of Nagendrapur in the Sundarban delta. Nagendrapur is on an island in the delta surrounded by rivers Muni and Thakuran. For more reference please visit [www.muktiweb.org](http://www.muktiweb.org).

### **Mailing Address:**

#### **MUKTI**

Village + Post: Purba-Sridharpur.  
P.S : Raidighi.  
Dist: 24 Pargs (South)  
State: West Bengal.  
Country: India.  
Pin: 743383.

## **2.3 Study report:**

The Sundarbans is beautiful with its natural views and charming ecosystem but inhabitants of this delta are financially challenged because of the lack of all basic infrastructures.

The average person is poor, illiterate and lack good health care. The economic backwardness as well as rampant diseases is not only because of lack of infrastructure and health care but also due to lack of awareness, which is a result of illiteracy. .

It has been found that only 25-30% of the entire mass is literate. In a study of one of the deltas comprising 40,000 villagers. The communication system to the main land is mostly dependent on slow-speed boats, which take 3-4 hours for the 12-15 KM journey. Hence it is difficult for students to travel to the mainland for their education. Being average people poor they can not provide adequate fund for their child education. It is also found that many students could not buy their school textbook even for their school study. To promote literacy in the Delta and to support poor student in the region, MUKTI has decided to setup a Book Bank for 2500 student to facilitate all with education.

## **2.4 Target to achieve:**

The target of this project will be to make the villages in the above delta 100% literacy compliant. We believe that help in education in various forms will help to reach to the target to make the region literate. Mukti is also initiated to set up sup 8 numbers of primary school and other education project in the region. We believe various project like that will help make



the villages literate which in turn will enable a beneficial changes in the socio-economic structure and also the environment and ecosystem of the region.

### 3 Project estimation:

Our target to fund for 2500 students textbook, which will be completed in phase then to build a library building with a full time librarian for preserving and managing books.

#### 3.1 Total Project cost estimation.

Cost for each student text book (average)= Rs 350

Total projected cost

Cost for purchasing books.....(2500\*350) = 8,75,000 (INR).

+ Setup cost (In the Final Phase):

Land Purchase	25,000	
Land Development	10,000	
Building Cost	2,50,000	
Furniture	1,00,000	
	=====	3,85,000

Total Cost of the project	=====	12,60,000 (INR).
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)	=	\$31,500.

The project has been divided in to four phases.

Recurring expenses per year (After Final Phase):

Salary for the librarian (1500*12)	=	18,000
Cost of Depreciation ( 20% of 8,75,000)	=	1,75,000
(Books has to be replaced)		

Total Recurring expenses per year	=====	1,93,000 (INR).
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)	=	\$4,825.



### 3.2 Phases of the project:

The project has been divided into four phases. Each phase will be completed in a fixed time frame.

#### 3.2.1 Phase-I :

Target date of completion 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Number of beneficiaries: 150 student from class V to Graduation

Total Cost estimated for text books  $150 * 350 = 52,500$

Total cost is beard by MUKTI is  $= 52,500(\text{INR})$   
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)  $= \$1,313.$

Status of Phase I : Work is successfully completed in time.

#### 3.2.2 Phase-II :

Target date of completion 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

Number of beneficiaries: 500 students from class V to Graduation

Total Cost estimated for text books  $500 * 350 = 1,75,000$

Total cost is beard by MUKTI is  $= 1,75,000 (\text{INR})$   
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)  $= \$4,375.$

Status of Phase I : Work is successfully completed in time.

#### 3.2.3 Phase-III

Target date of completion 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

Number of beneficiaries: 1000 students from class V to Graduation

Total Cost estimated for textbooks  $1000 * 350 = 3,50,000$

Total cost is estimated  $= 3,50,000 (\text{INR})$   
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)  $= \$8,750.$

Status of Phase I : Work will start in time need fund.



### 3.2.4 Phase-IV

Target date of completion 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

#### For Books:

Number of beneficiaries: 850 students from class V to Graduation

Total Cost estimated for textbooks	850 *350	= 2,97,500
		=====
Total cost is estimated		= 2,97,500 (INR)
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)		= \$7438.

#### For Setup cost:

Land Purchase	25,000	
Land Development	10,000	
Building Cost	2,50,000	
Furniture	1,00,000	
	=====	3,85,000 (INR)
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)		= \$9625.

### 3.2.5 Recurring cost.

Recurring expenses per year (After Final Phase):

Salary for the librarian (1500*12)	= 18,000
Cost of Depreciation ( 20% of 8,75,000)	= 1,75,000
(Books has to be replaced)	
	=====
Total Recurring expenses per year	1,93,000 (INR).
(Or in USD \$1= Rs 40)	= \$4,825.

## 4 Our Appeal:

Many children are out of school in the target region. It is found that economic condition of the people in the target region is very poor and they cannot provide fund for their child's education. Because of lack of basic infrastructure like road, electricity and vehicle many time children also can not reach to the school and especially at monsoon time and winter children do not feel like to go far school. Even whichever schools are available those student and teacher ratio and basic amenity are in very poor condition MUKTI already taken in to



consideration one project to set up 8 primary school in the region. with sufficient school and other help like text book we will definitely achieve target for 100% literacy.

MUKTI has decided to set up this **Book Bank** to provide textbook to the student and take back after their year study to recycle those book for other student. But monetary fund is the main concern. Since MUKTI is in a very nascent stage, as like any other great initiatives, it obviously has the challenges to fulfil. The main concern now is to collect sufficient fund for supporting the project.

MUKTI appeals to all broad-minded persons to come up for the noble cause and donate for the people who need you the most. Any financial assistance for the support the noble cause is welcome. All efforts to support the movement either with financial assistance or with manual effort are welcome in MUKTI.

For MUKTI the challenge has just began, it has MILES to go and would never sleep.

## 5 MUKTI Contacts and Web Site

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Web Site URL : [www.muktiweb.org](http://www.muktiweb.org)

## 6 Donating to MUKTI

To make donations to MUKTI, please send a cheque payable to “MUKTI”. The cheque can be mailed to either contact listed above but preferably to the contact in India. Contributions can be made in USD or Indian Rupees. Contributions are tax deductible in India. If you want to contribute to a specific project, please mention the name of the project in an attached note. If no project name is mentioned, then the contributions will be used on the most needy project.