



MUKTI

Let's Serve the Needy

Annual Report
2008-2009

A Non-Profit Socio-Economic Development Trust
(Registered under Government of India Trust Act – Section 64)



MUKTI

Purba Sridharpur,
Raidighi, 24 Pargs(south)
WB, India, 743383
+91 3174 214454
nfo@muktiweb.org
www.muktiweb.org

Make the Difference and Move Forward

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The Mukti movement started in 2003 in Sunderbans delta of West Bengal by few energetic idealists who envisioned a world, where hunger was unheard of and health and education were basic rights. "*Jodi tor daak shune keu na aase, tobe ekla cholo re*" (If they don't answer to thy call, walk alone. Open your mind and speak alone till it reaches the subconscious of all!) was the mantra that these people believed in.

Since its conception Mukti has grown into a successful organization, drawing dedicated volunteers from around the world, who are leading various projects that help boost local economy, education health and culture. Our country is a land of potentials, but how can one provide education for his off springs, when it is an everyday battle to bring food to the table? With the help of world wide individual donors, Mukti's TSS (Talented Student Scholarship) program is currently sponsoring hundred such meritorious but needy students whose academic career would have had come otherwise to an abrupt end.

This year's Independence Day also set milestone for

Mukti's movement against illiteracy as a public library dedicated to local needy was inaugurated in Nagendrapur of Sunderbans delta. Mukti is determined to carry the torch in the race against illiteracy so that no children are left behind. It is a monumental task but someday we would reach our goal with generous help from you. There is no "right time"! Let us start TODAY!

Mukti believes in sustainable growth and development in the rural areas by using non-arable lands. It undertook Coconut Plantation project in Sunderban, where coconuts will be grown in high saline lands that are otherwise unusable. Even the majority of the usable lands are single crop, causing hardship for small farmers. This simple, sustainable yet high impact project caught immediate attention of the highest government officials. The Central Government of India extended its aid for the project by granting a good amount for the current year and promised even more in the upcoming years. This is defi-

nitely significant as this is the first time a NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has supported a project sponsored by a NGO in West Bengal and also by far it is the largest project sponsored by Mukti. Needless to mention that this project would have a tremendous ecological as well as socio-economical impact creating considerable man days of direct employment and much more indirectly, boosting the local economy within a few years time.



Sankar Halder



During TSS Award Ceremony at JU in Nov 2008

There are myriad NGOs that are currently active for rural development in India. What is Mukti's uniqueness? Many NGOs have got the fund but do not have access to the remotest, underdeveloped areas. Mukti's grass-root level volunteers are bridging these two groups; the donors and the recipients.

For example, the vocational training, through which Mukti plans to train the local workforce in marketable skills, would increase the earning potential and make them self-reliant. This is capitol intensive which demands a proper infrastructure in order to receive grant from Central Government. Asha-USA extended their help to make vocational training project a reality. Mukti has also successfully initiated revenue generating environmentally sustainable psici-culture projects. In future with all these skilled workers, Mukti envisions forming self-help groups to transform them into self-sufficient entrepreneurs.

We are looking forward to do much more in coming years than what we have done so far. Long ways to go and we do not have any room of taking rest or self-satisfaction. We have to defeat our

- Sankar Halder, President
Mukti India

Inauguration of Public Library at Nagendrapur

India marks the sixty-second Independence Day on August 15 this year (2008). Since our independence both central and state governments have undertaken major initiatives including land reform, road construction, economic liberalization etc. towards the development of Modern India. However, the role of NGOs towards the integrated development of both urban and rural areas cannot be undermined. Mukti is one such organization, dedicated to upliftment of underprivileged with better health, and education. Its activity is primarily focused on remote areas of the Sunderbans including village Nagendrapur in South 24 Parganas. This year the Independence Day brought a special sense of achievement and joyfulness in the community as a public library built by Mukti with funding from 'Asha for Education' was inaugurated. There are quite a few primary schools as well as high schools in the area. But, the students had no access to books for further studies once they finish schools. Others such as the older people or bookworms who could not afford to buy books will also be immensely benefited by this library project. Books broaden the mind and knowledge is power.

Many distinguished guests were present to celebrate this auspicious day along with the Mukti volunteers. Among them were Sudhir Mallick, senior manager of TCS, Nirapada Debnath, head master of Jata Nagendrapur high school; Nimai Pradhan; Panchugopal Halder, the village head; Mr. Subimol Guria; Godador Halder; Mr. Purnendu Naiya, member of Zilla Parishad. The students from the 8-coaching centers run by the Mukti volunteers and employee arranged a cultural program. The program was presided by Mr. Subimol Guria. The guests were welcomed by Bulbuli Mandal and her group by presenting a flower bouquet to them. The ceremony began at 10:30 am with flag hoisting by Madhusudan Bairagi, the general secretary of Mukti followed by a colorful parade organized by all the students of the coaching centers. The local talents made the program a great success by performing dance, recitation, and patriotic songs.

In his speech, the president Subimol Guria, reminded everyone that even though China formed the republic two years later than Indian independence, it is much

ahead of India now in every respect. And we cannot simply blame on population, as China is the most populous country of the world. So if China can rise to an advanced nation what has kept us behind? One of the main reasons is lack of education. Building a library for the unprivileged community will definitely further strengthen the movement to eradicate illiteracy. Panchugopal Halder commented that we cannot just rely on the government for development, we need help from non-government organizations as well. Praising Mukti's initiatives, he added that this would set up an example of common people taking the reins of development in their own hands for betterment of their society. Purnendu Naiya while introducing Sankar Halder, Mukti's founder and president, proclaimed that will-force could overcome any difficulties however hard it may be. He further commented that if someone sets his mind to help mitigate the evils of society nothing could stop him. Sankar Halder is one such pioneer Mr. Naiya was so impressed by Mukti's dedication that he promised to get involved to make it a difference for the society.

The chief guest Sudhir Mallick recognized the dedication of the Mukti's volunteers to make this library project a success. He also greatly admired Mukti's efforts to make the society a better place for everyone. He promised that TCS would try to develop software's, which would be beneficial for the common people. Mr. Mallick inaugurated the library building, which was followed by release of white doves to symbolize peace and harmony.

The ceremony ended with planting of trees. All the distinguished guests along with students planted 1500 trees. In his brief message, Sankar Halder mentioned the necessity for afforestation in order to prevent natural calamities and land erosions. The delta of Sunderban is a unique eco system with so much natural biodiversity. Mukti is determined to put all the efforts to preserve this land and make it more beautiful.



Inauguration Ceremony of Public Library

“Building a library for the unprivileged community will definitely further strengthen the movement to eradicate the illiteracy of our society”



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Inside the new library

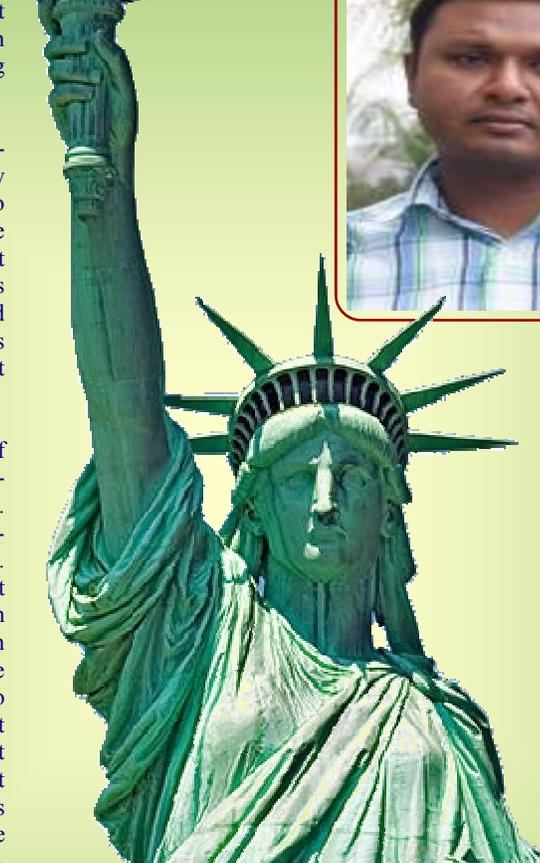
Birth of Mukti for Social Development, USA

Greetings to all from United States. We are the newest members of the Mukti family and would like to introduce ourselves to all the Mukti members and volunteers around the world. Mukti's work and dedication to foster self-reliant and thriving communities amongst low-income and under-privileged in West Bengal, India, keep inspiring many of us in USA.

Most of the members have been living in the US for quite some time now but have been longing to give back to the country and community they came from. However, lot of us could not find a suitable group that has grass root level organization in India and would let us get involved in all levels of the organization and not be just donors.

Then Sankar Haldar, President of Mukti India came to US and got connected to many of us through Orkut. He introduced us to Mukti and explained its goals and achievements. We all were very impressed that Mukti could accomplish so much in such a short period of time. With Sankar's encouragement and active participation the interested began to meet through phone conference as lot of participants were from different corners of US. Everybody agreed that Mukti was the platform that all of us were looking for. Thus we started the informal Mukti USA chapter to explore the ideas to help Mukti India.

As time progressed we figured the US volunteers talents would be best utilized by not only raising funds but also design, write reports, grant proposals and presentations for projects and maintain the Mukti website. We figured that to be serious about our commitment to Mukti's goal we need to be registered as a non-profit in the US. Thus we started the process of registering the Mukti USA chapter as an independent non profit organization in California, USA. It took months but finally we were registered as a California Non Profit Public Benefit Corporation on April 2008. We could not get the first choice of name "Mukti USA" but had to settle for "Mukti for



Social Development" which seemed appropriate too. We are now in the process of applying for 501(c) tax exempt status.

From the beginning, Mukti for Social Development focused on raising funds for the talented but needy students of the TSS. The



US volunteers have also been working on designing, writing reports and grant proposals for N A R K E L (Coconut Plantation), Self Help Group, Vocational Training projects. We have actively helping Mukti India

co-ordinate with other US non profits like ASHA, AID etc. In November of 2008 we distributed around Rs.50,000 (\$1200 USD) amongst the TSS students collected from US volunteers and well wishers in an Award Ceremony at Jadavpur University in Kolkata. There is an ongoing effort to collect more funds for the TSS project.

Mukti for Social Development would focus on promoting and sponsoring activities to improve education, heighten social and environmental awareness and foster community development in India, organizing cultural activities in USA to raise aware-

ness amongst the local communities about the plight of the underprivileged of India, organizing meetings, seminars and discussion forums in US to solicit ideas and working with Mukti India to achieve common goals.

We are really excited to partnering with Mukti India and together we hope to help the underprivileged in West Bengal, India. Go Mukti!!

**- Samitinjoy Pal , President
Mukti for Social Development**

Brief Status Report of Mukti for Social Development

Gift of the Magi



Rijul's "annaprashan" or the rice eating ceremony was special in more ways than one. Symbolizing not only Rijul's journey towards newer avenues, it allowed many to tread paths that they may never have been able to otherwise. Thanks to Indrani and Saswata, a couple from San Diego California, who

requested donations towards charitable institutions like Mukti in lieu of gifts to commemorate the auspicious occasion. Mukti received a handsome amount while Indrani, Saswata and Rijul deserve accolades for such an inspirational gesture towards Mukti.

While the registration process was ongoing we have collected funds for TSS project some of which (approx. Rs.50,000 / \$1200 USD) was disbursed at an Award Ceremony at Jadavpur University in Kolkata. We plan to release some more funds in near future. Our volunteers have been helping Mukti India design, write reports and grant proposals for NaRKEL (Coconut Plantation), Vocational Training projects both of which are now funded. ASHA is funding the vocational training project, while NaRKEL is funded by the Governments of India and West Bengal. We have actively helping Mukti India co-ordinate with other US non profits like ASHA, AID etc.

Following months of discussion and conference calls volunteers of Mukti USA chapter decided to register as a non-profit corporation so that we would raise funds, organize meetings and help Mukti India without any legal hindrance. After months of effort we were able to finalize on our Articles of Corporation. Even then we had to go through two rounds

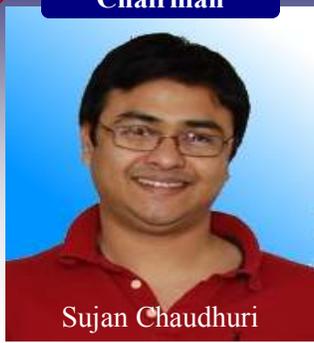
pleted, we held elections to elect our Board of Directors and executive committee on June 27, 2008. Raja Ghosh was Chaired the Election Committee and declared the following results:

The Board of Directors adopted the by-laws on July 3, 2008 and Mukti for Social Development started in full swing.

Several US team members have visited Sundarban sites multiple times. The field trips were very well organized. All our volunteers were very satisfied with progress of the ongoing projects. The direct interaction with the grass root level Mukti volunteers and project managers were very rewarding

Board of Directors

Chairman



Sujan Chaudhuri

Member



Satyajit Roy

Member



Indrani Talukdar

of discussion with the Government before we were registered as a California non Profit Public Benefit Corporation in April 2008.

With registration completed we started writing our Corporation Bylaws and once that was com-

We have also opened a bank account to deposit all funds received and completed all government formalities. We are in the process of applying for 501(c) IRS tax exempt status.

and helped US volunteers get first hand experience on the different projects.

- Gayatri Pal, Secretary
Mukti for Social Development

Executive Committee

President



Samitinjoy Pal

Secretary



Gayatri Pal

Treasurer



Debargha Datta



Annual TSS Award Ceremony in Bankura

Annual TSS Award Ceremony in Bankura

Education is considered as a birthright of every child. Education builds minds; and thoughtful, creative, sensitive and energetic minds are needed to build a nation's future. Mukti has taken the above tenet to heart. Talented Student Sponsorship (TSS) is one such program of Mukti operating Bankura and other remotest regions of West Bengal. Mukti is committed to improve education, develop social and environmental awareness and foster community development in the low-income, underdeveloped communities of India, including some of the remotest villages of West Bengal.

For the past two years TSS program in Bankura has been operating successfully, where a growing number of talented but needy students are being sponsored within the scope of the project.

On 25th December, 2008, the annual TSS award ceremony was organized in Bheduasol, Bankura. The event attracted a large crowd. The meeting was presided by the Guest of Honor ABTA secretary Mr. Sukumar Paine. The other distinguished guests included Mr. Kalipada Das, the Head Master of Bheduasol, and Mr. Rajkumar Mahanty, the local Panchayat Pradhan of the region.

Mukti Bankura chapter has sponsored 25 (twenty five) students this fiscal year

Mukti Bankura chapter has sponsored 25 (twenty five) students this fiscal year. This was definitely in the right direction from last year, where 14 (fourteen) students received the scholarships. Students of Science and Arts were handed over Rs. 2200 and Rs. 1100 respectively, which covers for initial three months.

Panchayat Pradhan promised helping Mukti with all necessary means for its future endeavor. Mr. Sukumar Paine promised to help acquiring books for the library project. This event facilitated an interactive face to face meeting between the Mukti officials and students.



Annual TSS Award Ceremony in Bankura

TSS Award Ceremony at Jadavpur University, Kolkata



Student Receiving Support under TSS

Mukti has long recognized that lack of education is one of the root-causes of economic backwardness in the remotest parts of West Bengal including Sundarbans, and everywhere else in our country. Mukti is determined to usher in a change by sponsoring talented but needy students through Talented Student Sponsorship (TSS) program. This program, in its second year, is currently supporting more than 100 students in the area.

An annual TSS award ceremony was organized at Triguna Sen auditorium of Jadavpur University (JU) on 7th November, 2008 by Mukti-JU volunteers. The distinguished guests present at the meeting were Mr. Satyaki Bhattacharya, the Controller of Examination, Jadavpur University, Professor Dulal Mondal, Professor Gautam Mazumder, Professor Budhhadeb Orai, Mr. Rajat Roy, the Dean of Students, Jadavpur University.

The program was presided by Sankar Halder, one of the key members and President of Mukti. The beneficiaries included 113 students from the remotest parts of Sundarbans, Hoogly and Bankura. The profile of the students varied from being enrolled in medical, engineering, and high school standards.

In his opening speech, Mr. Satyaki Bhattacharya, praised Mukti's effort in bringing 'education for all' and eradicating un-equality in society. He recited a poem that he composed dedicating to Mukti. Mr. Budhhadeb Orai, in his speech recollected his childhood memories of economic hardships and struggles to continue his education. He recognized Mukti's hard work and inspired the Mukti workers as well as the students to keep up their good work. Mr. Mazumder was thrilled to learn about Mukti's activities as he also is involved in similar social work. He was highly impressed with Mukti's progress and showed interest to join Mukti. In the closing speech Mr. Biswanath Mondal, a Mukti volunteer, asked the students to stay focused in achieving their goal and make all the hard work of the Mukti volunteers a success.



Student Receiving TSS Check

Village Computer Literacy Program (VCLP) in Kakdwip

TCS - Maitree (Kolkata), along with Mukti has initiated the **Village Computer Literacy Program (VCLP)**. VCLP is designed to provide computer education to village students and youth. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., Kolkata has donated 12 computers for the purpose. In the first phase of the project one computer laboratory has been set up in Kasinagar High School near Kakdwip (about 90 Kms from Kolkata). This school has current enrollment of 750 students. Mukti and TCS- Maitree volunteers are training the teachers under *Faculty Development Program*.

On 21st September, 2008, the computer lab for VCLP project was inaugurated at Kashinagar High School in Kakdwip.

VCLP project is Village Computer Literacy Program designed by Mukti to spread computer literacy in villages. The computer lab was set up in the school with the help of 'Mukti-Kakdwip', which is a new chapter of Mukti. Four computers were installed in the lab. The computers were donated by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., Kolkata.



VCLP Project Computers

Kashinagar is a small village in the Sunderban Deltas and is located about 90 kms from Kolkata. Cuurently, 755 students are enrolled in Kashinagar High School, most of whom belong to economically backward families. The school could not afford a computer lab, as a result,, the students lacked the basic computer skills. The Principal, Mr Shyamal Kumar Samata understood the importance of having a computer lad facility in the school and acted immediately to the start the program. This

The students decorated the lab with flowers and balloons. They were very excited to get the glimpse of the machine which most of them had never seen earlier. Volunteers of Mukti – Kakdwip installed the machines in the lab. Lots of people were invited. Among the invited guests were Mr.Monturam Pakhira (ex-MLA from Kakdwip), Mr. Dipak Patra (Head of Village Panchayat Samiti), Mr. Gopal Chandra Das (Principal) and Mr. Ithirab Saha (Secretary of the School Committee).Even some guardians of students, Principals and teachers of other schools were also present.

The chief guests for the occasion were:-
Mr. Tomojeet Chakraborty (Head of Corporate

Sustainability Team, TCS Kolkata) and **Mr. Kironkanti Kar** (Coordinator of TSS project Mukti India).

The chief guests accompanied by Mr. Shubhadeep Debta (coordinator of VCLP project & volunteer of Mukti- Kakdwip) arrived the venue at 2:30 P.M. They were given a very warm welcome by the Head Master and members of the school authority. A welcome song was sung by a group of students. The Head Master then greeted everybody and introduced the guests to the audience.

In his inspiring speech, chief guest Mr. Tomojeet Chakraborty focused on importance of computer literacy in modern day life.. He was very impressed with dedication of Mukti volunteers. Touched by the enthusiasm of the students to learn computer, he promised that he will try to provide more computers to the school. It was also suggested that the progress of the students will be monitored on a regular basis..

Mr. Shyamal Kr. Samanta, Principal also thanked Mukti for implementing the project in their school, which will be beneficial to the students and help shape their future career.

He thanked TCS officials for donating computers. But he also pointed out that number of available computers to student ratio is not ideal., and hence requested for more computers. He also requested to arrange some interactive sessions between the students and the computer professionals which will be beneficial for the students.

Sweets and cakes were distributed among the students and guests. The Principals & teachers from other schools expressed their interest to implement the project in their respective schools. They had a thorough discussion with the Mukti- Kakdwip team and the chief guests.

The event was a grand success and all the credit goes to the Mukti -team, all the members of VCLP project and TCS, Kolkata.



VCLP Project at Kakdwip, WB

TCS - Maitree (Kolkata), along with Mukti has initiated the Village Computer Literacy Program (VCLP). VCLP is designed to provide computer education to village students and youth.



Students of VCLP project are learning computer in class

In the first phase of the project one computer laboratory has been set up in Kasinagar High School near Kakdwip of West Bengal

Village Computer Literacy Program (VCLP) in Hooghly District

Goal:

Spread computer literacy to economically backward community so that no one is left behind. This project has immense potential in future employment in computer related industry.

Location:

*Station Bazar Road,
P.O. Guptipara, Dist.
Hooghly (WB)
Pin – 712512*

TCS Maitree (Kolkata) is working together with Mukti for Village Computer Literacy Program (VCLP). VCLP requires setting up computer facilities in the remotest villages. With Mukti's initiatives, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS), Kolkata has donated 12 computers so far for this project. The first laboratory was set up in Guptipara, where 80 students are being trained. Mukti and TCS- Maitree volunteers are organizing training workshops to enhance the computer skills of the teachers.

For Guptipara computer training lab, two Mukti volunteers have been appointed. Basic as well as advanced level professional courses are in the current curriculum. Moreover, one volunteer has been recruited to look after the computer facility and its daily operation. Additionally, another acting volunteer is responsible for maintaining

FUTURE DIRECTION

More computers are needed to meet the growing demand. Corporate donation of old or unused computers will be requested. An income tax exemption has already been approved for this purpose. Once we receive additional computers, new facilities will be opened up in different localities to reach out

the paperwork including reports containing feedback, which later gets communicated to Mukti Kolkata, and TCS-Maitree.

Currently approximately 50 students are receiving training. Mukti has borne hundred percent initial running cost. But since the number of trainees are growing rapidly, a nominal fee of Rs.20/- per student has been implemented as tuition fee as per the earlier agreement.

Site visit at Purbashridharpur, Raidighi

By Debargha Datta (Mukti USA)

During the site visit at the eco-friendly office of Mukti at Purbashridharpur in Raidighi on June 8th 2008, the following three meetings were arranged:

Meeting with local students: This was held with a group of students in a friendly and informal environment. The purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback from the group of students regarding possible causes that appear as hindrances toward basic and higher studies. Various local students like Gopal Das (Class-XI, Arts), Pranab Kr. Mistry (qualified Madhyamik with 63% marks), Uttam Kr. Halder (Class XII, Arts), Sasadhar Purohit (qualified HS with 58% marks in Arts), Sasadhar Ghosh (Class-XII, Arts), Basanti Halder (Class-X) and Bularani Mondal (qualified HS with 42% marks in Arts) participated in the meeting and discussed some of the basic problems they face in their daily life and which they think are the primary obstacles to their study. Apart from the financial problem that was common to all, some students like Basanti Halder and Bularani Mondal also talked about some social and family related problems common in the poverty-stricken areas, which seemed to be playing a major role. Students were advised to take assistance from the MUKTI coaching centers and avail the facilities of the upcoming MUKTI Library to its fullest extent to prepare for the board and other exams. This type of meeting was extremely helpful for students as it provided an opportunity for them to share their problems directly with Mukti officials. Students who attended the meeting were very excited and expressed their desire to look forward to similar meetings in future.

The meeting with the volunteers of MUKTI Book Bank project was chaired by Mr. Sankar Halder. The purpose of the meeting was primarily to discuss the current status and different budgetary issues of the project.

The meeting with the teachers of MUKTI Coaching Center was chaired by Mr. Bimal Sarkar, coordinator of MUKTI Coaching Center. Issues regarding scheduling of teachers at different coaching centers in Sunderban region and other employment related items were discussed in the meeting.

Besides the above meetings, the sites for MUKTI Library which is currently under-construction and the pisciculture project were also inspected during the visit.



Public Library under construction



Pisci-culture Project

Annual Board Meeting of Mukti India 2008-2009

The annual meeting of Mukti was held on 14th September, 2008. The venue was 40 Goria Station Road, Kolkata. All the members of Mukti were invited. Total twenty members attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the current President of Mukti, Sankar Halder. The meeting began with member introduction.

The following members were also present.

- Judhisthir Halder (General Coordinator of Kakandighi area)
- Amalendu Prasad Halder (TSS Coordinator)
- Subhodep debra (VCLP Coordinator)
- Raghunath Bairagi (Coordinator of Book Bank and Sanitation project)
- Bapyadityo Chakrabarti (Coordinator of Book Bank and TSS project)
- Debabrata Halder (Coordinator of Jadavpur chapter)
- Kiran Kanti Kar (Coordinator of TSS project)
- Bijoy Krishna Halder (Active Mukti volunteer since 2003)
- Biswanath Mondal (Active Mukti volunteer since 2003)
- Chandan Mondal (VCLP group member)
- Pulak Das (General Coordinator of Mukti Hooghly chapter)
- Bimal Bairagi (Active Mukti volunteer since 2003)
- Jibesh Patra (Coordinator of book bank project in Bankura)
- Somnath Mukherjee (Active Mukti volunteer since 2003) and
- Madhusudan Bairagi (Secretary of Mukti India)



Discussions during AGM

Madhusudan Bairagi, Secretary of Mukti India discussed several issues during the meeting. He stressed on the importance of maintaining a Employee/ Volunteer Handbook with Code of Conduct for all Mukti employees/

volunteers, that would be available to all. He also emphasized on some monumental achievements of Mukti during the year 2007-08, which included inauguration of library building, starting of VCLP, facilitating improved coaching centers etc. The problems that Mukti came across last year were also discussed. For example, many text books that are part of Book Bank project were not returned to the library and of those returned some of them are not in proper condition for future circulation. Also, library does not have sufficient books yet. To circumvent these problems it was felt that better monitoring and recollection of the distributed text books for Book Bank project, and collection of books and better management for the Li-



Annual Board Meeting

brary were needed. More books of wide variety topics are needed in order cater different categories of people. Volunteers could be recruited to guide the students and general people with the books. Biswanath Mondal shared his viewpoints about aim of Mukti and suggested that our mission should be very clear to the new members.

At the end, the current board was dissolved and votes were cast to form the new board for the year 2008-2009.

During post lunch session, Sankar Halder, the newly elected President laid out policies for future Mukti chapters in terms of accounting, management etc.

The meeting was adjourned after congratulating the newly appointed Board of Trustees.

AGENDA

- ◆ Activities of Mukti in the year 2007-08
- ◆ Accounts and audit report of the year 2007-08
- ◆ Mukti's current board of trustees
- ◆ Nomination and election of Mukti's new board of trustees
- ◆ Budget for the year 2008-09
- ◆ Future activities, projects and plan
- ◆ Mukti's present and future administrative hierarchies
- ◆ Open Forum



Mukti's Vision

To create an environment where each and every individual in the society can look forward to have a promising future.

Mukti's Mission

To implement programs for the uplift of the underprivileged, illiterate, poor and backward people of the World by way of motivation and human resource development. This mission aims at creating a self-reliant society through efficient and environmentally conscious use of local resources.

Elected Broad of Trustees of Mukti for 2008-2009

- ◆ Sankar Halder, President
- ◆ Biswanath Mondal, Vice President
- ◆ Madhusudan Bairagi, Secretary
- ◆ Kiran Kanti Kar, Treasurer
- ◆ Jibesh Patro, Member
- ◆ Sohini Mehta, Member
- ◆ Bijoy Krishna Halder, Member
- ◆ Pankaj Neogi, Member

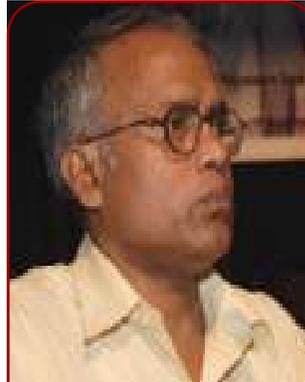
Mukti India Board of Trustees 2008-2009



President
Sankar Halder
IT Professional &
Mukti's Founder
Member



Vice President
Biswnath Mandal
LIC Development officer
& Mukti's Founder
Member



Secretary
Madhusudan Bairagi
Bank Officer & Mukti's
Founder Member



Treasurer
Kiran Kanti Kar
Software Professional
and social worker



Member
Pankaj Neogi
Head teacher of HS
school and social worker



Member
Jeebesh Patra
Computer Engineer and
software professional



Member
Sohini Meheta
Computer Engineer and
software professional



Member
Bijoy Krishna Halder
Social worker and
Mukti's founder member

Thank you for supporting Mukti's mission to serve the low income and under privileged people to foster self-reliant and thriving communities. Together we will create an environment where each and every individual in the society can look forward to have a promising future.

!! Donations are much needed. Please donate generously !!

Electronic Fund Transfer

For India: Bank: State Bank of India
Account No.: 30599000811

Account Name: Mukti

For US: Bank: Well Fargo

Account #: 5052301933

Routing #: 121042882

A/C Name: Mukti for Social Development



By Check in USA

Send Check to (for USA):

MUKTI FOR SOCIAL

DEVELOPMENT

519 Bellevue Street, Santa Cruz,
CA 95060, USA



By Cheque in India

Send Check to (for India):

MUKTI

Kiran Kanti Kar (Treasurer)
Mazumderpara, Shibtala, Fartabad
Garia Station Road, Garia
Kolkata-700084



Mukti Site Visit Report December 2008

By Ranitendra nath Tagore (Asha)

The Mukti site at Purba-Sridharpur was visited on December 9th, 2008 by the Asha USA volunteers. During the stay, the volunteers visited Mukti's pisciculture ponds, the newly constructed library building, its adjoining horticulture grounds, and two coaching centers, and also talked to the Mukti sponsored TSS (Talented Student Sponsorship program) students, their parents, teachers, and Mukti's full-time workers.

During their visit, the volunteer team evaluated the NREGA initiative by central government in those areas. The central government guarantees 100 days employment every year to per individual below poverty line under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). While this is a landmark act with great potential, there have been widespread problems with its implementation. Funds allocated for NREGA are routinely reported to be mishandled by middlemen, while the targeted population remained jobless and unemployed. Also, there is often a lack of suitable projects that could potentially create employment opportunities. Mukti has coordinated with the government officials (e.g. Block Development Officer) in such a way that Mukti generates projects for NREGA, while the BDO's office is providing funds from NREGA for the projects. The digging of Mukti's pisciculture ponds and plantation of coconut samplings are examples of such initiatives. Thus, there is local employment generation, while Mukti is able to accomplish larger scale projects for the betterment of the community that would have been otherwise impossible. The volunteers visited various such Mukti sponsored project sites.

Pisciculture: In Mukti's pisciculture ponds, spawns procured from Naihati are being grown. Also due to it's growing effectiveness and profitability, Pisciculture will be one of the subjects taught at Mukti's vocational training institute.

Horticulture: Different species of flowering plants are being tested for compatibility with the local environment. This is being done on the land adjacent to

the newly completed Mukti library, as well as other lands owned by Mukti. This will also be one of the courses taught at the vocational training center.

Coconut Plantations: This is potentially Mukti's flagship project. The long-term goal of this project is to create coconut-based local industries, prevent soil erosion, contribute to further eco sustainability and greening of the area, and eventually help in promoting tourism. Currently, around 8500 coconut samplings have been obtained from the government to be planted in this region, and the ground is being prepared for planting.

Apart from the above mentioned projects, the Mukti volunteer team also visited other Mukti sponsored initiatives.

Public Library: The library building has been constructed with funds from Asha - NYC/NJ and is almost ready for use. The library stores the circulating books for the book bank project, reference books for studies, and other books of general interest. The library can accommodate nearly 40 people, and is constructed on a 750 square feet of land with an option of adding more floors in future.

Book bank: There has been a surprisingly high rate of book depreciation in the book bank project. Initially, it was expected that a given book could be circulated for three years. However, many books are being returned in unusable condition by the end of the second year. Moreover, the rate of collection has fallen short of expectations. There is ongoing discussion about the feasibility of continuing with the book bank project. The volunteer team found that discontinuation of the book bank project would have a huge negative effect on local students. Instead, it would be more meaningful to come up with a way of continuing with the project while addressing the current problems. One possible solution would be to charge a small amount of fee as deposit. Whole or part of the deposited amount could be returned upon return of the books. The returned amount could be adjusted depending on the condition of the books. This would lead to improved sense of ownership, and better handling of the books.

Continue to page 8.....



Mukti TSS Students

“
There is local employment generation, while Mukti is able to accomplish larger scale projects for the betterment of the community
 ”



Meeting with Mukti Volunteers



Mukti Public Library Foundation work

Mukti Site Visit Report December 2008

Solar lights: The entire region in which Mukti is running its projects is deprived of electricity. It becomes more difficult for students to continue studying in darkness. In cases where students study at night by the light of kerosene lamps, eye problems and headaches are very common. Because of this, solar lights are considered an urgent requirement. Solar lights at the library will provide a place for students to study at night. Ideally, there also needs to be additional points where solar lights should be made available, so that students from different areas can gather to study. The government has offered a 75% subsidy on solar lights for Mukti projects.

The Mukti volunteers also identified some challenges that are being faced by the coaching centers.

- ◆ Students often have to travel long distances to come to the coaching centers, and then from the coaching center to their schools. This makes them late for school. Some students asked if they could be given bicycles. While it is clearly not feasible at present for Mukti to provide bicycles to individual students, some ideas for common transportation arrangements (e.g. cycle vans) were discussed.



Mukti Supported TSS Students

- ◆ The coaching centers are being held on the premises of local schools. At one particular center, it is becoming very difficult to hold the coaching classes due to the lack of cooperation from the school. Because of the possibility of such situations, and also because of the demand for additional centers in places that are far away from existing centers, Mukti is considering building its own low-cost classrooms.
- ◆ Teacher training camps have been arranged by Mukti in the past. There was a suggestion from one of the teachers to hold more such camps, as

Continued from page 8 ...

they were felt to be very beneficial. Mukti intends to keep on holding more frequent teacher training courses.

Another initiative undertaken by Mukti is the Talented Student Sponsorships (TSS). Currently, 125 students are being supported under this program. However, due to discontinued support by some sponsors and requests from more students than planned, there is a funding deficiency in this program. One student reported not receiving funds on time. It was noted that the funding allocated to students under the TSS program is sufficient for studies conducted in publicly funded institutions. It was decided that students studying at private institutions would not be supported in future, since the amount covered by TSS will be a small part of the total expenses in that case.

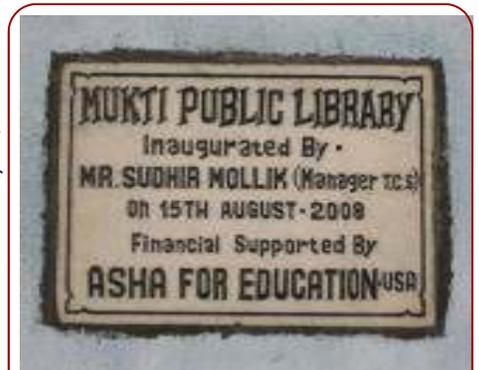
The overall assessment by the Mukti visitors was that the Mukti team working on the ground appeared very dedicated and motivated. They provided warm and sincere hospitality to the site visitors.



In front of Mukti's Office

The overall assessment by the Mukti visitors was that the Mukti team working on the ground appeared very dedicated and motivated. Currently, there are 11 paid staff working fulltime for Mukti, and they often work long hours with relatively low pay

Currently, there are 11 paid staff working fulltime for Mukti, and they often work long hours with relatively low pay. Since their salaries constitute less than 1% of Mukti's working budget, the committee's recommendation is to increase their remunerations, not only to sustain motivation and ability to concentrate on their work, but also as an acknowledgement of the excellent work that they are doing.



Mukti Public Library

MUKTI

Purba Shridharpur, Raidighi, 24 Parganas (South),
WB, India, 743383 | +91 3174 214454
info@muktiweb.org
www.muktiweb.org

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2009**MUKTI**

Registered Office :-Purbasridharpur Vill+P.O. :-Purbasridharpur,P.S. :-Raidighi
Dist :-South 24 Parganas. W.B. PIN CODE :- 743383

Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2009

Liabilities	Amount	Assests	Amount
CAPITAL ACCOUNT		FIXED ASSESTS	
corpus fund	629,406.00	library building construction	491327.72
LOANS (LIABILITY)		furniture & fixture	96,128.01
unsecured loan	24,600.00	land a/c	481564.64
CURRENT LIABILITIES		CURRENT ASSESTS	
sundry creditors	152,790.50	bank a/c F.C.R.A(8666)	127049.91
BRANCH /DIVISIONS		central bank of india	1,000.00
PROFIT LOSS A/C	430,637.95	state bank of india	18,043.00
		sundry debtors	1,340.00
		cash	19,704.52
		bank a/c (7859)	1,276.65
			168,414.08
	<u>1,237,434.45</u>		<u>1,237,434.45</u>

MUKTI
(A TRUST ORGANISATION)
Regd. No.: IV-104 Estd.: 2003
Secretary
(MADHUSUDAN BARRAGI)



Kiran Kanti Kar
13/06/2009



Income and Expenditure Statement from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009



MUKTI(2008-2009)

Registered Office :-Purbasridharpur Vill+P.O. :-Purbasridharpur,P.S. :-Raidighi
Dist :-South 24 Parganas. W.B. PIN CODE :- 743383

Income & expenditure statement

1-Apr-2008 to 31-Mar-2009

Particulars	Amount	Particulars	Amount
COACHING CENTER FOR UNDER PRIVILEGE (CCUP) EXPENCES		COACHING CENTER FOR UNDER PRIVILEGE (CCUP) - INCOME	
ccup conveyence	3,736.00	ccup fund received	378,130.00
ccup honorium	32,460.00		
ccup material purchase	3,222.00		
ccup meeting exp	1,106.00		
ccup other exp	5,770.25	DIRECT INCOME	
ccup printing & stationary	7,202.50	bank interest	6,158.00
ccup teachers salary	291,700.00	building donation received	197,850.00
ccup tele&communications	222.00	donation	116,360.00
special guide prog of MP	16,624.00		
	<u>362,032.75</u>		<u>320,368.00</u>
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENCES		GENERAL&ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME	
gr conveyence	15,385.00	gr donation received	266,201.00
gr honorium	29,640.00	gr others income	4,800.00
gr meeting exp	5,200.00		
gr other exp	25,721.50	BOOK BANK INCOME	
gr printing & stationary	3,429.00	B.B.Application Fees Received	3,330.00
gr tea,snacks & meal	4,484.75	B.B.Donation Received	308,918.00
gr tele&communications	21,982.00		
	<u>104,842.25</u>		<u>312,248.00</u>
SANITATION PROJECT EXPENDITURE		SANITATION PROJECT INCOME	
TALENTED STUDENT SPONSOR (TSS) EXPENCES		TALENTED STUDENT SPONSOR (TSS) INCOME	
tss admission fees	2,550.00	bankura tss receipts	20,000.00
tss book purchase	5,692.00	tss donation received	196,025.00
tss conveyence	2,015.00		
tss co-ordinators salary	11,667.00		
tss mess fees	41,583.00		
tss misc exp	8,189.00		
tss printing & stationary	3,015.00		
tss site & students visit	1,175.25		
tss study material purchase	465		
tss tuition fees	109,500.00		
	<u>185,851.25</u>		<u>216,025.00</u>
GROSS PROFIT C/O	846,045.75		
	<u>1,498,772.00</u>		<u>1,498,772.00</u>
INDIRECT EXPENCES		GROSS PROFIT B/F	846,045.75
bank charges	599.00	INDIRECT INCOME	
office equipment	1,755.00	AGRICULTURE PROJECT INCOME	
	<u>2,354.00</u>	pisiculture income	4,408.00
AGRICULTURE PROJECT EXPENCES		BANKURA CHAPTER INCOME	
plantation exp	18,238.00		
agriculture exp	694.00		
pisiculture exp	21,126.00		
	<u>40,058.00</u>		
BANKURA CHAPTER (EXPENCES)	45,800.00		
bankura chapter payment			

Treasurer
K. M. K. S. Ray
13/06/2009



MUKTI
(A TRUST ORGANISATION)
Regd. No. IV-104
Estd. 2003
Secretary
(MAJHUSUDAN BARRAGI)

Continued to next page ...

Income and Expenditure Statement from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009

BOOK BANK PROJECT EXPENCES			BARUIPUR BRANCH INCOME	
bb honorium	24,167.00		baruipur branch receipts	4,000.00
bb book repair	3,767.00			
bb conveyence	4,688.50		KAKDWIP BRANCH INCOME	
bb printing & stationery	2,111.00		kakdwip branch received	4,000.00
bb purchase	248,944.15			
bb tea snacks & meal	967.65		VCLP PROJECT INCOME	
programme exp(15th Aug)	27,064.00	311,709.30	vclp income	2,520.00
COCONUT PLANTATION EXPENCES				
coconut plantation exp		11,805.00		
KAKDWIP BRANCH EXPENCES				
kakdwip branch payment		6,517.50		
SOCIAL WELFARE				
medical	5,000.00			
social welfare(other)	3,620.00	8,620.00		
VCLP PROJECT EXPENCES				
vclp exp		4,472.00		
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		490,637.95		
		<u>860,973.75</u>		<u>860,973.75</u>



Treasurer
 Kishan Mukti Ran
 13/06/2009

MUKTI
 (A TRUST ORGANISATION)
 Regu. No.: IV-104 Estd. 2003
 Secretary
 (MALHUSUDAN SAIRAGI)

Mukti's Educational Camp for the Madhyamik Candidates

Special Announcement

The student scoring the highest in Mathematics will be felicitated next year by Diptiman Dutta at the educational camp.

Prabir Chakraborty stated that Mukti will offer updated monthly training through Mukti coaching center in Math and English to the teachers of the educational camp.

For the last two years Mukti is hosting a "Two Day Educational Camp" for the Madhyamik candidates. The educational camp for the Madhyamik candidates of 2009 was started on 23rd January with an opening ceremony at 10:00am. Mr. Subirmal Guriya, the chief guest of the camp lit the candle of hope, best wishes and harmony. He explained the significance of 23rd January to the students attending the camp. Subirmal offered garland to the statue of Netaji Shubhas Chandra Bose to commemorate the great soul on his birthday. Mr. Nityananda Pal, the principal of Dumdum Hindu Academy School, presented a patriotic song for the nation to glorify the special mission of Mukti. It was our honor to have Mr. Diptiman Dutta, the veteran teacher of Hindu Academy School among us. Diptiman delivered a brief speech. He is a role model for the entire nation for being an excellent mentor. The closing of the event was done by the chief guest, Mr Subirmal Guriya.



Students in this Camp

Total 144 students from local community attended this two days camp. During the break after each class, Mri-tyunjoy Pal sang Patriotic and 'Jibanmukhi' (songs talk about common people and their facts) songs to motivate and energize the attending students. Arijit Ray highlighted the aspects of mental balance and psychology to the students. He emphasized on the art of concentration and about developing and maintaining a clear focus that are needed to achieve their goals and excel in life.

Mr. Arijit Ray highlighted the aspects of mental balance and psychology to the students. He emphasized on the art of concentration and about developing and maintaining a clear focus that are needed to achieve their goals and excel in life.

All the teachers shared their thoughts about success and hurdles in their brief speech. Mr. Nityananda Pal and Mr Mri-tyunjoy Pal presented a song together in the presence of teachers of Mukti's coaching center, Mukti's volunteers, residents of the village and well-wishers. The closure of the event was done by exchanging the good thoughts about their fellow participants.

The Annual Kankandighi Regional Sports Events



Prize Distribution Ceremony

On December 16, 2008 Kankandighi Regional Sports was organized at Jogendrapur High School by the teachers of Kankandighi and the volunteers of Mukti. The event was witnessed by the eminent guests. The guests were Monoranjan Mondal, Manjuri haldar, Amar Pal, Balai Nashkar, Sisir Ray, Purno Das, Binod Bhandari, Chintamoni Haldar, Tapan Pradhan, Nidhuram Kashari, Sneholata Chakladar, Prashanta Majhi, Bishnoranjan Podiya, Parimal Munda, Shundor Haldar, Monoranjan Dey, Tusharkanti Bhuyan, Prithiraj Mondal, Meghnath Khamaru. We were privileged to have Amar Shardar, Nagendrapur Mukti Coordinator Raghunath Bairagi, Kankandighi Coordinator Judhishtir Haldar, Balam Haldar, Raju Haldar, Amalendu Haldar.

Apart from loads of fun, the purpose of this event was to encourage and motivate the schools for the physical development of the students. The chief guest of this event was Mr. Nepal Chandra Gayen, the assistant Principal of Jota Jogendrapur High School. He started the event with a brief speech about the importance of sports and physical education. The schools that participated in the event were Jogendrapur School, Kankandighi Primary School, Kankandighi Adibashi Primary School, Rabi Haldar Memorial Primary School and many

others. There were more than 100 participants in the sports.

The sports included 75 meter, 100 meter and 200 meter race. Apart from that there were long jump, high jump and short put competitions. Potato race was very popular amongst the children. In potato race a spoon is placed in the mouth and a potato is balanced on it. The participants need to race to the finish line without dropping the potato. Students were very happy at the event, which was prominent in their smiles and high spirit. The guardians were also very happy to see their children doing different activities. In future Mukti decided to do lot of campaigns to promote the importance of sports among students and especially girls. This will also help to engage and encourage more students.

Food was also provided to the children. The chief guest closed the event by distributing prizes to the winners and all participants. Kankandighi Regional Sports event was a grand success.



An Event of this Sports Event

Broad of Trustees - Mukti Kakdwip Chapter

Secretary



Rajat Subhra Debta
Technical Supervisor
rajat.debta@gmail.com

President



Shubhadeep Debta
IT Professional
shubhadeep.debta@gmail.com

Treasurer



Atanu Saha
Personal Financial Advisor &
Social Activist
atanulic.lion@gmail.com



Broad Member



Rajat Panda
Business man
rajat.panda32@gmail.com

Broad Member



Shyamal Das
Teacher
shyamal.d09@gmail.com

Broad Member



Nirmal Das
Businessman & Social Activist
nir.das09@gmail.com

Broad Member



Satyajit Roy
IT Professional
satyajit.roy@muktiweb.org

Mukti Chapters

MUKTI USA
mukti.usa@muktiweb.org
www.usa.muktiweb.org

MUKTI UK
mukti.uk@muktiweb.org

MUKTI INDIA
info@muktiweb.org
www.muktiweb.org

Mukti India Chapters

- ◆ Mukti JU
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MUKTI GERMANY
mukti.germany@muktiweb.org
www.germany.muktiweb.org

MUKTI UAE
mukti.uae@muktiweb.org

MUKTI AUSTRALIA
mukti.australia@muktiweb.org

Visit Us www.muktiweb.org
Email: info@muktiweb.org



MUKTI

Let's Us Serve The Needy

PURBA SRIDHARPUR | RAIDIGHI | 24 PARGANAS (SOUTH) | WEST BENGAL | INDIA | 743383
+91 3174 214454 | INFO@MUKTIWEB.ORG | WWW.MUKTIWEB.ORG

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