

# Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)

## Annual Report for the Year April'08-March'09

Presented below are the details of the activities undertaken by the Trust during the above-mentioned period. The main activities during the past one year have been focused in Illambazar, Birbhum. The areas of work have been mainly health, education and livelihood for the poor and the needy. The project wise details are as follows:

### PROJECT ILLAMBAZAR

#### ❖ Setting up of local Project Office

Since its inception 2002, the Trust has been working in Illambazar from its make shift base in Santiniketan. While the base varied from Jayanta Bhattacharya and Mousumi Roys's house in general to rented hotels during specific occasions, it was continuously felt that the absence of a permanent base in and around the project site was preventing the activities of the Trust to gain the necessary momentum and intensity.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008, "Bonolahari" – a farm house covering 2 bighas of land and a one bed room constructed unit was taken on rent for a monthly rent of Rs.2000/- for a period of three years. Three thatched sheds and a brick room (14'x16') was constructed and the activities from this field office started in August 2008. Since then it has served both as office and lodging for outstation volunteers. A sum of **Rs.78,371/-** was spent for undertaking the said renovation.



#### ❖ Education

The Trust has always believed that it is essential to educate the masses in order to make any development work effective. As a result the Trust had started two pre-primary centres – one each in Phoolbagan and Bansuli – in the past. Though lately both the centres have been temporarily closed, the importance of educating the masses was never lost. As a result the year 2008-09 saw special attention being given to this basic necessity of life. Over years of experience the Trust has come to the conclusion that in this regard the theory of "catch them young" applies the best. Though the children are found to attend the local govt. schools, be it the Angan Wadis, Primary Schools, Secondary School, the SSKs or the MSKs, the condition of the students is dismal.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 the Trust started a coaching centre from its premises in Illambazar for providing supportive education to Khayerdanga village. Within a 30. It crossed the 60 figure in end. What had started as an movement, a movement by and of villages. Children from pre-primary



of Khayerdanga, Jambuni, Aamkhai and Purandhil have been availing this facility. Though the pressure on the Trust is constantly mounting from the remaining ten villages to provide similar facility, lack of financial and manpower resources has compelled the Trust to limit the help for the time being. Though the Trust had started providing coaching in only two subjects namely Mathematics and English on weekends, by the end of March the children were being coached on all subjects round the week. This Herculean task was made possible by a team of expert volunteers who paid the least heed to the restrictions posed by their age and their personal discomforts, which were part of the process due to lack of proper facilities owing to the financial limitations of the Trust. These volunteers worked relentlessly week after week, hours at a stretch not only to teach the children but also to work on the local volunteers so that they could shoulder this responsibility in the future.

the school going children of couple of weeks this number rose to December and touched 82 by March experiment transformed into a the people of the nearby tribal to class X from four nearby villages

# Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)

- **Action Research Program:** This endeavor undertaken by the Trust with a view of upgrading the education standard of the tribal students and bringing it at par with the non-tribal students, and in the process reducing the school drop-out rate, was well appreciated by Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) – a NGO working across the length and breadth of West Bengal – so much so that they decided to financially sponsor it as an Action Research Program. For the purpose LKP has sanctioned a sum of **Rs. 97670/-** for one year starting from August 2008.



- **Tiffin & Meal:** All the students attending the coaching are provided with tiffin on all days of coaching. Additionally they are occasionally provided with afternoon lunch. While the daily tiffin is sponsored by Sri Anil Kumar Roy, the meals are sponsored by Smt. Sheela Roy. Sri Arun Gupta sponsored the meal on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009.



- **Clothes & Woolens:** Sri Sheela Roy sponsored 50 pieces of new sweaters/jackets and the same was distributed amongst the students. Additionally the students were also provided with regular clothing which was received through collection.
- **Notebooks & Stationary:** Notebooks and stationeries were given to needy students free of cost, while those who could afford were provided notebooks at subsidized rates.



- **Sports & Culture:** The students were found to perform far better in the Math Race during the of these children also performed during the Annual Sports.



attending the coaching than the other students Annual Sports. Some in the cultural program

- **Special Day Celebrations:** The children celebrated some special days namely Netaji Jayanti on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and Saraswati Puja on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009. Apart from hoisting the National Flag the children participated in a sit and draw program and some cultural performances on the Republic Day.



- **Annual Sports & Cultural Meet:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sport and Cultural Meet for the tribal villages were organized in two phases this year round. While the first phase comprising of the heats was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 in Sayerpara, Murgabuni, Bansuli and Aamkhai respectively, the second phase comprising of the finals was conducted in Murgabuni on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2009. These 14 villages have a total population of around 2500 of

# Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)



which nearly 1400 participated in the six day long meet. Ten teams participated in the Inter-village football competition which was won by Murgabuni while Aamkhai was the runners up. Sanatan of Murgabuni was adjudged the player of the tournament. Bansuli won the Tug of War for Men event beating Murgabuni in the finals while Murgabuni won the Tug of War for Women beating Rangabandh in the finals. 15 a side tribal dance competition was conducted on the

14<sup>th</sup> evening under the light of torches (mashal). This like other years was the star attraction of the whole meet. Khayerdanga, Murgabuni and Rayerpukur respectively won the first, second and third position in the dance competition. Murgabuni won the best village trophy for the third year running with 440 points. Some new items were introduced this year for the first time namely the Math Race for all groups War for Women. Sri Anil trophy named "Indu Bala in memory of his mother Late judges comprising of Sri Bikas REC, Viswa Bharati adjusted trophy.



between 6 to 14 years and Tug of Kumar Roy sponsored a running Trophy" for the Best Kept Village Smt. Indubala Roy. A panel of two Majhi and Sri Bhaswar Nandi of Jambuni as the winners of this

Over 50 members and guests of the Trust attended the function from Kolkata. All the participants and volunteers were given Tiffin while all the invited guests and volunteers were served lunch on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. ITC sponsored biscuits while Perfetti sponsored lozenges for the children. Sri Abhijit Sengupta sponsored Health Drink which served to all the children present on all six days. Tapan Kumar Goptu sponsored the Winners Cup for the football tournament while Sanatanu Roy and Family sponsored the Runners Up Cup. Ranajit Mallick sponsored the Best Village Cup. Two new running Trophies, namely Bireswar Smriti Trophy for winners of Dance competition and Nirmala Devi Smriti Trophy for the runners up of the Dance Competition were sponsored by Sri R.N.Majumdar and Smt. Dipti Majumdar. Canara Bank, Berger Paints, G P Enterprise, MGM Rubber Co and Mallick Janakalyan Trust sponsored part of the events. Sri Subrata and Sri Tulu our friends from Kalyani sponsored the prizes for the children section. Jadu Babu Bazar Bebsai Samiti sponsored part of the groceries. Cash donation was collected from a number of well-wishers.



## ❖ **Livelihood & Social Mobilization:**

The Trust has been working towards the integrated development of the tribal villages of Chaupahari jungle in Illambazar since its inception in 2002. For any development work to be successful and effective it is imperative that the target beneficiaries be involved in all such activities. For this to happen they need to be made aware of their socio-economic rights and duties. For years there the tribal villagers have not been able to make use of all the help extended to and allocated for them by the various government and non-government agencies due to illiteracy and lack of proper capacity of such people to avail such benefits. This has done more harm than good. The Trust feels that social empowerment is possible if and only if the process is accompanied by capacity building and awareness generation amongst the target group. Hence a lot of effort is being put by the Trust through meetings, trainings and exposure visits to create social awareness and skill enhancement of the villagers.



- **Bamboo & Palm Coir Handicraft Training:** A 16 days handicraft training on Bamboo products was started on 16<sup>th</sup> August

11/D Mohini Mohan Road, Kolkata W.B. India 700020

Phone +91-33-24751933, Email: [nayantaratrust@yahoo.com](mailto:nayantaratrust@yahoo.com), [www.nayantaratrust.org](http://www.nayantaratrust.org)

# Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)

2008. It was attended by 13 tribal villagers belonging to various SHGs. The 16 days training was staggered over 8 weeks, with 2 classes being conducted every week over the weekends. Though 13 trainees enrolled for the training, only 6 completed the full course, of these 3 were male and 3 female. During the course of the training program it was found that female trainees found the going tough so there were provided training on handicrafts made of Palm Coir. The raw materials involved namely bamboo and palm, being locally available in the forest, it was felt that the villagers could use these skills for ensuring supportive source of livelihood. This training was sponsored by Sri Kohinoor Basu.

- **RCFC Bamboo Training:** The successful completion of the Bamboo Training created a demand of similar training in RCFC, an NGO working in Bolpur. The Trust provided the training at RCFC who provided the necessary infrastructure and remuneration of the Trainer.

- **Plantation & Kitchen Garden:** "Aranya Saptah" was celebrated by the Trust in the Primary Schools in the villages of Rangabandh and Khayerdanga. Over 400 plants were distributed amongst the students in Rangabandh while another 200 were distributed in Khayerdanga. The



students were told of the merits of plantation and preservation of trees as also the demerits of deforestation. The villagers performed a cultural program on the occasion. Loka Kalyan Parishad of Bolpur sponsored 300 plants for the program while Sri R K. Gupta



sponsored expenses of Rs. 2050/- . Officials from the local forest range office were present on the occasion. In addition to plantation the Trust also encouraged the villagers to develop family kitchen gardens. For this the village of Purandhil was specially selected. 40 kitchen gardens and 2 horticulture gardens were developed. While the seeds, net and guidance were provided by the Trust, the villagers provided the labor.

- **NABARD Sponsored Karigargh Haat Mela:** NABARD had sponsored a stall in the 10 days



National Karigargh Haat Mela held in Salt Lake in November 2008. 2 tribal villagers who had undertaken the Bamboo Training participated in the Mela with Bamboo and Palm Coir products. This served as good experience for the villagers and for the first time they felt the importance of the



training taken by them and income opportunity it provided to them. Products from other NGOs and artisans were also displayed. While goods worth Rs.17779/- were sold, expenses worth Rs.22,136.50/- was incurred.

- **DIC Sponsored EDP Training:** The Trust conducted a 11 days DIC sponsored EDP program for the Prime Ministers Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) beneficiaries on behalf of Haldane Society for Eco-Research and Enterprise Development (HSEED). The training was attended by 27 participants from Illambazar and Bolpur blocks of Birbhum district. Resource persons from DIC Birbhum, HSEED, REC Viswa Bharati and Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust imparted the training.



# Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)

➤ **Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) Sponsored AOP program:** The Trust undertook LKP sponsored Awareness and Orientation Program (AOP) under the West Bengal Civil Society Strengthening Program partner in this DYFD funded partner of LKP in executing the program is to strengthen the awareness of their social, duties and by providing need agricultural and animal involves working in close on one hand and the Local Governance on the other with the intention of building an atmosphere of faith and mutual co-operation. Activities undertaken in this program included Training of GP/GUS/SHG (2), SHG Panchayat Linkage Meeting (2), Subsidiary Health Centre Based Orientation (1), Orientation of Education (6), Livelihood – Home Gardens (75), Advocacy Meetings (18), Meetings for CB of Citizens (3) and ICDS Based Orientation (4). Total financial support received from LKP for the program was **Rs.45, 500/-**.



## ❖ Health

Need based medical help and support was provided to the tribal villagers.

## ❖ Other Activities

**Drinking Water Project in Illambazar:** Monitoring and maintenance of the existing 10 tube wells and one mini-submersible pump was done by the Trust in co-operation with villagers and local panchayat.

The total expense incurred under Project Illambazar was **Rs.4,41,138.01/-**.

## OTHER PROJECTS

➤ **Medical Help Sarada Ashram:** The Trust participated in 2 medical camps conducted by Sarada Ashram , Kalyani branch. Besides providing voluntary service the Trust also donated medicines.

➤ **Other Helps Rendered by the Trust**

Besides the above mentioned projects undertaken by the trust, the trust also rendered financial help to Dhrubajyoti Das and Haru for their professional and graduation courses respectively. Help of **Rs.13,244/- (Rs. Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Four Only)** was rendered by the Trust in order to provide educational facilities to the needy students.

Kabiraj & Co. of Chartered Accountants was reappointed the official auditors of the trust.

A brief summary of accounts for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 is placed below

Collection	Amount in Rs.	Expenditure	Amount in Rs
Donation Received	5,09,155.00	Office Admin	10,938.75
		Project Illambazar	4,41,138.01
		Other Projects	13,244.00
		Other Expenses	8,781.40
		Excess of Collection over Exp	35,052.84
	<b>5,09,155.00</b>		<b>5,09,155.00</b>

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(Reg. No.: 4056 of 2002)

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## **Thanks and Gratitude:**

The Trust would like to express its gratitude towards all its donors and well-wishers. Special thanks are extended to M/s Curewel Internation for sponsoring medicines, East India Pharmaceuticals for sponsoring Solar Lighting & Cooking unit, ITC for sponsoring biscuits, Perfetti for sponsoring toffees, members of Innerwheel Club of Calcutta Megacity for donating utility items, Sri Md. Nasir of Cannon India for donating a inkjet printer and a digital camera, Smt. Sheela Roy for donating woolen clothes, Sri Kohinoor Basu for sponsoring the Bamboo Training, Sri Tapan Kumar Gooptu for sponsoring the Winners Cup for the football tournament, Sri Sanatanu Roy and Family for sponsoring the Runners Up Cup, Sri Ranajit Mallick for sponsoring the Best Village Cup. Mr. Sri Anil Kumar Roy for sponsoring the “Best Kept Village Trophy” and Sri Rabindra Nath Majumdar & Smt. Dipti Majumdar for sponsoring winners and runners up trophies for Inter village Dance competition. We also express our gratitude to Loka Kalyan Parishad, Berger Paints, Canara Bank, Mallick Janakalyan Trust, Studio B Architects, Svelte, M G Rubber Co, and all the individuals without whose financial, moral and physical help it would not have been possible for us to undertake this noble challenge.

In the midst of all these activities the Trust was devastated by the demise of Sri C.R.Bhattacharya, one of its Advisory Board members on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. Condolences were offered and 2 minute silence was observed in prayers for the departed soul. Mr. Bhattacharya’s energy, enthusiasm and expert guidance would be missed immensely by the Trust.

While presenting this report in the annual general meeting of the trust I would like to appeal to all the members and well-wishers of the trust to continue giving their constructive ideas that would help the trust to perform in a better way and achieve the objectives with which the trust has been formed. Last but not the least I take this opportunity to thank the other Trustees and Advisory Committee members for all the help and co-operation rendered by them.

Sudip Majumdar  
Managing Trustee  
Date: 16-07-2009