



## Kolkata Gives-Quarterly Progress Report

**Organization Name:** NAYANTARA MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

**Grant received enhances an existing project or ongoing activity:** Yes/No

**Project Area:** Tribal villages of Chaupahari jungle in Illambazar Block of Birbhum District in West Bengal

### **Project Summary:**

The objective of the Supportive Education Program is the upliftment - cultural, social and economical - of the first generation Santal population of Project area through education.

The Program was started by NMCT in August 2008 with three students. Over the years the outreach of the program has covered over 12 tribal villages and currently enrolls over 350 students. Since 2008, the school drop out rate has come down from 100% to below 20%, with 79 students so far having appeared for the Madhyamik exam, of whom 73 have passed. 2 students have scored first division marks. These figures exhibit the need and success of the program.

### **Major Activities:**

- **Completed:** The program is a continuous and ongoing one and hence none of the activities can be said to be completed.
- **Underway**
  - Free Tutorials / coaching through village centres
  - Tiffin and Meals provided to children
  - Cultural activities through celebration of special days and events
  - Library
  - Teachers Training & Meeting
  - Computer Training

- Village Meeting with Parents
- **Planned**
  - Exposure Visit for Students
  - Teacher's Exposure Visit
  - Sports

**\*Beneficiaries:**

Beneficiaries	Children		Villages	Families
	Male	Female		
Direct	167	203	8	212
Indirect	-	-	5	-

*\*Please change as per nature of the project*

**Problems with Implementation:**

- Adverse climatic conditions results in irregularity in attendance of students
- The unfriendly distance from their home to the study centres through the jungle results in absenteeism.
- Frequent power failure disrupts the regularity of Computer Training classes.

**Case Studies:**

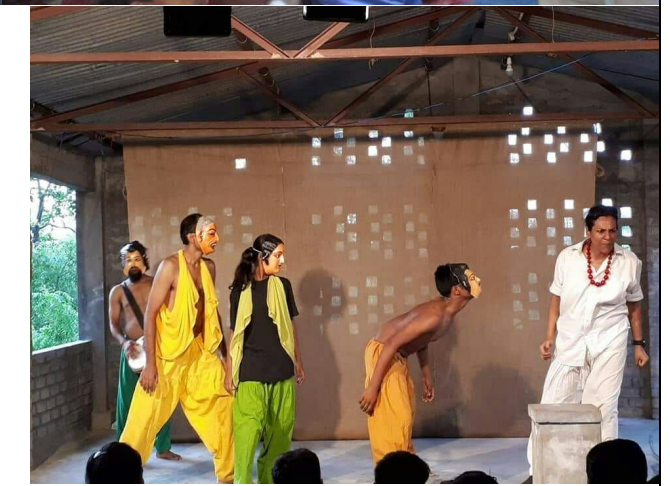
**Shibani Tudu:** A quite introvert tribal girl Shibani Tudu, studying in class VII, was not found to be regular neither in school nor in the supportive education centre run by Nayantara. But whenever she attended class she was found to be attentive and sharp. Shibani lives in village Rangabandh where the Trust runs one of its village study centres. She was regular in class in the previous years. But lately she was found to be irregular. She now studies in class VII and the Trust runs its Supportive Education centres classes for Class VI onwards in its office premises in village Daronda. It is here where she is often absent. The periodic check on students attendance and performance helped in identifying the irregularity of Shibani. As a regular follow up routine, the teachers visited Shibani's house to enquire about the reason for her absence. On questioning it revealed that the Trust centre at Daronda which is almost 8 kms from Shibani's house, was difficult for her to commute every day as she did not have a bicycle. Further, she was required to come to the centre in the morning at 6:45 am, attend classes till 9:00 am, go back home, take bath, eat rice and go to school, which too was in Daronda village. Shibani was not alone. There were many Shibani's who had the same story to tell. The Trust used to provide some light tiffin in the form of biscuits or puffed rice or

cake, which was not sufficient enough to carry the students till the lunch time in school 1:30 pm when the mid day meal was served. Moreover students of class IX & X are not eligible for mid day meal. Hence there were many more Shibanis from far off villages like Rangabandh, who either attended school or the study centre at Nayantara.

Nayantara decided to take some extra financial burden and started providing rice, dal and vegetable instead of puff rice/cakes for tiffin. They extended the class hours till 10:00 am and provided the children with full meal instead of light tiffin to ensure regular attendance. The children now directly go to school from the centre rather than going back home. Shibani's father arranged for a bicycle for her. Now she is attending her classes regularly.

**Photographs:**





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Photographs:

- Daily classes in village Supportive Education Centres
- Daily lunch served to senior students before going to school
- Rabindra Jayanti being celebrated at one of the village level centres
- Teachers Meeting
- Distribution of rain coats to students
- Computer Training
- Awareness Generating Drama staged on need to conserve environment
- Village Meeting