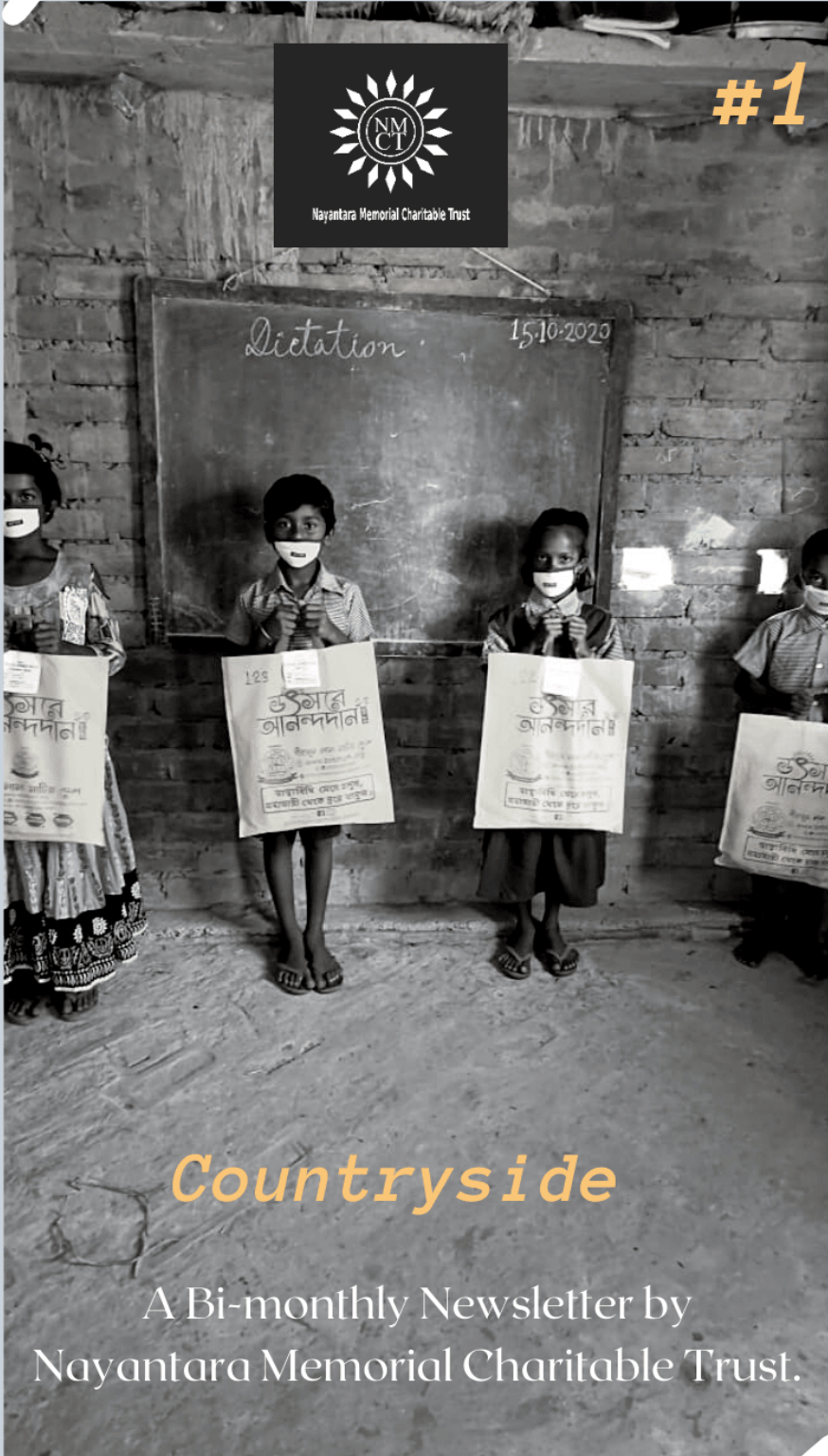




Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

#1



CountrySide

A Bi-monthly Newsletter by
Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust.



Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust

Overview: Recap of 9 months.

"If you want to find God, serve man."

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

At the beginning of 2020, we all witnessed the world shut down like never before. By March, covid was a full-blown reality and we entered a new normal of lockdowns and isolations. And even though all of us struggled in our own different ways to cope with this new crisis, it was the backward and underprivileged sections of our society that faced the brunt of the pandemic. The majority of them being daily wage earners, lockdowns affected them in harsh ways and we, as a public trust, felt the need to step up, now more than ever. Here at Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust, we work to help, uplift, and empower the Santali Villages of Chaupahari jungle in Birbhum, West Bengal, where the tribal inhabitants are the most deprived population in the society. Naturally, in this crucial time, we tried to gather all our resources and continue our work as much as possible, despite the challenging global situation.

"The more you come out and do good to others, the more our hearts will be purified and God will be in them."

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



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In April 2020, the work for Ration distribution began on Monday, the 6th, in various villages. We were able to distribute food grains to over 1000 households in 4 months. We extend our thanks to the innumerable individuals, without whose support, this task would not have been possible. With our educational classes closed down, due to the pandemic, we started a tailoring class in July 2020 with 5 girls from the safety of their homes. Stitching and other such skill sets are held in high regards by our trust and we try to provide our boys and girls with the tools and training for learning, in all such activities. We also worked on a model village: Nimbuni, in the lockdown; this project was sponsored by Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Mega City. 7 families were extended help as they were struggling. NMCT constructed 5 toilets, a Village study centre and one kitchen garden for each family leading to 7 in total, concluding a successful endeavour.





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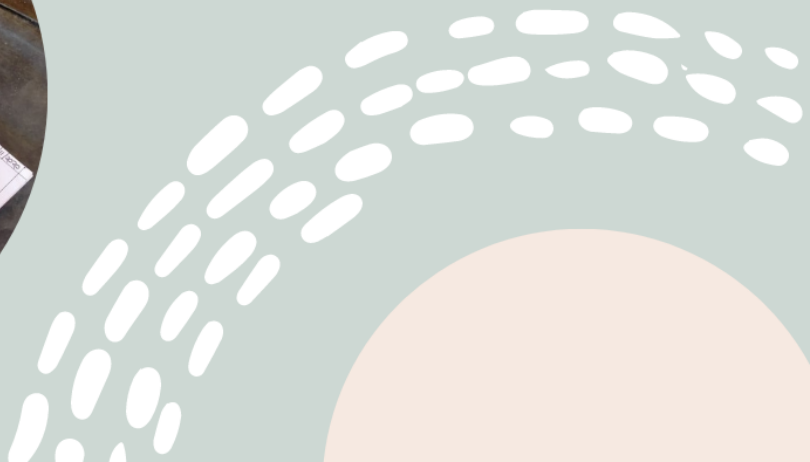
The limitations imposed during the lockdown restricted the flow of our usual activities until September 2020, when we commenced our vocational classes for the 10th grade. It is a matter of great pride and joy for us to announce that all of our students passed class 10 exams ensuring 100% success. On the 15th of October 2020, NMCT participated in an event called the “Utsav e Anandaben” held by “Birbhum Lal matir desh” where new clothes were given to over 153 of our children for the big festival of Durga Puja. Durga Puja is a massive festival in Bengal celebrated by all with joy. It was a beautiful collaborated endeavour by the two organizations to bring about a smile on a child's face and we were happy to be a part of it. A few days later, Nayantara donated “pujo'r jama” (new clothes) to over 400 children on 19th and 20th October. We express our heartfelt thanks, to all our donors and well-wishers who opened their purses to make this possible.



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Fast forward to children's day on the 14th of November, we attempted to feed over 500 children in the challenging conditions of lockdown restrictions. Due to obvious reasons, we could not gather all 500 kids in one place and so our volunteers traveled to 4 different villages with large amounts of food, following proper safety cautions. 500 children were fed on this day. This was made possible due to the financial support of 2 CETians Balakrishnan Raju and Monali Bala. We are immensely grateful for your contributions and support.





Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust



Exactly a month later, our Trust hosted the drama group “Sukhachar Pancham” on 14th December. “The Khoerdanga theatre workshop” was a fun-filled event where “Sukhachar Pancham” conducted an interactive theatre workshop with the kids of our trust. Children at the trust are immersed in extra-curricular activities and events to stay connected with their creative side. As the cold December air grew stronger, we were honored to host an event with “Parivaar”, an organization with West Bengal’s largest free residential educational institute for deprived children. Parivaar ashram donated blankets to 506 beneficiaries on 23rd and 24th December. An organization from Asansol, “MARK”, graciously donated 2 computers to our Trust. Being a small NGO, NMCT appreciates donations in all forms and sizes. Massive thanks to Suman Sarkar and his friends as well, for extending their help to feed and donate sweaters to 112 of our students.

We are grateful to our donors who have helped us throughout the year, without whom, none of the work that we have done would’ve been possible. NMCT wrapped up this challenging and confusing year by distributing sweaters and winter wear to 115 children, pledging to always lend a helping hand to the deprived, underprivileged and needy.

Story of Nayantara.

This was back in 2001 when four thousand rupees was still a huge amount of money. None of the cousins had expected such a large sum. In their glee and delight, the cousins settled themselves in a room and started their planning. What could they possibly eat with this much money? Which cinema would they all choose? The planning went all over the place. Finally, Munnu (Mousumi) one of the sisters, thought out loud. “Every time we receive money like this, we blow through it so quickly with food and fun.” –she said. “How about this time, we put this large sum to good use, for a change?” This suggestion was met with approving nods. The upbeat cheerful energy of the room suddenly turned subdued, as the same train of thought ran through the collective minds of the cousins. Their expressions grew somber, especially, the four sisters – Munnu (Mousumi), Tubli (Sujata), Lona (Mahua), and Babli (Sumita) looked serious as Munnu continued to speak. “Let’s help pregnant women like Nayantara (Mini) who are in need of good healthcare but are unable to afford it.”

TO BE
CONTINUED...



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"Arise, awake, and do not stop until the goal is reached."

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Humans of Nayantara.

Meet the humans of Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust. The work we do is not just directed towards an entire section of society, but for the individuals. It is the personal stories that connect us all together and remind us that at the end, all that matters is that we hold each other up; as humans. We aim to uphold and empower a child from scarce backgrounds, with the tools necessary to achieve the potential for a good life. Our joy comes from their success and their personal victories. Our reward is their smile.

Jaba Hembrom



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This month, we are introducing Jaba Hembrom. She is a bright-minded girl who comes from a very backward family from Khayerdanga village in Illambazar block located in Birbhum district, in West Bengal. She has 3 sisters and parents who work as daily laborers for their earning. Asman Hembrom, her father, could not offer her much financial help, considering he has a family of 6 to take care of, on the meager wage of a daily laborer. Jaba belonged to the first batch of Nayantara students who joined the free Residential Schooling facility of Parivaar Educational Society. Her background imposed several challenges and financial and social limitations on her. But despite all challenges, Jaba continued to focus on her education with the help of Parivaar and NMCT, and sincerely passed her crucial exams with flying colors. She completed her Class XII (H.S) exams with 87%+ marks in Home Science. Now, we stand with pride to hear the news of her acceptance at the "General Nursing and Midwifery" (GNM) course under the West Bengal Government. This is a highly reputable course that she has earned purely with dedication and merit, and we are sure that it will open up a plethora of opportunities for a better future. This month, we celebrate her. We celebrate perseverance.



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Upcoming Events:

1. Prabhat Pheri on Netaji Jayanti
2. Republic Day
3. Training by Sukhchar Panchan on 29th Jan
4. Swamiji r Tithu Pujo on 4th Feb
5. Saraswati Pujo on 16th Feb





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"The moment I have realized God sitting in the temple of every human body, the moment I stand in reverence before every human being and see God in him - that moment I am free from bondage, everything that binds vanishes and I am free."

—SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



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