

# Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society

(Regd. Under W. B. Societies Act XXVI of 1961)

101, Kali Kundu Lane, Howrah-711 101 • : 9231527723 / 9831616956

Ref. No. ....

Dated ..... 20

## An APPEAL to the PEOPLE

'Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' is a registered civil society organization working with the poor children in Howrah Municipal Corporation area to become peer leaders, educators bringing about 'lifestyle' changes within their communities. Focusing primarily on education, Sports and 'Career & Academic Counseling' to these children is changing the physical and social environment within which they live. Our vision is to work as the catalyst between the state and the children ensuring the four basic rights i.e. right to survival, right to development, right to protection and right to participation. This we seek to do through 'education to all' and through the process of each one and teach one. Services that we provide include education, nutrition, Sports, 'Career & Academic Counseling' and the like. The unique attribute of 'Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' is that in all our projects we attempt to improvise new ways always exploring various innovative approaches.

Now, we appeal to all the people to provide us funds to continue our further philanthropic activities for the deprived, poor children and youths and to build a good society where we all can live with dignity.

**:-Thank you:-**

For Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society

President

Secretary

Treasurer

### Please Contact:

Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society.  
101, Kali Kundu Lane. Howrah-711101. West Bengal.

Subrata Banerjee -9231527723  
Dilip Hazra----- 9831616956

**Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society** is a philanthropic organization who is working silently since 2003 for the **children of poorest of the parents, underprivileged children** to protect their educational rights through offering them referral as well as several text books *as and when required*. On 2007 it has been registered through W.B Society Regd. Act and received their first Govt donations through Innovative/ Challenge Fund- KUSP to open a Community Library at Howrah to help the poor youths and children through different book supports. But the organization also included some special parts of activities along with the prime activities as 'Motivation programme for academic and career path', Nursing training to the poor young girls; except those activates there are sports, Karate, drawing are the other vis-a vis general activities of the organization. Through this social programs the organization use to help the poor and deprived youth to continue their further education and retain them in school, mainstreaming educational system.

Children are the future of a nation. For an emerging and developing country like India, development of underprivileged children holds the key to the progress of the nation itself.

The educational initiatives for underprivileged children include:

- Pre-school [3-6 yrs],
- Non Formal Education [6-14 yrs non-school going],
- Remedial Education [6-14 yrs school going],
- Bridge Course [14-18 yrs drop-outs],

These projects support more than 700 grassroots initiatives working for the education of very poor and underprivileged children in various parts of Howrah District of West Bengal.

The children of India continue to be the most vulnerable section of the society and their growth and development remains a major concern. In India, the population of children below 18 is as high as 41 %. A large proportion of these children languish in the quagmire of apathy and alienation, suffering from the worst forms of deprivation and abject poverty and are victims of various forms of exploitation and abuse. According to the 2001 Census, India is estimated to have more than 400 million children below the age of 18 out of which 35 million children are in need of care and protection. Efforts to overcome the problem have led to the formulation of several legal provisions largely aimed at providing adequate protection to them.

Dimensions of Binoy Roy Book Society Alliance Work



Capacity building envisages providing security to children, involving children in lobbying with the government, making them participate in campaigns and enabling them to become effective change agents. Capacity building among children has to go beyond the project period. since sustaining the motivation levels of children is an issue that needs to be viewed from the project's perspective.

**e) Networking at State, District and Local level:**

While the project has been able to attain a great degree of success in networking at the District and Local levels in West Bengal, at the local level, the programmes have been able to make sufficient inroads.

**f) Developing IEC Materials:**

Some excellent materials have been developed and these materials has to properly distributed among the concerned departments and organizations in order to have an impact but mechanisms need to be evolved for proper dissemination of IEC materials.

**g) Process documentation of all Project activities:**

Although there was excellent scope for documenting the project activities, this was not done properly, depicting a gap between what actually has been achieved and what has been documented. Documentation of project activities is in itself an excellent source of IEC material.

**Qualitative Achievements Overall:**

- The identification of targeted children done a systematic and transparent manner; always it is looking for the poor, deprived and minority families as well as children.
- Schools which were earlier no responsive towards admission of such children now have started accepting such children.
- Child Protection Committee Members (volunteers) have been able to a large extent in tracking dropped out from the schools and putting them back to schools.
- Formation of children's groups, have helped in identifying drop outs or potential drop outs\ from the areas.
- Formation of children's groups has also helped in providing them opportunities to participate in the project and express them. This has impacted children's lives to a great extent.

- The programme has been able to create an effective network with the government.
- The individual donors of the organization have been able to mainstream the programme in their own movements.

### Community Library:

A public library is people's university and an asset of democratic country; it has at its base the community library. The term 'community library' means the library which is situated and served a particular region say a village, free of charge or for a nominal fee. It is considered as a library open to all the people of that region irrespective of race, region, colour, sex, language status, educational attainment etc. It is available for use to all who have desire of using it.

The use of the term, Community Library, Community Development Library (CDL), Community Information Center (CIC) are most well come to be used irrespective of its location in village or town.

---

Retention of drop out/probable drop out children from poor families in formal education system by the help of Binov Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' library which provide guidance and act as a catalytic agent in bringing the hidden talent of the people to the surface. It acts as catalyst of cultural development; social change and interpreter of community needs. Its vital role includes the creation of thinking people, cultivated children, man and woman, high intellectual moral caliber people, making people capable of holding opinion independently and so on. It also trained the spirit of mind enabling one to work for the social, cultural, moral advancement of society, and it is the basic function of community libraries, that every body will agree.

Along with the retention of the school drop-outs & potential drop-outs, two community level counseling centers running for the local youths

Community library is a very new concept in Howrah Municipal Corporation area and there was a great demand of this kind of support service from the Municipality for those needy poor students.

For the seven hundreds of children in Binov Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' who live in the slums, education is the most effective method of reintegration into society. In this project the activities are centered on:

- (i) Raising awareness of the general public about street/slum children and the enforcement of the right to education for all;



- (ii) Providing technical support for organizations and institutions in order to meet the basic needs of these children; and
- (iii) Strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors at local and Municipal levels in order to ensure that action is sustained and effective.

- \* National campaigns and information dissemination to encourage Governments and civil society in the provision of educational opportunities for all.

- \* Adoption of a multisectoral approach to promoting the right to education and strengthening partnerships between Government, Municipality, civil society, NGOs and the private sector.

- \* Basic service provision (e.g. literacy courses, psycho-social support and food) provided at slum level to aid children in making informed and positive decisions about their lives, about leaving the streets/slums and becoming integrated in residential centers or reintegrated with their families in connection with their education.

- \* Inclusion of slum children in the mainstream school system from early on and rehabilitation programmes for drop-outs.

- \* After-school educational activities, personalized educational workshops and functional literacy courses, non-formal education and to facilitate street children's enrolment in the public school system.

- \* Creation of a classroom environment that retains former street children in school.

- \* Improving pre-service and in-service training where teachers acquire experience in inclusive methods and practices, meeting pupils with different abilities, experiences, social and cultural backgrounds.

## **EDUCATION FOR SLUM CHILDREN:**

### **Background and context:**

Community Library (CL) has been working mainly in the fields of development information and communication since its inception in 1980. CL was established with a mission to deliver development information to activists and organizations that are working in the broad areas of research, human development and right-based works. Among them are catalysts in different

fields including academics, planners, development practitioners, cultural activists, political activists, human rights activists, peace activists, environmentalists, feminists, journalists, researchers, teachers, trade unionists and community leaders. The target audience is engaged in activities intending to change the quality of life of the people, particularly the disadvantaged groups of the society.

#### **Mission of CL**

CL believes that 'information' is the critical missing link between ignorance and enlightenment, between poverty and prosperity, between dehumanization and empowerment. The vulnerable people and the communities have little or no access to vital information, particularly information on availability of and access to resources. CL feels that a well planned effort encompassing collection; processing and dissemination of information would help in attaining the required level of awareness in the society and, in turn, would accelerate the process of empowerment of the people by reducing knowledge gap.

#### **Knowledge based activities**

There are, however, debates on the relevance and efficacy of knowledge based activities and services. Is it tantamount to social work or somewhat different from it? Presently a trend came where the overwhelming majority of the NGOs are involved in social mobilization and rural development activities mostly providing micro credit. CL, however, works with a different medium. Nevertheless, there is a general relevance about concomitant features, which together define the scope of CL's development strategy and thrust.

#### **These are:**

- Involves the community;
- For the good of the community;
- Not for profit;
- Can bring social change.

CL's immediate aim is to enhance the knowledge base of the society. A host of programmatic instruments are used to achieve this objective.

#### **These are mainly as follows:**

- Urban Information Resource Centre;
- Central Library, Documentation & Information Centre;
- Research and Publication;
- Education Extension Program.

Poverty reduction is a strategic thrust of the government, as well as many NGOs. CL provides services to a wide range of intervening institutions and catalysts that work with poor communities. However, CL directly works with the poor in one area through its Education Extension Programme.

Within the framework of organization's programmes (centre for awareness development) was founded, which offers a comprehensive education package for squatter children.

## **PROGRAMME FOR THE POOR**



### **School for street children**

Every child has a right to education. They have little or no access to basic education. Although primary education has been declared free and compulsory, many parents cannot afford to send their children to schools due to financial and social factors. Being members of very poor families, these children are often involved in different odd jobs to supplement their family income. CL (Community Library) wants to reach a small segment of these children by providing them with basic education through its Education Extension Program.

### **Community Library (CL) main activities and features are as follows:**

- Basic primary education is provided based on the national curriculum.
- CL has rented the premise and supplies books and stationeries free of cost.
- Study tour for the students is arranged once a year.

### **Objectives**

We have the following objective:

- To enhance the accessibility to education facilities for urban poor children.

### **OUR ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Primary education:**

A team of ten teachers and one Coordinator runs the school programme of the CL. The school follows the standard curriculum of primary education of the Government. CL provides textbooks, exercise books and stationeries to all students. Education is free. Students get a free meal (snacks) during the interval.

Examinations are regularly held to review the progress of the students. A mid-term examination would be held in June and annual examination would be held in December.

#### **Teacher-student meeting:**

Teacher-student meetings are held once in every two months. The students and the teachers sit together to discuss different issues of well-being. They discuss about attendance, cleanliness, vitamin deficiency, personal hygiene, nutrition, school discipline, examination results, etc. The meetings are very participatory and the students are motivated to follow rules and regulations. Separate meetings are held for the students of morning shift and the day shift.

#### **Home counseling;**

To motivate the parents and students for school admission, regular attendance, as well as change in behaviour, attitude and practices regarding various issues discussed in the classroom, teachers regularly visit families of the students. These visits have significantly improved school attendance. The parents feel the importance of the visit, because they can learn about the school programmes and the progress of their children.

#### **Parent-teacher meeting:**

Parent-teacher meetings are held once in every two months. Parents and teachers sit together and discuss issues such as sending their child to the school on a regular basis, taking care of the child, importance and necessity of child education and vocational training, looking after the child at home, how to cook nutritious meals, importance of drinking clean and boiled water, health and nutrition, sanitation, personal hygiene, etc. Teachers and parents share some specific tasks and responsibilities in their respective capacity to implement the decisions of these meetings. The tasks and performances are reviewed in the subsequent meetings.

**Referral service:**

CL provides referral service by enrolling 'primary graduates' in adjoining secondary schools. CL teachers also monitor their progress in the new schools by occasional visits to those schools and their homes. CL also arranges local sponsors to support financial needs of the very poor but meritorious students who intend to pursue further education.

**Recreation:**

Sports and study tours will arrange for physical and mental development of the children.

**Children's corner:**

Special emphasis is given on physical, psychological and cultural development of the children. To that end, a "children's corner" was established in CL. This includes a small library, selected education materials, facility for screening videos and some facility for indoor games. Besides, discussions, debates, painting competition, story telling, poetry recitation, music competition, etc. are organized time to time.

Children's corner, although relatively a new initiative, has created a significant impact on the children. Many children have demonstrated remarkable creativity and talent. Screening of documentaries and feature films has helped in changing attitude and behaviour of the children regarding health, sanitation, hygiene, team spirit, etc. The film show is organized at least once in every two months.

**Awareness building:**

Film shows would be arranged for the children primarily to create awareness regarding various social (rights of the girl child and social awareness) and development issues. It is also a source of entertainment to the students. Among the topics are issues of nutrition and early marriage.

**Capacity development of teachers:**

As part of CL's overall capacity building strategy, CL teachers would attend different training courses, workshops and seminars organized by different organizations.

**Challenges:**

One challenge faced by CL is dropout of students in classes due to their financial constraints, though they are few in number. These children sell labour in the informal sector activities to support their respective families.

Teachers spend a lot of time motivating students and parents to keep the children in the school until the primary course is completed.



In designing the programme of CL has taken a holistic approach to children's education. CL intends to strengthen and repackage the programme to suit its overall vision and mission. Related strategies are:

- Taking a holistic approach for social mobilisation through information and knowledge empowerment of the poor children.
- Developing the CL as an institution that provides intensive educational support at the primary level to the slum children, which are also a centre for learning on social and environmental issues as well as a centre that *can* cater for developing their vocational skills.
- Strengthening children's corner for the psychosocial development of children who are knowledge poor.
- Helping the process of Early Childhood Development through awareness building and other special child-centered programmes. CL is planning to further develop the children's corner, where the students and the children of the locality will have an opportunity to engage in reading, exchanging ideas, discuss problems, and also have recreation. The corner will have more books, computers, games and accessories so that children after the school hours can spend good times.

### CONCLUSION

The Community library-CL is now considered as an *Urban Information Resource Centre* (UIRC) for poor children. The scope of the centre has been widened facilitating access to awareness and basic education in a meaningful way along with developing the vocational skills. CL uses a combination of formal and non-formal approaches in its education programme for urban poor children. Rather than focusing only on literacy, it addresses the wider issues of child development. Through CL is trying out a methodology, which eventually may emerge as a model of good practice for child development.

---

### Conducted other projects as follows:

#### Nursing:

Project Title: Nursing Training for 25 adolescent girls in Howrah Corporation area-

This project mainly aims to empower economically the poor deprived adolescent girls through *Para nurse technical training*; a six months practical training programme conducted by some reputed MBBS doctors. Those trained Para Nurses now working in different nursing Homes in Howrah District.

#### Objectives of the project:

- Socio and economic empowerment of 25 poor women.

### Career & academic counseling:

A project on career counseling of students of different schools was initiated by the Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' with the sponsorship of I/CF - KUSP. The project was finalized for implementation by the Library authorities with the co-operation of schools along with active support of Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society.

The program was finalized after field study in schools and daily counseling work at Library. As per previous records it was observed that career counseling was very much required for the students of the locality. Therefore, students should be counseled regularly in the Library and at their respective schools.

A series of activities have been performed by the Binoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' to compile a record of the present career needs of the students so as to help them in pursuing a career in different traits. School and Club authorities have actively participated by providing their feedback and also motivating the students to participate in the workshop for enhancing their knowledge regarding primary and alternative career opportunities.

**B**inoy Roy, Ajit Das, Bula Banerjee Book Society' now wants you as donor to  
continue its philanthropic work to build the society.

:-----Thank you-----: