

New Alipur Prayaas Welfare Society

(Registered under West Bengal Regn. 1961 vide Regn. No. S/1L/78276 of 2010-11)
C/O Asok Chandra Bandyopadhyay, P – 724, Block – P, New Alipur, Kolkata 700 053



Jhargram visit report – 27th & 28th July 2021

During our last visit on 4-5th March'21, plans were mooted for sponsoring one study centre to be run by R K Mission, Jhargram, which would groom and prepare children from local primitive tribal villages for their subsequent admission to Class VI in Eklavya Residential Model School (ERMS), Jhargram. Consequently, one such study centre started operating on and from 22nd April, '21 at Auligeria village, which caters to children from adjacent Ghritakham village too. These two villages are inhabited by people mostly of SABAR tribe and few other tribes.

On 27th of July, myself Goutam Majumder and our secretary, Supriyo Mondal, went to Jhargram, to see for ourselves state of implementation of our plan. We met Ramesh Maharaj, who is Secretary of R K Mission, Jhargram and Head Master of ERMS there. Maharaj discussed results of ERMS students in Madhyamik and HS exams this year:

	Boys				Girls				Marks
Exam	(> 90%)	80-90%	75-80%	Total	(> 90%)	80-90%	75-80%	Total	Highest
Madhyamik	01	05	12	29	00	09	14	24	629
Exam	(> 75%)	1 st Div	2 nd Div	Total	(> 75%)	1 st Div	2 nd Div	Total	Highest
HS	09	19	00	28	10	15	03	29	412

We also met Mukteswar Maharaj, who co-ordinates study centre activities.

In the evening, we went to RKM Ashrama Mandir and sat through the ARATI and PATH sessions. After staying overnight at ERMS guest-house, on 28th early morning, guided and accompanied by Mukteswar Maharaj, we started our visits. We first visited the adjacent study centre at Satyabanpally. This Centre is not under our sponsorship and is being run by RKM for local high school students upto Class X. We interacted with the students and teachers and distributed some sweets amongst them. The Centre operates from 7:00 am and closes before students are off to their normal schools.

Next we proceeded to Auligeria, which is about 15 kms off Jhargram-Lodhashuli highway. The road meanders through dense forests and is often visited by herds of elephants. In fact, the day before, one tourist had been trampled by an elephant in the area. We reached the Centre at around 7:45 am. There are 25 children enrolled at present (it was started with 13 students in April), of whom, 18 are from SABAR families while rest belong to other tribes / OBC. 50 % of the students are girls. On that day, 23 children were present and were being taught by Jayanti Mahato, a student herself, presently pursuing B Ed after completing her Master's in History. The children, although in Classes IV & V, were practically illiterate at the onset, and are being taught starting from identification of alphabets. We interacted with the students and distributed water bottles, geometry boxes, masks and snacks amongst them. The children have been provided with a set of uniform and Covid kit each. We also went to the village, visiting houses of our students. Auligeria village has about 210 households total of which, about 130 are inhabited by SABARs. Literacy rate among SABARs is very low and there isn't a single person in the village who has passed Madhyamik / completed school education. Monks from R K Mission and

our village co-ordinator (Mrinal Mahato, Jayanti's brother, a local lad) had to coax and cajole parents for sending their wards to our study centre. When we asked the children if they would continue studies by getting admission in ERMS, several of them raised hands. And that included a chirpy little girl, whose father we had found in a drunken stupor in those early morning hours, while visiting the village. We also went to the other village, Ghritakham, which is catered by our study centre at Auligeria. Our teacher, Jayanti, and her brother, Mrinal stay in this village.

In the last leg of our visit we proceeded to two local slums in Jhargram town, Nripenpally and Vivekanandapally. R K Mission plans to run a study centre for school-going children of these slums and we participated in a joint survey there. Apart from Mukteswar Maharaj, two local well-wishers (who are contractors themselves) were there conducting this survey.

Afterwards, we had discussions with Ramesh Maharaj and Mukteswar Maharaj regarding our visit and other issues. Following are the excerpts :

1. Expenses for our study centre may exceed budgeted provisions for increase in cost of students' Tiffin and cost of uniforms & Covid kits. We committed to reimburse additional costs (if any) during the fourth quarter of the F.Y.
2. RKM provides scholarships to few non-ERMS local students from economically weaker families going for graduation and higher studies. We agreed to sponsor such scholarship for two students who will go for professional studies post HS. This will be in addition to sponsoring two ERMS students yearly going for higher studies post HS.
3. PRAYAAS will not get involved in the proposed study centre for slums. However, we put in our humble suggestions regarding fundraising for these centres through alumni association of our alma mater (RKM, Narendrapur).

Our visit ended with this meeting and we came back on 28th July evening.

Trip Pictures.....



On the way to Jhargram_1



On the way to Jhargram_2



Eklavya School Campus_1



Eklavya School Campus_2



Ramkrishna Mission Evening Prayer



Satyavan Pally Study Centre



Auligeria Study Centre_1



Auligeria Study Centre_2



Auligeria Study Centre_3



Auligeria Study Centre_4



Auligeria Study Centre_5



Shabar Home_1



Shabar Home_2



On the way back