

# *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



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## **Manbazar visit report – 23<sup>rd</sup>. November 2019**

It has been quite a long time that students from Purulia district are being enrolled in and supported by PRAYAAS. However, due to several reasons, direct interaction with and monitoring of such students couldn't be done till now. With one Graduate student & six HS students (all in Std XI, passed Madhyamik in 2019) from the district enrolled with us in the current year, it was imperative that we meet and interact with these students in person.

Unlike in Sainthia / Garbeta sectors, where majority of our beneficiaries had been students of particular schools, here in Purulia, the students are spread over a vast region. Till last year our beneficiaries in this district were coordinated through SATHEE, another NGO, who have been working for drinking water problems in various parts of the district. With their help, we came in contact with Shri Amitabha Mishra, Head Master of Gobindapur Primary School (Gobindapur is in outskirt of Manbazar), who volunteered to keep his school open on a holiday, so that, our students can come over and assemble, and we would be able to meet them at a single place. Accordingly, myself, Goutam Majumder and Supriyo Mondal, went to Manbazar on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov for meeting our beneficiaries.

Of our seven beneficiaries in the district, **Laxmimoni Murmu**, who is from Bagmundi, couldn't make it to Manbazar, owing to distance and scarce public transport. Laxmimoni is the first student passing Madhyamik Pariksha (Std 10 Board Exam.) from her village (Bhuighora on Bagmundi hills). As it is impossible to attend College from her village, she presently stays in a Boy's Hostel working as a temporary fill as cook when needed.

1. **Kajal Mahato**, of Baidyanathpur village, PO Mahara, is a student of Purulia Zila School. His father is into farming, elder brother is pursuing D.El.Ed. He has passed his Madhyamik from Mahara High School.
2. **Rick Banerjee** of Shyamnagar village, PO Pairachali, is studying in Bankura Zila School. His father is temporarily employed with Rotary Club, younger sister in school. He has passed his Madhyamik from Changra High School.
3. **Asit Mahato** of Dakakendu village, PO Kenda, is in Barabhum High School. His father is into farming, elder brother is a labor in a tiles factory in Andhra, younger brother in school. He passed Madhyamik from Bijoydih High School.
4. **Tanoy Mukherjee** from Manbazar and is in Swapan Subrata High School – had passed Madhyamik from same school. His father has a *paan* shop and his elder sister is pursuing D.El Ed.
5. **Sagar Chatterjee** from Manbazar and is in Swapan Subrata High School – had passed Madhyamik from same school. His father is a private tutor, younger sister is in school.
6. **Mani Haldar** of Baghabaid village, PO Bargarua, is in Bargarua High School, from where she has passed Madhyamik too. Her father is a farmer, elder brother is in college, elder sister is married.

One significant aspect of our interaction was that, none of these students had any idea regarding options available after HS, other than getting into Engg/Medical thro' JEE/NEET. They were informed regarding courses in Agriculture, Medical Technicians (thro' JENPAUH), polytechnics (thro' JEXPO/VOCLET), Nursing, etc.

Now, a few words regarding Shri Amitabha Mishra and his school. We were really astonished to find out such an able teacher-cum-administrator in that remote area. To reach the school, one must trudge through a four km stretch of fair-weather mud road (from the nearest metal road), wide enough for one Maruti to pass through. His school has 103 students (mostly tribals from local villages), has four well maintained toilets (including separate ones for girls and differently abled kids), a solar panel (supplying power to two large classrooms), drinking water purification plant, two miniature gardens (for seasonal vegetables and flowers). His school has bagged several awards over the last five years, including national awards for **swachchhata** (awarded by Prime Minister of India himself). From a ramshackle small hut, Shri Mishra has slowly and steadily built up a two storied building for his school, utilizing all the prize money he and his school have received over the years. He is very enthusiastic and well informed – he keeps himself abreast of all the improvement schemes and facilities that are available for schools in our state/country. Although it was a scheduled holiday for his school, he managed to bring in teachers, non-teaching staff and few students to facilitate our visit and meeting. Hats Off to Shri Mishra!!!

### Trip photos.....



On the way to Manbazar



River Kangsabati (Kansai) just before Manbazar



On the way to Gobindapur Village



On the way to Gobindapur Village



*Warm welcome at the school*



*Token gift from school*



*Students attending the meet*



*Goutam in career counseling with students*



*Supriyo in discussion with students*



*With students and Amitabha Mishra in front of the school*





*With students and Amitabha Mishra in the school garden*



*On the way back from Manbazar*