



Project Jyoti

Activities in the last 6 months

Within few months of its existence Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) has been able to ignite SMILES of individuals not only in the Hills of Darjeeling but streets of Delhi. With support from friends and well wishers MARG was able to support education and hostel fee of 12 little children

from the hills of North Bengal for the academic year 2006. Our little help did ignite a smile and this is visible in their school results. After interacting with some of the principals of the schools of North Bengal, we are planning to help more children for the academic year 2007. We are committed and we want that the basic right of a child which is education be available to all irrespective of cast or creed. It is through education MARG feels that we can eliminate POVERTY which is our biggest enemy.

MARG is thankful to Bishop Steven Lepcha and Father Paul Sitling for their kind support for allowing us to use the Missionary land for plantation of mulberry trees in the village of Maria Basti, Kalimpong. MARG is very optimistic and want to introduce sericulture as a side income for the villagers of North Bengal where cardamom the cash crop is not yielding well. MARG with the help of local Vijay Rani Sericulture Club has been able to plant more than 20000 saplings of mulberry trees. Very soon rearing house would be constructed and the local villagers would be involved in plantation and rearing of the silkworm.

MARG would also like to thank friends and well wishers for their support for the LIFELINES project. We still need to go a long way and we have not been able to start this project due to lack of fund. Our Lifelines project which is a 24 x 7 ambulance service would cater the marginalized section of the hills and we plan to run it as no profit no loss. Hence MARG would charge a nominal amount from the user. If necessary then service would be Free. MARG would request friends and well wishers to support MARG for this life saving cause because life is precious.

Nirnay Chettri

Distribution of Blankets at Salam Balak Shelter Home, Sadar Bazar New Delhi



The month of January in New Delhi is considered the peak of winter season. The minimum temperature goes down to 3 to 2 degree centigrade.

MARG thought of providing warm old clothes and new blankets to children who have no shelter and sleep under the flyovers and street pavements. Hence MARG visited Salam Balak shelter home and distributed old warm clothes and new blankets to the children there. MARG also sent a packet of old clothes to Maria Basti and distributed new blankets to people sleeping in the pavements of New Delhi.

Nirnay Chettri



Awareness Programme

The Centre and State Sericulture Department with the help of the local Vijay Rani Sericulture club and Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) organized a joint awareness programme on sericulture on the 6th of March 07 at the Maria basti community hall. This is a new alternative occupation opportunity that village folk can take advantage of.

More than forty residents from the villages in and around Maria Basti, Middle Kange participated in the awareness programme. Resource persons included Dr.Mondol, a researcher and scientist from the central sericulture department, Dr.Thakur,a development officer from the state government, Mr. Surya Prasad Chettri (Extension Officer), Mr. S Rai (Asst. Extension Officer), Mr. K B Chettri and Mr. Phurba Sherpa. Information regarding various government schemes to support rural sericulture, including disbursing of loans, construction of rearing houses were imparted. Mondal emphasized that a farmer should have minimum 1000 bushes of mulberry trees. He also emphasized on Munga silk cultivation as Kutmero is locally grown in the hills of North Bengal.



The participants also visited the site where mulberry tree plantation had been initiated by Vijay Rani Sericulture Club and Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG).

Nirnay Chettri

Igniting SMILE



Shiraj Kharia is 10 years old and hails from the terai region of North Bengal. He belongs to the Adavashi clan. A cheerful and extrovert boy. He was going to the local primary school. Suddenly one day the tea garden where his father

worked as a laborer closed down. All of a sudden there was darkness in Shiraj's future. His father who was jobless then thought of discontinuing his studies. With hope of getting some help Shrija's father approached the local Panchyat. One of the member of the local panchayat then approach Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG). MARG officials without wasting any time visited the boy at his home to see if any help could be provided.

Presently Shiraj has been admitted to a very popular High Secondary School run by the missionary in the hills of North Bengal. The principal and the hostel superintendent has been kind enough to accommodate Shrija in the school and the school hostel MARG has been able to ignite a SMILE on his face again. His father is a happy man now and dreams that one day his son will surely make him proud.

Nirnay Chettri



Celebrating Children's day in the streets, New Delhi

Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday on 14 November, popularly known as Children's Day, was celebrated in a unique way by MARG by igniting smiles in the faces of street children of Delhi.

We started the evening with a car loaded with food packets and drove straight to Ber Sarai where you can see a number of children begging as cars stop at the red light crossing. Surprisingly, there were none that day. So, we pulled up the car to the adjacent service road and spotted two children. Cautiously we got out and waved at the children. We started by asking them if they knew the significance of the day. The answer was as expected – NO! We then explained the reason we were there; to celebrate Chacha Nehru's birthday. They were overwhelmed by the gesture. In the meantime word went around about our presence and a flow of children followed, mothers followed with toddlers in their arms and others. Jahanuma, a bright girl and Gulshan were told to discipline the crowd and maintain a queue. We then gave away food packets to the children.

Our next stop was Dilli Haat. As we waved to a waiting group of children hawking small items, they surrounded the car and looked very enthused. We asked one of them "Do you know the significance of today". The answer was "every day is the same to us". We then explained to them and distributed the food packets. Their joy knew no bounds. They kept running and thanking behind the car till we sped away.

We were equally enjoying the evening looking at the smiles and enthusiasms all around. It gave us a deep sense of satisfaction too; straight from the heart.

We then headed for the shanties under the Safdarjung flyover. Here we stopped very briefly because mostly men approached us and some of them were drunk. We quickly gave some food packets to the children, told them why we were there and off we left.

On our way to INA market, we spotted an elderly gentleman walking with a child.

We stopped and told them that since it was Children's day we would like to hand over a food packet to the child. The man refused to take as he was suspicious that the packet might contain a bomb. We opened the packet and showed it to him that it was only food for the child. To which he gladly agreed. At the INA market we were met by many curious children. Again in response to the question, they had the same answer. They were very happy getting the food but we had to quickly get back into the car as many men and women were running and pleading at us and we feared that this may become messy. After all the food packets were meant for children.

It was past nine at night when we realised that we had actually distributed all the packets. We headed for home straight after that with a lot of joy that probably some how, with this small gesture, we may have touched the little hearts of some children and made them smile for a while.

Amitava Datta



Lifelines

Project LIFELINES main aim is to reach out and help the marginalized section of our society.

Life is precious and a timely help can save a life. So friends lets join hands and make this dream into a reality.



SUPPORT MARG

MARG TEAM

	Mr. Krishna Singh Moktan (IPS), Ex IGP, Honorary Member
	Mr. Amitaba Datta, Head Events, British Council, New Delhi, Member
	Ms. Babyla Topden, Lecturer Tadong College Sikkim. Member
	Mr. Digamber Narzera, Chairman of Nedan Foundation, Assam, Member
	Mr. Siddartha Pradhan, Lawyer, Darjeeling, Member
	Mr. John Borgoyary, ICTD Officer UNDP, New Delhi, President
	Mr. Rajan Takkar, Businessman, New Delhi, Treasurer
	Mr. Nirnay John Chettri New Delhi, General Secretary
	Captain Shashidharan A T Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, Member

Congratulation!



MARG would like thank Dr. Mahendra P. Lama (Professor, JNU), Mr. Samar Sinha (Senior Research Scholar, JNU) and Mr. Vimal Khawas for helping to get the rightful compensation for Mr. James Lepcha and Mrs. Dhanlaxmi who lost her 11-year old daughter 'Nisha' from Darjeeling in the Nithari killings recently.