

## Report of SHIKHA (September – December, 2007)

<b>Date of Report –</b>	<b>17.01.2008</b>
<b>Name of the NGO -</b>	<b>Development Action Society</b>
<b>Project name -</b>	<b>Shikha</b>
<b>Project period –</b>	<b>April 2007 to December 2007</b>
<b>Project reporting –</b>	<b>Sept '07- Dec'07</b>

### Where We Stand Today?

Our journey initiated in **1989 & implemented in 1995** to support and strengthen the capacity of marginalized women and children in the sub-urban disadvantaged population of South and South-east Kolkata. To fulfill our mission, DAS places an emphasis on need-based programs, serving as a resource for the field and entering partnership for funding to support priority-based projects. DAS was set up with the support of funding from **GOAL, SUAS, SC UK (Save the Children), NCLP (National Child Labour), REACH and Shikshalaya**. In the last eleven years **DAS** has made in-depth inroads in education, health and vocational training for sustainable transformation. Our assistance has reached **5,164** children in the age group of **4-18 years** and has mainstreamed **1,717** out of school children in the local formal schools through innovative strategies and networking with various stakeholders.

Presently under **Suas Project** we have 6 alternative schools or non-formal schools in Makaltala, Arupota, Anandapur, Chowbaga, Ucchepota and Paschim Chariswar, catering for 540 children. We also run 5 coaching centers in Arupota, Ucchepota, Hussainpur and Purbachal supporting the education of X children who attend mainstream school. A further service offered by DAS under this project is Vocational Training, we run 4 vocational centers in Mathpukur, Arupota, Anandapur and Ucchepota supporting skills development for 32 women/girls. Primary Health Care assistance is provided through a weekly clinic in Makaltala.

Under **GOAL Project** 1 Non-Residential Camp (NRC), 4 coaching support centers, weekly clinic in 3 areas i.e. Bantala, Chowbaga, and Chhaynabi, Fortnightly Health Clinic in Anandapur, Specific intervention programmes through Quarterly Health Camps on various health issues, Monthly Awareness Camps on different social issues prevalent in their work areas. In support of the Government of India, SSA (Education for All) programme DAS run 8 parallel government schools under the **Shikhalaya Project**. In conjunction with **Save The Children Project** we have 2 Child Protection Groups consisting of 20 children in the age group of 12-18 years from 2 areas i.e. Arupota and Makaltala,. With support of the **NCLP (National Child Labour Project)**, we have 1 school to support child labourers to access school and then to support their mainstreaming to government schools. As part of the REACH Project 3,000 children were tracked in 29 **KPSC (Kolkata Primary School Council) Schools**, 300 children were given remedial coaching support and staff were provided in service training on the in Learning Classroom Series (LCS) and Bridge Course Training.

We have endeavored to strengthen the Government education system through enrollment drives, strengthening of MTAs (Mother Teacher Association), activating the SDC's

(School Development Committee), networking with Government officials & the Education Department. We have sought to organize systematic functioning by organizing Meetings with the Education Department, Ward Councilors and Government aided schools.

An additional project which began in 2007, with the support of the **Magdalene Project** , is a crèche programme, providing early childhood care as well as health facilities in the Chhaynabi area.

**General Review of the ‘SHIKHA’ Project:**

**The Objectives of the Sikha Project are:**

1. **To ensure the re-enrolment and enrolment of drop outs and never been to school children.**
2. **To ensure retention of mainstream and at risk children of Alternative Schools (NFE) and Formal Schools.**
3. **Tracking of DAS mainstreamed children in primary and upper primary school.**
4. **Empowerment of women through vocational training.**
5. **Ensuring better health condition of the community through health clinic.**

I thought the activities and results might be easier to read in this format, What do you think?. I have tried to match the actions to the related result.

<b>Objective 1: Enrollment and Reenrollment</b>	
<b>Actions taken</b>	<b>Results of this action</b>
<b>Enrollment Drive:</b>	32 Children were directly enrolled in 3 Primary Schools of Ward No. 108. Regular follow-up of these children ensure their retention in schools.
<b>Alternative Schools:</b>	258 children were enrolled in our Alternative school for the session 2007-2008.
<b>Home Visits:</b>	Conducted regularly to investigate reasons for pupil absenteeism. Home visits yielded the following reasons for absenteeism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10% students due to Health problems</li> <li>● 5% of parents lack motivation of sending their children to school giving priority to household works, taking care of siblings</li> <li>● 13% Seasonal works (e.g. Cleaning of canal, farming, working as vegetable vendors, working in dumping ground)</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2: Ensure Retention of children in mainstream schools.</b>	
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Results of these actions.</b>
Provision of 5 coaching centres	221 children receive coaching/remedial support

<p><b>Monthly Mother's Meeting Home Visits</b></p> <p>Review of Second Term</p> <p>Training in Upper Primary for teachers on 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November</p> <p>Review Meeting with teachers of Alternative Centers, Vocational Centers and Coaching Centers held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 07</p> <p>Review Meeting 21-11-'07</p> <p><b>Teacher's Day</b> 5<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p><b>Children's Day</b> on 14<sup>th</sup> November,</p> <p><b>Children's Parliament Meetings</b> 17-09-'07 and 26-12-'07</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> terminal examination was conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 07.</p> <p><b>Annual Sports Day</b> on 20-12-07 (NFE &amp; Shikshalaya) &amp; on 21-12-'07 (Coaching) at Bantala play ground</p>	<p>20 meetings held, mothers informed about .....</p> <p>Home visits conducted to encourage regular attendance and mobilize parents.</p> <p>Master Plan was developed according to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Examination and TLMs were developed and used accordingly.</p> <p>Different kinds of TLMs are used for better understanding of the concept of the lesson.</p> <p>The needs of the communities were discussed for including in the coming proposal, discussion on Management information system (MIS) and its importance also shared the half yearly report.</p> <p>Understanding issues faced by students, problems in the community, etc</p> <p>Exposure visit of children to Indian museum, Birla museum and Science City, Picnic at school premises,</p> <p>55 children attended, and elected their President and Secretary for 2008. The children planned exposure visits for 2007 and also prepared an annual plan for 2008</p> <p>Overall results if available</p> <p>754 children of DAS took part in sporting activities</p>
<p><b>Objective 3: To track children who have been mainstreamed in primary and upper primary and provide additional supports where required.</b></p>	
<p>Actions taken</p>	<p>Results of these actions</p>
<p>10 formal schools were identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 546 children were identified for tracking.</li> </ul>
<p>5 schools were visited regularly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 141 students were regularly tracked in these schools.</li> </ul>
<p>Tracking was difficult due to the following reasons:</p>	

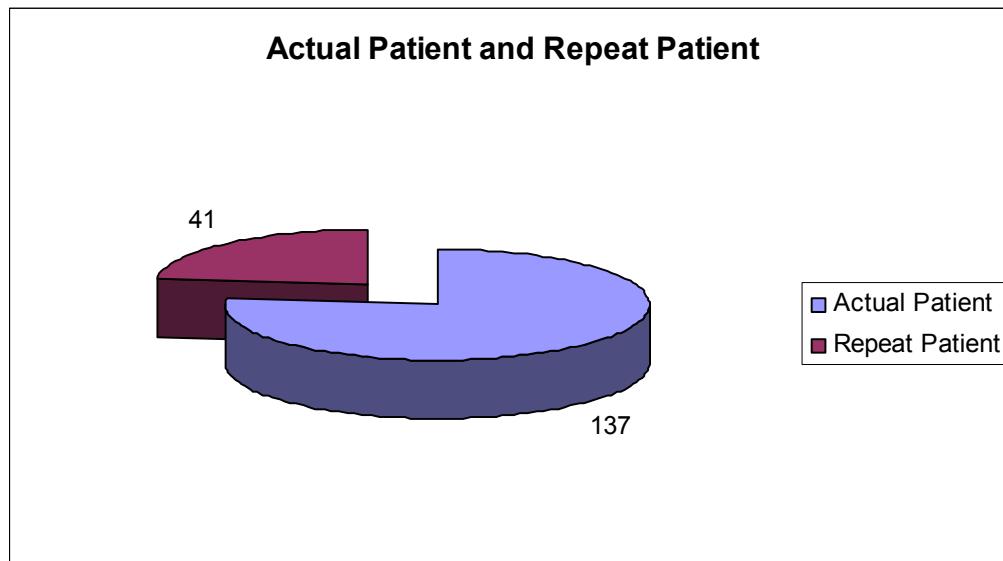
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owing to the changed pattern of evaluation system in formal schools (i.e. monthly unit test, frequent visits of SI, unscheduled holidays due to local religious festival and political work) engagement of school teachers puts a backlog in the collection of required data of children's attendance in schools.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4 : Empowerment of Women through Vocational Training</b>	
<b>Actions taken</b>	<b>Results of these actions</b>
Provision of four vocational training centres:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total 55 women are undergoing training in VTC centers.</li> <li>32 are now skilled trainees.</li> <li>8 women earning through entrepreneurial skills.</li> <li>23 women are semi-skilled require further training for qualifying as skilled hands.</li> </ul>
Produce marketable items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items produced are school dresses, petticoat, night gowns, items of embroidery (kitchen doll, golf towels, salwar kameez, frock), jute items (bags, wall hangings, key chains), incense sticks.</li> </ul>
Develop market linkages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market linkages with Batanagar Girls High School, Anandapur, Ankur Kala and Tolly Club.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 5: Ensure better health conditions of community through health clinics</b>	
<b>Actions taken</b>	<b>Results of these actions</b>
1 Health Clinic at Makaltala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>210 patients attended clinics out of which 41 were repeat patients. Prevalent diseases were cough, cold, fever sore throat and skin problem.</li> </ul>

#### **Key Achievements during last three months-**

- 76% attendance of students in alternative school.
- 72% attendance of students in coaching centers [remedial]
- 46% performance level in academics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term in alternative schools.
- 42.3% performance level in academics in formal schools [coaching support]
- 9 students of Ucchepota centre have been selected to appear for the final board exams of class x.
- 30 mainstreamed children attending formal schools are regularly participating in the children's parliament sessions.
- 9 high school students of the coaching centre of Ucchepota performed a drama on children's day in the community that was appreciated by all. Again they will be performing on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 08 [republic day]. This cultural activity is bonding the community people together for further initiatives of the first generation learners.
- 62% attendance of trainees in the V.T centers
- 141 students tracked in 5 schools.
- The number of repeat patients has declined in the last 6 months, from 320 in the last quarter to 41 repeat patients in this quarter.

#### **Training on Health**

Follow-up training on malaria, low cost nutritious food, worm infestation were given on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 07 at Bantala.



### Capacity Building of teachers:

The training programme of DAS teachers was conducted by Vikramshila Resource Centre (VERS) on 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007 on upper primary education. It was based on class room management and on the following days it was more on their participation of the training given.

### Constraints/ Challenges faced during our intervention

- While conducting tracking we are unable to achieve the target in the stipulated time because the principal and the school teachers are always engaged in doing different duties assigned to them by the government owing to the changed pattern of evaluation system in formal schools. Thus, engagement of teachers in different activities puts a backlog in the collection of required data of children's' attendance in schools.
- We were unable to shift the Nabadeep Alternative education Centre to Shikshalaya (children aged b/w 5-9 yrs) due to expansion of the local formal school under SSM (Sarbhva Siksha Mission) as per the ward councilor.

### Our Strength

- The children of Kalidasi coaching are now disciplined and follow the instruction of the teachers. The students' performance level has also increased.
- The teachers are making master plans [lesson plan] on a regular basis that is having a great impact on the learning levels of the children.
- Networked with the CESC [Calcutta electric supply corporation] for electricity in Makaltala.

**Future plan of action for the next 3 months( Jan, Feb and March 08)**

	<b><u>Activities</u></b>	<b><u>Month/Date</u></b>
1.	<b>Review meeting with teachers</b>	<b>February</b>
2.	<b>Meeting with teachers(Settting up plan of action for 2008)</b>	<b>March</b>
3.	<b>Workshop on IEC material development</b>	<b>January and February</b>
4.	<b>Meeting with children parliament</b>	<b>January and March</b>
5.	<b>NFE, Coaching support, clinic and Tracking</b>	<b>On going support to achieve the target on these parameters</b>
6.	<b>Formation of 3 SHGs (Self Help Groups)at Anandapur</b>	<b>January</b>

**Case Study :**

**Name : Amarnath Pal**

**Age : 11 years**

**Class : IV**

**Father's Name : Anil Pal**

**Occupation : Works in a shop**

**Mother's Name: Mina Pal**

**Occupation : Potter**

Amarnath stays with his 3 siblings, parents and grandmother. He is studying in DAS's NFE centre since class II. Previously he used to attend Chariswar Primary School at Chariswar. He dropped out from this school due to irregularity and poor result. He was not able to cope up with his counterparts. After joining Nabaujjal Alternative centre at Chariswar he was quite irregular but now, he is enjoying his study and regularly attends his classes. Teachers are planning to mainstream him in class v this year. He dreams of becoming a teacher.

**Name : Kishan Sardar**

**Guardian: Grandmother**

Kishan's family is living in Arupota for a decade. His father was a daily labourer. Kishan's father was the eldest among 4 brothers and 3 sisters. His father used to suffer from headache quite often and also ignored the problem due to poverty and negligence. This problem became critical with passing days and lastly he was admitted in a Govt. hospital where he died. At that time Kishan was only 2 yrs old and his brother Gopi was of 3 months. Their mother again got married and left them in unprotected condition for pursuing her higher aspirations. Two brothers started struggling for existence in the custody of their grandparents. He studied in the local govt. school but his grandmother was unable to provide financial support for continuing his education so he discontinued. Then he took admission in our Nabadeep centre and studying here since 3 years. Kishan is very sincere with his studies and is keen to continue with his education. He enthusiastically takes part in different workshops and trainings organized. He takes own initiative in performing different activities in the workshops and is also very innovative.