

Village to College..... College to Village



← Fr. Felix Raj with the children at Shalpokur



→ Children showing their creative side in college



← College Students with village children in college



→ College students teaching the children at Paikhala

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"Materialism is not the essence of life, one has to be satisfied with life and realize that we can make a difference in the lives of several children who are like gifts which need to be unwrapped."

- Rishabh Maheswary
Economics, Ex-Student

"The environment as well as the small children have touched my heart. I have learnt how to adjust myself in different circumstances and to face the difficulties positively."

-Aryaman Kejriwal
B.Com (E), Ex-Student

"It has been a very moving experience. The eagerness and endeavor to learn among the children is pretty appreciating and most importantly its quite nice to be a part of such a noble cause"

-Malancha Dasgupta
English, Ex- Student

"It was a great and fantastic experience and felt a great sense of satisfaction to see children smiling at the end of the day."

-Rohan Agarwal
B.Com(M), Student

"This is a great initiative taken by St. Xavier's College, we will make sure to keep up this initiative and by spreading awareness among the fellow friends and relatives, we want to ignite the same fire that is now burning in us."

-Bibhu Das
B.Com (M), Student



St. Xavier's College
(Autonomous), Kolkata

PRAYAS



COLLEGE TO VILLAGE

VILLAGE TO COLLEGE

Village to College

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name of Village</u>	<u>No. of Children</u>	<u>No. of Volunteers</u>
June, 2007	Gurap, Pandua	55	25
Dec, 2007	Raghavpur, Debipur	60	19
Dec, 2008	Gurap	50	32
June, 2009	Ghostomath	50	20
Dec, 2009	Bholakhali	60	22
June, 2010	Shalpokur, Debipur, Paikhala	65	38
June, 2011	Bholakhali	55	30
June, 2012	St. John Berchman's Inter College, Jharkhand	50	30
		<u>445</u>	<u>216</u>

College to Village

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name of Village</u>	<u>No. of Camps</u>	<u>No. of Volunteers</u>
2006	Gurap, Jhantipahari	3	32
2007	Jhantipahari, Mirga, Raghavpur, Debipur, Paikhla, Gurap	13	126
2008	Ghostomath, Gurap, Paikhala, Raghavpur, Pandua, Debipur	12	135
2009	Gurap, Shalpokur, Debipur, Bholakhali	4	140
2010	Gurap, Bolorampur, Paikhala, Bholakhali	4	170
2011	Nurshikdarchowk, Ghostomath, Debipur, Bholakhali	4	115
2012	Bholakhali	1	70
		<u>41</u>	<u>788</u>

PRAYAS

Prayas is an effort aimed at bringing about the overall development of the students, both in the college and in the villages. The primary objective of this movement is to provide continuous support and assistance to the less fortunate children, both



↑ Bholakhali students at BITM

academically and materially, and thereby part of the larger attempt to achieve 100% literacy by 2015. This ongoing project was initiated by Rev. Fr. Dr. J. Felix Raj, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in January 2006.

College Students contribute Rs. 1 per day to support the education of these village children. Devipur, Gurap, Jhantipahari, Mirga, Salpokur, Bolorampur, Ghostomat and Bholakhali (AILA affected village) are the villages supported by project Prayas. More than 1000 children have benefitted from this project in the last 5 years.

College students and the village children, both benefit from this project. As the college and village come together there is an overall development of both. For every student it is a challenge to study better and develop a sense of service. The village students are given an exposure to wider realities and motivation to continue their education. It is the progress of this project that makes one believe that someday, every child from a village would go to college and if every college reaches out to at least one village then the millennium goal of 100 percent literacy by 2015 can become a reality.



↑ Bholakhali students at College Central Library

"If colleges and villages meet, there will be a knowledge revolution," believes Fr. Felix Raj, SJ, the person behind the success of Prayas.



College students enjoying with the children at Gurap



Children enjoying breakfast in college



Fr. Felix Raj inaugurating the Shalpokur Centre



Teaching Session in Progress



Children playing during recess