

Annual Report on the work of the
Ali S. K. Memorial Society for the Children
for the year 2010-11

1. Introduction

In the thirteenth year since the formation of the *Ali S. K. Memorial Society for the Children* (ASKMSC) the number of boys in our home did not increase, but rather declined instead by one, as Shambhu Malaka left us and went back to his relatives in Malda. At the end of the year there were therefore a total of forty children staying in our home.

Otherwise daily work took its normal course throughout the year, the long running co-operation with our German partner *Aktion Lebenshilfe für Indiens Strassenkinder e.V.* went on well and our football venture blossomed. Unfortunately once again we could not make any progress regarding our planned village project.

2. Activities:

(i) General – At the beginning of the financial year 2010-2011 the ASKMSC had 41 children aged 8 to 16 years. As there were no new admissions throughout the year the total number of children declined by one within the year, when one of them Shambhu Malaka went back to his relatives in Malda. All of the originally 41 boys went to formal schools at the beginning of the financial year, of which four boys went to boarding schools in Kurseong, Darjeeling District while the biggest number of them studied at Apollos Academy. Once again we gave the better students amongst them the chance to sit for admission to Young Horizon School at the end of the school year.

Sport and football in particular still remains an important part of our extracurricular activities and our football club FC Kolkata improved substantially, because of the separation into three teams according to age. We can now look back and ascertain a successful development in the achievements of our players and look forward to a bright future of our football program.

Unfortunately the perspectives in other parts of our usual activities besides sports, such as drawing lessons and Yoga are not so bright at the moment, as these activities had to be cancelled because of reasons noted subsequently in chapter 2.vi.

The overall health of most of our children was good throughout the year, with the exception of a few fractures and minor injuries, mostly due to sports.

There was also a string of visitors again this year. Most of them were old friends, well-wishers and supporters of our project from India and abroad.

In memory of the first ten street children that moved in on 19th November 2000 we once again celebrated the annual birthday party on that day in November 2010. It was a jubilee of sorts, as it was already the tenth return of this memorable day in the history of our society. Since some uninvited guests entered our premises and left with food during the last year we hired a security guard with the result that there was no gate crashing this year. The program took part as usual and included cultural and culinary happenings.

In addition to our two major excursions of every year, the one to the sea beach in Puri in summer and the annual trip to Kurseong during the Puja vacations, we organized a picnic in Sonapur in December 2010 and a football camp in January 2011 with our French coach Michel Sauvestre, which was also held in Puri. There was also an attempt to employ new staff last year and after a long selective procedure the staff was being trained to focus on the problems concerning their job. The aim was to train them to keep in dialogue with the children, to be able to manage a conflict.

(ii) Problems face by us – The problems with poor results in school, aggressiveness and adolescence are now omnipresent, since a major part of our boys are now in their teens. But the increase of violent behaviour of our boys, which was already noted in previous years, not only depends on their age, but also on other factors including their situation within the home. To avoid brutal and violent movies, which further encourage such behaviour, we made the effort to select the movies beforehand and asked the staff to guide the children whilst watching. But this is a measure that might show positive results in the behavior of the children only in the long run.

In the past annual report the missing discipline of the staff regarding their obligations and work was already mentioned. Their neglect causes a collapse of the daily routine, which has an effect on the behavior of the children. They don't care about rules anymore and question the authority of their educators. Further to this they often just leave their respective groups and hang around on the premises unattended with all the negative effects that come with loitering. Hence the urgent need was felt to do a qualified training with our employees, as their missing discipline regarding their daily work indicates that there is little or no experience or knowledge regarding their task as well as wrong expectations concerning this kind of work, which might also be a reason for their failure. Further to this we were also trying to get fresh recruits for this job to include them in the training, but due to the current drive by the government to get teaching staff it was very difficult to find people interested in the post. Eventually we were able to hire two new employees and give them a three weeks training side by side with the old staff in the month of February

2011, but the impact of this training can only be evaluated in the coming year.

Once again no inspector from the Directorate of Social Welfare came this year for the routine annual inspection of our home for former street children and therefore our application for extension of license applied for in March 2010 is still pending even after the end of the financial year 2010-2011. As every year we submitted another application for extension in March 2011 and hope the problem will be solved within the next financial year.

(iii) Education – All of our children went to school throughout the year. The children were attending the following classes of three different schools in Kolkata and two boarding schools in Kurseong:

Apollos' Academy

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Young Horizon School

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Manovikas Kendra

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Himali Boarding School, Kurseong

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Sunshine School, Kurseong

Class V	██████████
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The general downtrend of the results of our children in school was somewhat arrested in the past year and all children got promoted. This could be a sign that the change of the previous year to schools with a better student teacher ratio shows some results. We therefore encouraged the better students of *Apollo's Academy* to sit once again for admission test to *Young Horizon School*, which is a school with a higher standard than *Apollo's Academy*. Nine boys past the test successfully and therefore we will have a total number of 14 students in *Young Horizon School* from next year onwards.

(iv) Medical – A main medical problem of the last year was the knee operation of Jagannath Das in October 2010, which had become necessary due to a ruptured ligament. Besides this, there were no other major medical problems and the minor diseases and ailments were limited to the common cold and the usual bruises and fractures which are associated with sports in general and football in particular. Our general physician Dr. Mondal tried to keep all this in check and continued with his monthly examinations of our children, recording weight and height together with other health related data minutely in our health file. This way a good general state of health of our children as well as a healthy weight gain was once again clearly documented. Further to this the newly introduced health insurance coverage program or *Medi Claim* for all our children seemed to be a boon, as the entire cost for the knee operation of ██████████ was covered and paid by the insurance company. We have therefore continued with this program beyond the first year, which expired in January 2011.

(v) Sports and related Activities – Besides a good school education we focus a lot on physical exercise such as football, athletics, yoga, etc. as part of our education. Especially football still remains the top priority of the ASKMSC and with the foundation of our own football club 'FC Kolkata' as a subdivision of ASKMSC this effort has come to a new height in the previous year. Mr. Marbyn Molina from Honduras is still coaching our three teams separated according to age in a U12, U14 & U16 team and throughout the year many matches could be arranged. In this context it is also important to mention another highlight of the past year, a Football Camp in Puri under the special guidance of our French youth coach Michel Sauvestre. Another improvement is the introduction of a new website for 'FC Kolkata' www.fc-kolkata.org in the year 2010, where it is possible to follow all the achievements and developments of our players within the

association. A *Facebook* side was opened as well and the same represents a further success of our work.

In November 2010 our U16 midfielder Raju Chakraborty was already the second talent from our 'FC Kolkata' who was spotted by the chief scout of FC Bayern Munich, Paul Breitner during his visit to Kolkata. Raju will leave in July for the FC Bayern Munich Football Training Camp in Munich, Germany. Besides that there were a lot of other sports and activities again during this year, such as athletics, badminton, etc. Further we continued the run to the campus of *Victoria Boys School* from Kurseong town during our annual stay in the hills.

(vi) Leisure, Arts & Music – Apart from school and sports it is also an important goal of us to support the artistic abilities of our children and encourage them. Part of our education is to integrate art, music as well as literature and theatre into the leisure activities so that the children have the possibility to choose and create. Apart from playing there were always courses such as electronics, computer, cooking, tailoring, book reading, and many more. But many of these activities ceased to exist over time due to a lack of interest by the children or a lack of part time teachers or both. In this context we have to mention the cancellation of the art and yoga lessons since the beginning of 2011. Both teachers got new teaching assignments with the government and we have not found a replacement for them yet. Fortunately, Ms. Annelies Ghosh still holds her daily arts & crafts workshops every year during the winter months.

(vii) Birthday – Every year we celebrate the 19th of November as the birthday of all our children. This year we were already celebrating our tenth anniversary of this event and to match the occasion one of our children, Sudhir Dhopi, prepared a speech. There was a special program going on and the day was filled with games, fun and entertainment for the children and their guests. Last year some uninvited guests entered our premises and left with food (see previous report 2009-10). Because of that reason a gate man was hired for that day in 2010 with the result that there was no gate crashing this year. So this time the program could take part as usual and included cultural and culinary happenings.

(viii) Meals –In the past years little has changed concerning the meals. A balanced nutrition is our aim. We want to serve fruit, salad, vegetable and meat as well as carbohydrates in form of rice and bread in sufficient quantities. The children are still served mainly a choice of vegetable and dal curries with rice for lunch and dinner and sometimes roti is given instead of rice. Fish curry is served every Monday and meat curry with rice and vegetables

on Saturdays. Therefore the children get two non-vegetarian meals per week. On the other days curries with soybean flakes are offered for further protein intake. Both lunch and dinner are supplemented by salad. Milk and cereals are served for breakfast and we also continue to supply the children with fruits for the daily snack break in the late afternoon.

(ix) Excursions – There had been a few outdoor activities and day trips to various places of natural or cultural interest throughout the year and as every year there had been a picnic with games, food and fun at the beginning of December 2010. Part of our traditional annual excursions was the trip to Puri at the seaside in summer. This year a Football Camp under the special guidance of the French coach Michel Sauvestre took place for the first time. The success of this event promises a possible continuation in the future.

The annual journey to Kurseong was once again possible because of the owner of the *Makaibari Tea Estate*, Mr. Banerjee, who had invited us to the hills during autumn. Another boat trip to the Sundarbans happened in February 2011. Those boys of our society who are able to swim were allowed to join the adventure.

(x) Volunteers – The initiator and founder of our organisation, respected Mr. Wolfgang Muller has to be mentioned first. His devotional work is essential and important for the development of our project. In collaboration with his organisation in Germany the NGO “Aktion Lebenshilfe fur Indiens Strassenkinder e.V.” he assisted us greatly. Another volunteer from Germany is Ms. Annelies Ghosh, who has regularly contributed to our charity and teaches arts and crafts. Sometimes there are also some volunteers from our neighbourhood who help with the homework and studies of our children.

3. Finances:

In the past year the financial situation of the society was almost solely secured by our German sister charity the NGO “Aktion Lebenshilfe fur Indiens Strassenkinder e. V.” The flow of funds was stable and reliable. We could therefore fully cover our costs with their help. In addition to that the German NGO also provides personal sponsorships for our children.

There were also some local monetary contributions to our society again as well as the annual membership fees of our members. Furthermore some local clubs as well as private donors contributed clothes again.

4. Outlook:

In the coming year new staff is urgently required. A long-term cooperation should be the aim. Therefore it is important that the selection of the staff should be managed by a good selection procedure in the future. It is also planned that even after

employment staff training should be carried on. Furthermore there is still the intention of the implementation of a village project, as it seems to be imperative to separate the older boys from the younger ones and have an alternative place to accommodate them. It would also benefit our football project and could further improve it, if there was a full size playground included in that village campus. It would also be desirable to have some more admissions again to progress our main aim of helping some more street children.