

### Samaritan Help Mission

127, Noor Md Munshi Lane Howrah-711101

Website: - [www.geocities.com/mamoon1999\\_akhtar\\_shm](http://www.geocities.com/mamoon1999_akhtar_shm)

Blog With Video: - [www.samaritanhelpmission.blogspot.com](http://www.samaritanhelpmission.blogspot.com)

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### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Samaritan Help Mission (SHM) is a humanitarian educational institution based in the slums of Tikiapara, Howrah District in the Indian State of West Bengal. It is a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood with approximately 80% of the population being Muslims.

SHM was started by a 32 year old youth Mamoon Akhtar, who comes from the same slum. The motto of the Mission is "HELP PEOPLE BASED ON NEED, NOT ON CREED". It was started in a small thatched room without even an electric light in the



year 1999. The basic motive was to save the children of the locality from falling prey to the drug mafia. Most of the Muslim population is very poor - in an average household the father works as a Rickshaw puller or a casual labourer while the mother works as housemaid.



Taking advantage of their poverty, the poor children are forcibly pushed into drug peddling, bootlegging or begging by the local mafia. They never get a chance to study in school and when they grow up, many of them become hard-core criminals and ultimately it is the society, which suffers most.

*Mamoon Akhtar is a secular Muslim inspired by the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBHU) and Swami Vivekananda, and follows the Principle of serving*



*humanity taught by the Prophets and Saints of all religion. He always follows the mission of KHIDMATE-KHALQ (Manav Seva). He studied upto 12th Standard and works as a librarian in a small local school with a salary of Rs.3500/- per month. He meets*



*his personal and family expenses from this income and does not take any remuneration from SHM. SHM started as a small school on a 600 sq.ft. piece of land which Mamoon had inherited from his late Father. Mamoon donated this land to SHM and also built a small school of 2 rooms with all his life savings.*

In the beginning, the financial condition of the SHM was precarious and the total annual budget was as low as Rs.38,000/- per annum. Out of this, Mamoon and his friends contributed Rs.10, 000/- and the balance Rs.28,000/- was collected by door to door collection from houses in the locality and from some small offices. It was an uphill task and required persistent and tireless efforts. He also motivated the local college going poor girls of the locality to offer their services by teaching these children on the payment

of a nominal honorarium of Rs.100 per month. Till today, SHM is one of the few institutions which does not employ a single full time worker and the entire work is carried out by volunteers who receive a nominal honorarium between Rs.200 – 500 per month. His secular character, integrity and total transparency inspired the girls of all communities to join his noble mission of educating the children. He collected fees of Rs.5/- per child so that the mothers should also take interest. His hard work paid good dividends and within 2 – 3 years his work and motto was recognized by the local people and even good-hearted people from other cities and soon SHM started to receive good donations.

#### **PROJECTS: -**

Since 1999, SHM has started various programs such as **ILLITERACY ELIMINATION PROGRAM, SAMARITAN KINDERGARTEN, VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AND WIDOWS** and **COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM** for the poor girls. SHM started with 6 Children in 1999, but now there are 650 Children in all the educational projects. Almost all the children are progressing very well. *The children who used to stand on the streets holding packets of drugs and waiting for their customer are now coming to school in neat and tidy dresses, with books and bags in their hands. It is a very heart-warming sight.* The Vocational training programme is a big boost for the deprived girls, especially, widows and deserted women. After completing their 10-months training, they are now earning Rs.2700 - 3000/- per month, working from their homes and leading a life of dignity and respect. This year there are 150 girls who are getting the training. In the Computer Literacy Programme, the daughters of rickshaw pullers who had a distant dream of touching a computer are now operating the computers with great confidence!

#### **FUTURE PROGRAMMES**

Currently all SHM projects are run out of three different centers located nearby. Two of them, a garage and a small two room flat were donated by a generous German. The total area of all the three Centers is around 1800 Sqft, accommodating 520 Children in the educational project in three shifts, 150 Girls in Vocational Training Project and 60 Girls in Computer Literacy Program. The two new very important programmes to be implemented in the near future are –

- (i) Start of an English medium High School for girls in Tikiapara locality itself. We have already bought a 2-storeyed building for Rs.9 lakhs (the current value of the building was Rs.22 – 25 lakhs, but the owner, Adv.Ruby Dey, was very impressed with our work and so gave it to us at the cost price of Rs.9 lakhs). We are now drawing up plans for the renovation of this building to make it suitable for a school. The school will start from June 2008.(This Project is been Implemented from 26<sup>th</sup> May-08.
- (ii) We plan to start a big English medium High School-cum-Vocational Training Centre (for about 800 – 1000 students). We have already submitted a proposal (cost about Rs.80 lakhs) to Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur. We have requested them to contribute Rs.60 lakhs and the balance Rs.20 lakhs will be contributed by friends of Samaritan Help Mission. Informally we understand that the proposal is being considered favorably and likely to be cleared in the near future. We are already scouting for the suitable land so that we can start the work as soon as we receive the formal clearance.



## IMPACT OF THE WORK ON THE COMMUNITY: -

**There has been tremendous change in the thinking and life of the Tikiapara residents. They now understand the importance of education and want their children to be well educated.** SHM believes that anything given free of cost will

The Times of India Special Report Dated: 25th Dec 2005  
Uncommon Heroes: Legends in our midst



lose its value and importance. Therefore, for all its programmes, it charges a nominal fee and this has ensured the involvement of the guardians, especially the mothers. All of them are happy to be the part of the system. SHM within 6 years, has brought an educational revolution in the locality. Within 6 years, 3000 Children are back to school, continuing their education and marching towards a better future. The children of SHM are being trained in such a way that they develop a feeling of compassion for their fellow human beings and always have a secular outlook and love for their Motherland. SHM believes that our children will serve the nation better, will be part of its progress, and will break the barriers of caste, creed and religion. This was recognized by

even the leading newspaper of our country, which published a full-page special report in its Christmas issue dated 25<sup>th</sup> December 2005. First half page was devoted to 6 top Indians which included Amitabh Bachchan, Sachin Tendulkar, PM - Manmohan Singh, and Sonia Gandhi, Anil Ambani and Sunil Dutt, under the title "India's Idols". The second half page featured 6 ordinary Indians under the title - "Uncommon Heroes: Legends in our Midst". And one of these was none other than our good friend and founder of Samaritan Help Mission, "Mamoon Akhtar"!



The Renowned TV News Channel also covered the Work of Samaritan Help Mission, You can Visit the blog of SHM to View the NDTV news Video Coverage.

Click on the Link to watch the NDTV Video on SHM

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deirBQXXhg>

## **Donation Mechanism**

All Donation in India are Exempted Under Section 80G of IT Act. You can send your donations by A/c. Payee cheques drawn in favour of "**SAMARITAN HELP MISSION**" on the address given above and we shall arrange to deliver your receipt along with your IT Exemption Certificate.

**Samaritan Help Mission is also registered with FCRA under No. FCRA NO: - 147000199 Dt.12<sup>th</sup> July 2006, and so can freely receive foreign contribution. Its Bankers are - INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK, Kadamta Br (512) 177/1/1/1 Belilious Road Howrah-711101, Account No: - SB:- 6710, SWIFT CODE NO:-IOBAINBBA001.**



*Copy of the Foreign Registration Certificate (FCRA) Issued by Ministry of Home affairs Govt of India.*

Best Wishes & Regards,

For SAMARITAN HELP MISSION

RAMESH KACHOLIA

HON. ADVISOR.



## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Brief Introduction of various Samaritan Help Mission Projects in Tikiapara Howrah West Bengal**

- **Vocational training Project for poor girls and widows**
- **Illiteracy Elimination Program of formal School from Class I-IV for the underprivileged Children**
- **Samaritan Kindergarten**
- **Computer Literacy Program for the poor meritorious girls who do not have access computer education.**
- **Sponsorship Program for orphan Boys and girls for education from Primary level till class X and in coming future for further studies.**
- **Adopt a family Program**
- **Samaritan Girls school (An English Medium School for the poor Girls of all Communities)**
- **Awareness Program (Family Planning among the parents/Immunization of Pulse Polio/Propagation for importance of Vegetarianism among the children and parents.**

The vocational training Project was started three years ago for the illiterate girls and women who have been divorced by their husband, tortured or abandoned by their in-laws. Many such abandoned ladies take up the job of housemaid due to their illiteracy and poverty and also get involved in various types of nefarious activities. A large numbers of such women of all communities get various types of vocational training at SHM which includes dress making, Hand embroidery and knitting.



Apart from vocational training these poor girls gets non-formal education and are able to write within three years. Since the project started, 305 women were empowered till 2008,. They are leading their life with respect and dignity. After the successful training,



the Girls are supported with Rs. 1000/- as interest free loan to purchase equipment for their work. A team of garments manufacturers provide work to the trainees and they are earning Rs.2500 to 3000/- per month. Now they have become self reliant and consequently respected by their in-laws. They also are able to send their children to SHM School and pay their nominal fees. These girls have become an example to those women who do not dare to take out a step from their house and are the victim of atrocities by their husbands and in-laws. In the last three years, there has been tremendous change brought up by these girls who are motivating such women and girls to join the Vocational Courses to become financially established.

### **Samaritan kindergarten project**

Samaritan Kindergarten project was started in Jan-2006, in the Center no: -3 at SHM, 76/3, Srinath Porel Lane Howrah-711101,. The place was originally a motor garage measuring 650 sqft owned by a German Doctor who donated the same to SHM. The



mission of this project is to bring each underprivileged child upto age of 3 years under the Illiteracy Elimination project. The Purpose of starting the kindergarten program was that we found a number of children below and upto the age of 3 years, whose both parents were



working (typically the mother as a housemaid and the father as Rickshaw puller), did not go to any school. In most cases, when their mother left for her work, she left the child at a neighbors' house in the slum. Most of these small kids ended up roaming



around and a few even met with accidents on the road. A bigger issue was that a begging mafia is also very active in the slum. When they find that a lady has gone to work leaving the child alone in the neighborhood the mafia has been known to forcibly take the child, give it to another lady who begs house to



house, showing the poor child, and making him/her cry by beating. Before the mother comes, they drop the child back to the neighbor house, Many such incidents occur regularly in the neighborhood. Slowly the child catches all the happening in the surrounding and when he grows up to the age of 10, instead of going to school he engages himself in begging profession.



Most parents do not want their children to be involved in such a profession and want their kids to live with dignity. They do not have any alternative to leaving their kids in the neighborhood as most

employers do not allow the children at their house or place of work. The children continue to be easy target of the begging mafia and the poor mother and father are helpless.



Keeping in view the above situation we started the Kindergarten project to bring these children under the kindergarten project, The system is designed in such a way that when the mother or father leaves for work, he/she can drop their child at SHM and when they come after three hours they can pick up their child from school,