

# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

May-August 2008



Come, let us do something

Figure of the Issue:

**27** July

Annual Programme of EKK at Paschimbanga Bangla Academy



“Eso Kichu Kori” with the beneficiaries of Project “Medha” at Abanindra Sabhagriha on 18th May, 2008

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## From Editor's Desk

Last three months witnessed Eso Kichu Kori to accomplish a new feat with all the obvious hustle & bustle playing in sync. It finished its first lap quite smoothly. Yet we realise, the marathon ahead will be a different 'feet'-game altogether.

This May, EKK and Project Medha touched the winning rope for their first season. As promised a year back, we returned to the students who are now in std. XII and did things conforming to the Project Medha norms.

This newsletter brings you more on this along with the news of EKK's first ever medical awareness camp and also a journey of learning from one of the remote places of West Bengal.

During the processing of our every endeavour throughout the time bygone, we always learned a new thing or two. This continuous learning has been of tremendous impact; mostly helping us to reshape the regular procedures and more importantly, refine our thought process to tackle the forthcoming challenges in a better way.

And we never mind being obedient students when there is, just, a call within us.....



Come, let us do something



Prof. Samiran Chatterjee and Mr. Debabrata Bhattacharjee with EKK President Mr. Asim Gupta during inaugural session at Abanindra Sabhagriha on 18th May, 2008 (Left)



Mr. Debabrata Bhattacharjee hands over the books to Sukanta (one of the beneficiaries) (Right)

## A Circle called Life

We promised them to be back after one year. And we kept our words with great efforts put in from every corner that in effect, went on bolstering our confidence for the coming days.

18<sup>th</sup> May 2008, the life at Eso Kichu Kori met its other end and completed a circle which was let loose on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007. EKK's most ambitious project – Medha, which saw the daylight successfully on the aforementioned date last year, when we had felicitated 24 beneficiaries, finished its term for the session 2007-2009 on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

That day, we gathered at Abanindra Sabhagriha of Kolkata Information Centre all pepped up. Having taken lessons from past experiences, the volunteers were given specific charges of preparations and arrangements and not multiple ones. Even a few enthusiastic ones had to be 'controlled' just to smooth things away. Finally, this tactic proved itself big time as everything went just perfect.

21 students who got promoted to std. XII this year were called on that day (we conferred study materials to the rest of 3 at Purulia during our tour there on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May'08). We had Prof. Samiran Chatterjee, Department of I.T., Jadavpur University as Chief Guest and Mr. Debabrata Bhattacharjee, Sr. Executive, TCS as Special Guest amongst us. Prof. Chatterjee, in his short yet compact speech highlighted on the present education scenario of West Bengal and provided some useful guidelines for the students to cope with the rapid changes. Mr. Bhattacharjee then shared his experiences at the IT industry with invaluable suggestions regarding soft skill techniques. In plain words, we emphasized on the importance of knowledge all around these days and encouraged them to just go for it. From our previous experiences of study tours, it already became evident that they have been lagging in this aspect in an alarming way. It's a pity these meritorious students even cannot afford a newspaper daily.

After Prof. Chatterjee and Mr. Bhattacharjee, it was EKK's member Nilarya Talukdar who turned up with a wonderful presentation on EKK's activities till date. It was slick, exact and a beautiful remembrance of our efforts.

(Contd.)



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**Kaushik Das Sharma's Career Options Presentation (Left)**  
**Nandadulal Das sharing his experience of Community Development (Centre)**  
**Shri Debabrata Bhattacharya providing suggestions to the students (Right)**

We began the felicitation part of the program soon after that. All of the students were called one by one and Prof. Chatterjee and Mr. Bhattacharjee handed over books for std. XII & other study materials to them. Books given were according to their requirements and study materials were alike last year.

Then a documentary 'Swapner Uranera' (The Flights of Dreams) was shown which was shot on EKK's Purulia tour this year and processed entirely by its members. Though amateurish in looks and quite terrible in sound renditions, it was aimed to let the audience know about the dreams of the students and their sheer helplessness to pursue those due to lack of proper knowledge. Kaushik Mukherjee, one of the patrons of the tour helped the audience to relate with the purpose of the documentary.

With all the real help to meet all the real needs appeared next Kaushik Das Sharma with a brilliant presentation on Career Options. His association with an Engineering college had certainly helped him to understand the problem at basics and widen his spectrum. Thus followed his meticulous presentation ranging from the details of B.A to the arena of Law including all the colleges offering those courses. We could not find any discipline suitable for our students left out. After the presentation, an open session was conducted where students interacted with us regarding their career prospects with lots of queries. This exposure was unique to them and they did not fail to grab it readily. At the end, we became confident that it would help them in a great deal beforehand in analysis and preparation for their respective careers.

It was finally over and we quite obviously were looking for lunch-packs. Now it was EKK volunteers again who satiated everyone's hunger with swift distribution of the packs.

The small crowd left the place smiling; we at the success of another program and the students with new books & lots of knowledge. We wished them all the best for the higher secondary examination next year. The satisfactory grins on their faces were speaking volumes for our mettle....

And then, their faces got faded into the city lights. But we had ensured not to let their life fade anymore. The deserted place will be full again, somewhere else maybe, with all the laughter and happiness. We will return again on that day.

The circle of life can never be stopped.

**Aveek Choudhury**  
(Member, EKK)



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**“Eso Kichu Kori” with Baburam Mahato and Bapi Gorai (from left), EKK Tour at Purulia, 3 May 2008  
Baburam & Bapi had received books from myself (Kaushik).**

## Purulia Tour to meet our real stars

It was a very hot midsummer noon on 3rd May 2008. We, five volunteers, Tilak Gupta, Aveek Choudhury, Debal Ranjan Jana, Gautam Banik and myself got down from "Rupashi Bangla" at Purulia station with the aim to meet three students from Purulia District under "Project Medha" and to hand them over the books and other essentials they require for their study in class XII.

The first student we met was Baburam Mahato from Baghakanali village of Ranibandh area. Baburam stays in a hostel for studying in a school in Purulia town. He had lost his father at a very early age and has his mother, five brothers and two sisters staying back in their native village. As it was not possible to go to his home we met him at our hotel. Their only source of earning is from a small piece of agricultural land. Baburam wants to be an Engineer in future but he didn't seem to have a clear idea about that. When asked about the reason behind choosing such career option he replied with a coy smile, "Engineers have big house".

The second student we met was Bapi Gorai. He stays at Raghampur village very near to Purulia town. He lives with his parents, one sister and one brother. His family income comes from selling milk. Amongst the three students we met there he seemed to be most clear about his career plans. He wants to be a doctor.

Our final destination was Samir Pramanik's home that is in Kustaur two stations away from Purulia. Samir lives with his mother and elder brother in a very small typical one room hut. He unlike others is a student of arts stream and wants to study English Hons. after higher secondary.

It was a great experience which enabled us to witness their fight against all odds and realizing their goals. We salute the fighting spirit of all these real stars.

**Kaushik Mukherjee**  
(Member, EKK)



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Medical Awareness Camp organised by “Eso Kichu Kori” at Ukhura, Burdwan, 1 May 2008

## Medical Awareness Camp

The motto of Project Medha is not only just helping a handful of brilliant but economically challenged students to achieve their full potential but also to uplift the backward communities they belong to. Through various counselling sessions with the students and study tours conducted to their villages, we tried to understand the basic needs of these communities. It is only then we have decided to conduct a Medical and Health Awareness Camp at Ukhura, the native village of one of the Medha Scholars, Tridib Ray in Burdwan.

In the morning of 1st of May '08, a team of six volunteers including Abira Ghosh, Kaushik DasSharma, Suman Kumar Ghosh, Tania Dey, Kushal Saha and myself boarded the Katwa Local from Howrah for the camp. The aim of the camp was to spread the awareness of hygienic practices and provide a brief idea of First-Aid best practices to the teens of the locality. For this camp to be effective, the volunteers of EKK had a First-Aid training session with St. John's Ambulance. We had also prepared a booklet describing the basics of First Aid and Hygienic practices. All teachers and staff members of the High School in Tridib's village were very supportive. After a series of discussions with the Headmaster we arranged the session for the students of class IX. A total of 52 girls and 42 boys attended the session. The teachers also took interest and joined us as audiences. We handed over the booklet to the students and conducted a survey on the physical conditions and nutritional and hygienic habits of the students. Kaushik Das Sharma, with his long experience of teaching college-students instantly connected with our audience and conducted a very interesting session. Through the survey we uncovered some basic nutritional and hygienic problems of the students and were able to give them some much needed guidance.

The Medical Awareness Camp was just one step towards our goal of betterment of this society. EKK wishes for your support to continue its work in this field in the days to come.

**Nilarya Talukdar**  
(Member, EKK)



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**Team EKK with Shri Debabrata Bhattacharya (centre) and beneficiaries at the premises of Abanindra Sabhagriha (Kolkata Information Centre) on 18th May, 2008**

## The Team EKK

It has certainly not been long - both the history of EKK and my engagement with the same. On an otherwise gloomy Saturday in the month of July, 2007 (July 7, to be exact) I had my first orientation with EKK, its objectives, its vision and the visionaries who were behind it. Since then, the tryst with EKK has continued.

The single word that may aptly summarize my experience with EKK is 'fun'! Dullness and EKK are inherently antithetic to each other where dullness only includes stiff-neck formalistic conduct, bureaucratic hierarchization of duty and responsibility, et al. These features are conspicuous in EKK milieu due to their complete absence. Professionalism runs strongly in EKK and all its activities, but it has never assumed the shape of commercialism, rather it has been a balanced mixture of accountability, commitment and above all - excitement! Be it the health-awareness camps in the districts, holding career-counselling sessions for the students or hopping along the College Street to buy books and stationary for the beneficiaries, the round-the-year schedule of an EKK volunteer never seems to lack the thrill (let alone the frequent adda sessions, where we simultaneously update our plans and unwind ourselves)!

In retrospect, I congratulate myself for joining EKK.

**Kinjal Ghose**  
(Volunteer, EKK)



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### Columns from abroad



The journey EKK had started in USA about a year ago continues in full swing. Donations are pouring in from all over the USA by enthusiastic and kind-hearted individuals determined to contribute and initiate a positive change in society. A number of new individuals have come forth for the donations in addition to our existing donors from last year. In this context, Kousik Bhowal from New Jersey raised fund at a new year's party. It is apparent that donors spontaneously responded to EKK's call. The patrons were not limited to monetary contributions alone, but several people volunteered wholeheartedly to spread EKK's message among their respective communities and friends. Needless to say, this act of kindness from the people will provide a stronger platform for EKK to continue its mission. Sayed Naved from Maryland wrote to Rituparna, saying he would be printing the flyers and a colleague of his would be distributing it at the Kali Mandir in MD. 'I was touched' admitted Rituparna.

We have many Sayeds and Kousiks who have come forth with such passion and nobility of intent. It is through the continued support of our donors, volunteers and members that EKK will continue to further its founding mission in the US.

**Indrani Talukdar**  
(Co-ordinator abroad, EKK)

### Help EKK

#### EKK introduces sports shirt for school students

Price Rs. 100 \*

\*The collected amount will be used for project Medha & Sopan.

[T-shirt for adults will be introduced shortly.]





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## Way to EKK

All interested donors may kindly send cheque/ demand drafts (of Indian Banks & in Indian Currency) in favor of "ESO KICHU KORI" to the following address:

Mr. Tilak Gupta  
B- 4/1, Brahmapur Northern Park  
Kolkata - 700070  
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Website: <http://www.ekk.org.in/>

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