

DUM DUM STUDY CENTRE


 **Project Category:** Education

 **Name of the Project:** Shiksha - Education for the Marginalized Children of Dum Dum

 **Funded by:** Stichting Actie Calcutta (SAC)

 **Supported by:** Seva Kendra Calcutta

 **Project Period:** April 2022 to March 2023

 **Location:** Archdiocese of Kolkata, West Bengal

 **Area Covered:** Dum Dum



About the Project and Program Status

1. The Beginning of the Extension Center:

The dream of SKC Extension Center Dum Dum came into reality that after much work and tirelessly working in the Center was used to utilize for purpose for the deprived and marginalized children. They belong to the poor families living at Rail Gate No.2 Dum Dum Cantt. and at the Cow shade (Khatal). Survey of the children was done in these two areas. About 25 School going children, dropouts and new comers were eager to learn and were interested to have tuition. Seeing the future of these children the step was taken by Seva Kendra Calcutta entrusted to Ursuline Sisters at Dum Dum Cantonment to begin the tuition for these children.



2. The Purpose of the Project:

- The project would focus to the education of deprived and marginalized children ensuring that they have access to develop their talents and knowledge through tuition classes and different activities.
- This would also encourage and motivate them to continue their studies through Government schools instead of dropping out of the school.
- To bring awareness on health and hygiene and value education.

3. Inauguration of Tuition Centre:

- On 10th of April 2022, the SKC Extension Center was inaugurated with 25 children at 4.30 pm. It was begun with prayer to God through the



intercession of St. Mother Teresa for the success of Extension Center Dum Dum. Sister Pratiti gave the introduction about Center. The purpose and moral values were told to make them familiar with one another. Children were very excited to begin their studies. They enjoyed dancing, singing and playing games after the inauguration.



- The project focused to the education of children at Seva Kendra Calcutta – Extension Centre Dum Dum situated at Nalta School Road, Kumarpara ensuring that the children had access to develop their talents and knowledge. This encouraged and motivated them continue through Government schools instead of dropping out of the school. The underprivileged of this area were given daily tuition by experienced teachers. They were provided books, study material that they were not in a position to afford. The education process involved them to learn Spoken English as well. The health check-up and health education were provided periodically to ensure their well-being.
- Regular classes were conducted at Extension Centre from 10th April 2022. The attendance fluctuated with average No. of 10 to 15. In the beginning, one teacher and two Sisters conducted the classes in two different groups one in the morning at Rail Gate No. 2, and the other in the afternoon at Extension Centre Dum Dum.

Activities During the Year:

Sl. No.	Date	Activities	Outcome
1	April 2022	Survey: 25 children were enrolled from Gwala para and Rail Gate No. 2 D.D. Cantt	Data collection continued throughout the year. End of March 2023 there were 30 children listed.
2	10 th April 2022	SKC - Ext. Centre Dum Dum was inaugurated for Tuition class with 25 children.	.3 Ursuline Sisters and a few parents were present witnessing the day of the beginning
3	April 2022 to March 2023	Regular Tuition classes were conducted - 6 days a week Monday to Saturday from 4.00 pm to 6.00pm	Attendance – 15 to 20 attended the class
4	April 2022 to March 2023	Subjects Taught – English, Hindi, Maths, drawing, action songs, general knowledge, moral values	Children are interested and progressive
5	August 15, 2022	Independence Day celebrated and Educational materials distributed	20 children participated
6	12 th November and 19 th December 2022	Parents meetings and counselling was conducted twice for Rail Gate – No. 2	Attendance – 10 to 12 women were motivated for education and understood the value of sending their children to the school

7	April 2022 to March 2023	Visits and counselling done regularly throughout the year - 3 to 4 families per visit	They are encouraged there is joy and less quarrel and family dispute
8	15 th October 2022	Tree Plantation – children planted 5 Neem trees	They observed the day of environment to save the earth.
9	12 th November 2022	Environment: cleaning of the area in front of the houses of Rail Gate No. 2	Made aware of environmental cleanliness
10	13 th November 2022	Children’s Day Celebrated at Rail Gate No. 2	17 were privileged to celebrate the day. Gift and snacks were given to each child.
11	19 th December 2022	Environment: cleaning of the area in front of the houses of Rail Gate No. 2	17 children were made aware of health and cleanliness
12	20 th December 2022	Christmas Get together was organized for children of Rail Gate No. 2	17 children were given gifts by SCC Unit Faustina Kumarpara
13	10 th January 2023	Review Meeting was held with the Director SKC staff at SKC Office.	Review of the activities of SKC -Ext. Centre Dum Dum done and updated. Future planning was viewed.
14	26 th January 2023	On 26 th January 2023 Republic Day was celebrated at SKC -Extension Centre Dum Dum.	15 children and 2 mothers with 3 Sisters observed the day. Children were given stationery and study materials.
15	18 th February 2023	Met with the Ward Councillor and his staff of Ward No. 7, Nalta Dum Dum	Rapport building with Mr. Robin Daria and co -workers. Informed about the activities of SKC- Ext Centre Dum Dum and Health Camp. Request was made to keep the area clean and safe.
16	25 th February 2023	Health Camp was organized for 30 children	Children were made aware of their physical and mental state. Received doctor’s advice as needed for treatment.
17	February - March 2023	Regular class work, weekly and monthly tests were conducted to assess their progress.	Children are open, creative, knowable and there is much progress.

Learnings, Challenges faced, and Solution:

It had been an experience of hope and learning about the background of caste, creed and culture of two different groups of students and families.

Challenges and Learnings	Solution
From the first day the racial difference was noticed that two groups did not mix with one another. Children from Rail Gate 2 did not join the tuition from 2 nd day itself.	Divided the group in two. Tuition is conducted at the door step for the children of Rail Gate No.2.
Number of children decreased drastically from 25 to 10-15. The reason is either parents are not interested, not willing to send children because of distance, from Rail Gate 2.	Some parents have arranged tuition for their children with private teachers.

Children from Rail Gate No.2 go working in the morning to empty garbage from flats, earn little money for themselves and support the family. Parents too go to work as domestic workers cleaning, swabbing, empty garbage as private / MCD employees.	A few joined the turion in the morning group at their doorsteps.
School going children get off from their School around 4.00PM. There is little time for their refreshment	Even then a few come to the SKC-Ext Centre for tuition
Children are active at the same time a few are difficult to control. They are slow in learning, take less interest.	Moral values and good behaviours are taught and often reminded.
Most of the time women at Rail Gate No. 2 defend themselves by making noise and quarrel begins in the area.	Constant visits and counselling have lessened the problem.
Families live in small huts; drunkard husbands give trouble any time.	Counselling has brought les noise and trouble.
There is a need of 24 hours security guard at Extension Centre. The place does not seem to be safe to keep anything in the building.	Met Mr. Robin Daria the Councillor of Ward No. 7 and his staff talked about the problem also gave in writing. Visits of two staff and their assurance is appreciated.
There is lack of space for outdoor games and exercise as well as indoor activities.	Managing with less space and what is available.
Every now and then garbage is dumped at our approach road to the building.	SKC - Ext Centre Staff does the needful.
There was no water supply in the building, Water reservoir needed repair, no electricity connection in rooms.	On 10 th May 2022 Mr. Subhash with Apu visited the building and the site, fixed Tulu Pump and water pipes, changed taps, cleaned the Water Reservoir, gave connection for water supply in the toilets and the kitchen. Electricity connection is given.

Impact:

It had been an experience of hope and learning about the background of caste, creed and culture of two different groups of students and families at Dum Dum Extension Centre. Concerns and Challenges are numerous. Many go for private tuition soon after the schools are closed. Monthly and weekly Tests are good to know their improvement. Families when visited are very hospitable, friendly, show willingness to send their children to the Centre. The Centre is open daily. Total cleaning of the building is done bimonthly besides daily swabbing of the classroom.

‘Never lose heart, hope for better.’ Having this inspiration awareness building is done by visiting children and parents as often as possible.