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## Deenabandhu Newsletter

#### **GIVING BACK - President's Message**

We are happy to announce that Deenabandhu publishes its first newsletter to spread the words of "giving back" to the society. As we take our baby steps towards reaching out the lesser fortunate brothers and sisters of our extended family, we are trying to make a difference to the not-so-fortunate, in our own small ways.

It is true that philanthropists spend their hard earned money in charities for the unfortunate and underprivileged ones. However if you get a chance to peep into their mind and heart, you would get a completely new perspective. Contrary to normal belief, *most "altruists" are the biggest "egoists"* – it so happens that they feel the pains of the unfortunate souls as their own. The day I felt the pain of the little child, who instead of going to school had to worry about digging through a dump stead full of trash for a piece of bread or had to work as a child laborer or simply go begging on streets, I could not lead my extravagant lifestyle that I was once so used to and enjoyed thoroughly. The worries of that little child on the street had become my own worries, the pains of that little soul had become my own pains and his/her destiny had become my destiny.

It is this "compassion" or "karuna" that is stressed in all religions. Compassion is the cause and charity is the resulting effect. However when helping the poor, I look at it as an opportunity to serve God, the Universal Giver. It is through compassion that a person achieves the highest peak and deepest reach in his or her search for self fulfillment. Unfortunately, we tend to turn a blind eye to the sufferings of our fellow brothers and sisters and build walls around our small circle of people that we call "family", completely disregarding the bigger and universal family that we actually belong to. This has been very aptly described by the scientific genius, Albert Einstein, as follows:

"A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty".





Above: Kalpataru Project at Sarada Kalyan Bhandar (SKB)
Deenabandhu sponsors higher education, child welfare projects
& Kalpataru project at SKB, Midnapore, WB
www.skbcharity.com



Children enrolled under Swami Vivekananda
Academic Excellence Tutorial Program (Class V to X)
at Gohaldanga (sponsored by Deenabandhu)
www.rsvsevakendra.org

### Deenabandhu - Mission & Vision

#### Why Deenabandhu was formed?

Deenabandhu was created to provide a conduit for the philanthropists around the world to route their compassion for the lesser fortunate children and distressed elderly men and women in rural India. It allows the donor to choose or create a project under the "Deenabandhu banner". Deenabandhu ensures the donors complete transparency and accountability.

Everyone deserves the best start in life and as KOFI ANNAN once said that "Education is a <u>human right</u> with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development".

Over 100 million\* children in India between 6 and 14 years of age are outside the school system.

(\* Source: <u>www. homeofgraceindia.com</u>)

We at DEENABANDHU strongly believe that children are future of the India. If we want to have better future for India we need to make sure these children have good education, healthcare and opportunity to grow.

**Deenabandhu** is a movement that empowers you to make a difference in the lives of the lesser fortunate brothers and sisters of the "extended family" by routing your love and compassion to them and to understand the concept of "GIVING is true having".

Our mission is to educate, empower and enable every individual who wishes to make a positive difference in the life of the underprivileged child.

Margaret Mead once said "Never doubt if a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" and that's what we at Deenabandhu believe in. Deenabandhu believes that every action counts. Every gesture that brings a smile to a child's face matters. So come join us to support DEENABANDHU and help realize a dream today.

To know more about how to make a difference, please contact us at :

www.deenabandhu.org

#### **Current Activities of Deenabandhu**

# Deenabandhu projects are targeted at rural development in the following areas:

- Provide education, nutrition, health and environment awareness to children in rural backward community
- Computer Literacy drive
- Communication in English and Confidence building
- Support higher education for impoverished youth talent
- Insist on literacy drive
- Support physically challenged children
- Care for distressed elderly women



Photo (above): Deenabandhu Founder & President, Saibal Mitra with Babar Ali, Murshidabad "Youngest Headmaster in the World"



Deenabandhu representatives (Saibal & Purnita) with hearing impaired children & Center Director (Venkyda) at Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Suryapur, India www.helpdifferentlyabled.info



Photo (above): Computer Training at a rural School



