

Oikotan Rural Development Society



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Oikotan is a non-profit organization, currently engaged in spreading the light of education, health consciousness and livelihood amongst the rural youth. At present two primary school level educational centers are being run in West Bengal: one in the Village Dhara about 15 kms from Joyrambati, Bankura and the



other in the Village Dhakidih about the same distance from Purulia district town. In both the places, the villagers were not conscious about the need of education for their children since most of them are daily wage earners. In July 2003 Oikotan initiated its first educational centre in Dhara for the needy and enthusiastic children. The centre at Dhakidih began in January, 2004. Two class rooms, functioning also as libraries, have been constructed.



Around 60 students, belonging to class I to V, are regularly attending the classes.

Four teachers, two in each center, have been engaged for the purpose and they are trying their best to improve the school further. The libraries are kept open to all the deserving students of the villages.

Aims and Objectives

- ❖ To undertake constructive activities for the welfare of children, youth, family, and community, in general.
- ❖ To open educational centres along with public libraries for the children of different localities.
- ❖ To help the needy but meritorious, especially of backward rural class, students for the continuation of their higher studies.
- ❖ To develop the awareness of health and hygiene among the rural people.
- ❖ To provide training and means for the improvement of agricultural system and to develop cottage and agro-based industries.

Programmes

We have started child education from the very beginning and continuing it with maximum effort. Five needy students are being given financial assistance for their continuation of further education. In the first half of this year, OIKOTAN arranged a free medical camp in Purulia to improve the general health consciousness of the villagers. Almost 300 villagers were examined by Doctors. Recently OIKOTAN moved a tree-plantation programme in Purulia. Numerous kind of medicinal plants were distributed to the villagers, who along with the members of OIKOTAN worked hand-in-hand in the plantation process. We have plans to extend our hands to improving the socio-economic condition of some deprived communities like the leprosy colonies in Purulia and Bankura.

Financial Assistance

Presently the members, mostly research scholars and students of IIT Kharagpur, and some well wishers from both inside and outside the country are regularly contributing and working actively to meet our goals. But we feel that to fulfill our dreams, we shall require much more assistance from our well-wishers either as financial help or through active participation. We welcome one and all to join this movement and make Oikotan a great success.