

# Visit to Gadadhar Pathshala

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Date: 04<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

We covered the familiar route to Ramnagar, Arambag, which is about 100 km from Kolkata, in about 3 hours, after a brief stopover at the famous Temple at Tarakeshwar dedicated to Lord Shiva and goddess Kali. This time I was accompanied only by Rtn Gautam Dasgupta of our club. We had invited other members from Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan East and Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan to join us for the visit but none could make it. President Suman Sood of my Rotary Club, being the principal of a montessori school herself, donated a substantial amount of toys and simple aids for teachers. She wanted to visit the school very much but dropped out at the last moment due to certain urgent work. I was also carrying puzzles, toys and teaching aids belonging to my daughter who is now 18 and has outgrown the need to use them.



We were greeted by Subhas Kundu at the school along with his team of teachers and other volunteers. The school building looked clean and well maintained and the garden in front was bright with the spring flowers.

As usual, Subhas had called all the students of the school to be present to welcome us with their performances. The bright and smiling faces of the children helped us to quickly get over the tiredness of our drive. Subhas took us first to the prayer hall upstairs where we showed our respect to Shri Ramakrishna, the renowned saint in whose childhood name Gadadhar the school has been named, and his even more famous disciple Vivekananda, the founder of Ramakrishna Mission. The school draws its inspiration from the teachings of the saint and the path of social upliftment shown by Vivekananda in his various initiatives.

There are now 73 students ranging from class 1 to class 5 on the rolls of the institution. Six teachers and 1 cleaner looks after them. Apart from helping the children with their academic curriculum, which they follow in their formal school, there are classes on arts & crafts, singing, elocution and dancing. Periodic health check-ups are also organised for the children as well as their family members. We could see most of the children were dressed in nice uniforms provided by the school.



The children then provided us a brief show with elocution and songs. The entire programme was performed by the children of classes 3, 4 and 5. It was a commendable performance considering the background of the children and the limited time for practice that they had got. After the programme Subhas asked me to say a few words to the children. I had never addressed an audience of so many children. So I asked them which season it was now. Most of the children responded in Bengali, the local language but I was happy to note that a few could say “spring” in English. I drew their attention to the beautiful flowers in the garden outside and compared each of the students to the blooming flowers and asked them to fill the world with their fragrance and colours.

After the cultural programme, we bid farewell to the children. This time Subhas had saved the cost of providing lunch to the students so that the funds can be utilised for



more useful purpose.

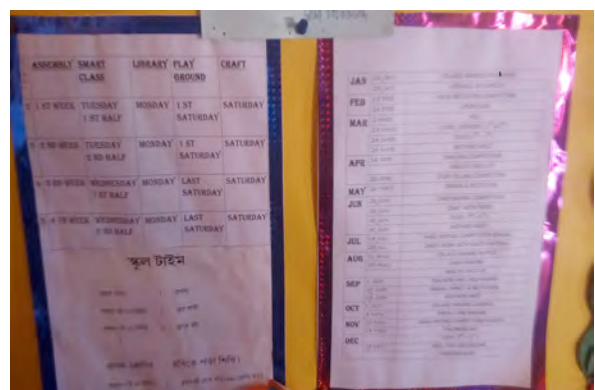
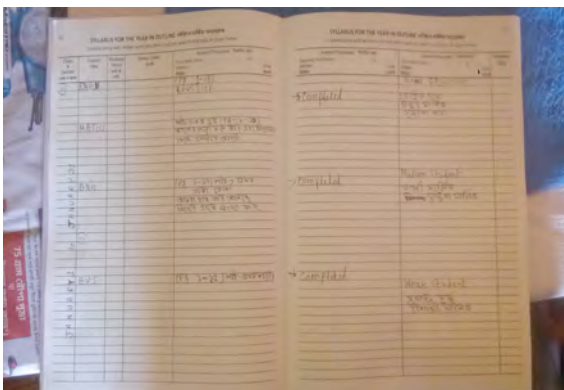
Subhas showed us the steel cupboard that has been recently purchased with the



donations from well wishers to keep books and papers. Art work which included cards made by the students were on display.



Subhas introduced the teachers to us and we requested them to continue the good work that they were doing.



We were shown the individual diaries maintained for each student to track their progress. Teachers make notings about the tasks given to the student and also

records whether he or she was successful in completing the same. A monthly programme for the school is displayed on a notice board. Events scheduled for a particular month are highlighted so that students who would like to participate can



prepare in advance.

Subhas took us around the school to show us another piece of land which they have acquired for the institution. This land will be used for expanding the activities of the institution. Last time we had discussed with him about getting involved in revenue generating activities to make the institution self sustaining. He had informed me that they are considering to keep livestock of animals and dairy farming as a means to augment the resources for the school. This time he showed me that one patch of land was being used for growing seasonal vegetables. He packed a few farm fresh vegetables for us to take home. They were also planning to breed improved variety of livestock, so that the quality of goats and cows in the villages improve.

Also he showed me a list of donors from whom he has been able to raise money over the last year.

Mr. Shrikant Kumar-	Rs. 3000 /-
Mr. Gigin Chandran-	Rs. 3000 /-
Mr. Raja Ram Mariappan M -	Rs. 3000 /-
Mr. Abhilash Kumar -	Rs. 5000 /-
Mr. Kalyan Sarkar-	Rs. 3000 /-
Mr. Jitendra Pati-	Rs. 2100 /-
Mr. Ved Prakash Rai -	Rs. 3000 /-
Total	Rs 22100/-

The Grant from Rotary E-Club of Canada One

The amount of CAD 2500 received from Rotary E-Club of Canada One has been completely utilised. Subhas showed me the following table to confirm the utilisation of the funds.



<u>Months</u>	<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Stationary</u>	<u>Fruits</u>	<u>Honorarium</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cumulative Amount (Rs)</u>
For Jul 17			8207	8000.00	16207.00	16207.00
For Aug 17			7907.00	8000.00	15907.00	32114.00
For Sep 17			8010.00	8000.00	16010.00	48124.00
For Oct 17	7500.00	5075.00	11249.00	8000.00	31824.00	79948.00
For Nov 17		7725.00	12437.00	8000.00	28162.00	1,08110.00
For Dec17			12034.48	8000.00	20034.48	1,28144.48
Grand Total	7500.00 CAD 147	12800.00 CAD 250	59844.48 CAD 1167	48000.00 CAD 936	1,28144.48 CAD 2500	

An extract of the ledger account for the grant is provided below:

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Closing Balance (Rs)</u>
GRANT			1,28,350.00	1,28,350.00 Cr
SIZEPLUS APPAREL(Uniform)		7,500.00		7,500.00 Dr
BAPPADITYA SARKAR (BREAK FAST)		59,844.48		59,844.48 Dr
Honorarium		48,000.00		48,000.00 Dr
Stationary		12,800.00		12,800.00 Dr
BANK CHARGE		205.52		205.52 Dr
GRAND TOTAL		1,28,350.00	1,28,350.00	NIL

This completes the drawing of the funds for the second grant received from Rotary E-Club of Canada One. The funds were received in the FCRA account of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan and disbursements out of the funds were based on salary records, bills and receipts produced by Gadadhar Pathshala and personally



monitored by Rtn Jayanta Chatterji, for which we are extremely grateful.

Later Subhas sent us a few snaps showing the children of Gadadhar Pathshala



learning and playing with the teaching aids and puzzles that we had left with them.

During our discussion we had asked Subhas what is the most pressing need of the school at the moment. Subhas mentioned that they needed four blackboards to make the classrooms look like classrooms. After returning from Arambag I requested our President Suman Sood whether we can consider this as a project. Suman immediately raised this in our next meeting and it was approved. A cheque for Rs 2400/- was handed over to the representative of Gadadhar Pathshala through District Governor of District 3291 Rtn Brojo Gopal Kundu during his visit to our club on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 towards cost of 4 blackboards. Subhas sent us this photo of a student using a blackboard. We are glad to be able to contribute to this project in our humble way.

Rtn Prasupta Sen  
Past President  
Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan East

