



## Welcoming Message from Dr. Michelle Harrison Mother and Founder – Childlife Preserve: Shishur Sevay

### An Ordinary Miracle

Once upon a time there was an old little house on a tiny piece of land in Panchabatitala, where New Alipore meets Behala in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, South Asia, Planet Earth, The Milky Way galaxy, in the Universe. Then a miracle happened, and it became home to 12 orphan girls, twelve girls suffering from various forms of social deprivation, nutritional deprivation, emotional deprivation, educational deprivation, and four of whom suffer severe physical disabilities.



Dr. Harrison and Mrs. Jasvinder Kaur

The miracle is that this house is now one of laughter and joy, and big dreams for the future. This required enormous determination and plain stubbornness. It required a deep and unshakable belief that children and flowers bloom when they are fed, protected, and loved.

The ordinary is that we are meeting the ordinary needs of the children. There is nothing special, no special treatments or programs. We have education, intensive education, not unlike Indian families in most places. The children have school, then tuition, then cultural programs, dance, song, art. Infact their needs are pretty simple, but they lack the parental and familial advocates to insure they have these necessities. And the society does not make meeting their needs a priority.

Many forces combined to bring me to become mother to these children, a sense of destiny, the voices of children calling to me, my Kolkata born daughter – and an awareness of hungry and abandoned children from the earliest times I can remember. My grandmother herself an immigrant to America, used to take me to the ocean, point out over the water and tell me never to forget the hungry children across the world. In Kolkata I feel close to her spirit and her strength.

In this second Annual Report 2007-08, we will write of Shishur Sevay in the context of Indian and international shared values and commitments to children. We will show that we give to our children is no different from what the international community including India agree are the rights of children, put simply, what they should have. That's all we are really doing, giving them what they should have.

I look at the blossoming of our handicapped children, so far beyond our expectations. They are each centers of love, giving and receiving unconditionally. They are the heart of our home. For the big girls, they are like the siblings they lost and we all celebrate each advancement, standing alone, rolling over, drawing a picture, beating a drum to rhythm, trying to talk, and talking, and always glowing when they are held and talked to. Our handicapped children have also started school. Each morning, dressed in their proper uniforms they go off to their teachers, their education, their bit of normalness of what should be the life of a child. They have a life! Infact their lives are full, with teachers, aunties, didis, and a lot of mother's love.



I am a dreamer and the dream grows. But this dream grows slowly, and it must grow from its foundation. A tree grows by feeding its roots, not by pulling at its branches. We are growing our saplings in the best soil we can create, with warmth, sun, food, and structure for when they are set off balance by unhealed wounds and inner winds.

Childlife Preserve : Shishur Sevay got its name from my stay at Kaziranga Wildlife Preserve in Assam. It is home to the Indian one horned rhinoceros, wild elephants, and the domesticated elephants who take us for journeys through the tall grasses. In the evening when the domestic elephants came to be bathed in the creek and fed, I played football with an elephant calf as he learned to be comfortable with people.

I found myself thinking about that place often, and wondering, "Why can't there be a place like that for children, a Preserve, where they are not prey ?" Thus the name, Childlife Preserve. And then because my life is a fusion of American and Bengali, there had to be a Bengali name so our home would be understood for what it is Shishur Sevay, in the interest/service of children.

In a world globally and locally full of violence and abuse, Shishur Sevay is an oasis, a place of growth, of healing, of love.

Dr. Michelle Harrison





## History of Childlife Preserve : Shishur Sevay

Childlife Preserve: Shishur Sevay, where a child is safe, where orphans disconnected from family and community are protected. In a world globally and locally full of violence and abuse, Shishur Sevay is an oasis, a place of growth, of healing, of love. The girls at Shishur Sevay have been abandoned by their families and rejected for adoption. For the most part, they were considered too old for meaningful education. The mission of Shishur Sevay is to give them every opportunity to grow into educated and disciplined young women. The mission for the children with disabilities is to give them every opportunity and rehabilitative means possible so they can achieve minimal self sufficiency, communicate with, and contribute to the world around them.

All twelve orphan girls arrived at Shishur Sevay in February 2007. All came from Sukanya Home, a Government of West Bengal institution for abandoned and lost children. All came by Order of the Child Welfare Committee as established by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (Act No. 56 of 2000). This is significant as the Government of West Bengal has a more rigorous screening and inspection system of approval for homes that will care for children who are in government custody as true orphans.

Within the first month, the following became clear:

- The children were in need of immediate medical and dental care as well as immunizations. One child arrived with malaria; another had open sores all over her body. Several required immediate tooth extractions.
- The children had all seen a lot of violence, murder, suicide, and had experienced all forms of abuse. They were at times tearful and fearful. They had no reason to believe that Shishur Sevay would be any different from places they had been before.
- Education, in basic skills of language and math were an emergency if they were to eventually move into formal schooling. The girls arrived with NO previous schooling and did not know numbers or alphabets in Bengali; They did not know colors or shapes, and did not recognize the map of India. Though they spoke Bengali, it was a Bengali vernacular of the streets.
- The children did not understand HOW to study and learn, so these skills and disciplines had to be taught alongside the basic skills. Sitting still was a challenge for them.
- The children were energetic and enthusiastic about learning. This was also clear from the beginning. They actually knew what they had missed and threw themselves into the work.
- A strong and caring relationship between the older girls and the handicapped little ones became evident very soon. The older children began tending to the handicapped children, holding them, and talking about their own lost families and siblings. Those relationships have become even stronger and more important over time.
- The handicapped children were listless and non-communicative when they arrived. They had little control of their heads and limbs. One would just spin in circles; another would bite anyone or anything within range of her mouth. It was unclear as to what they might eventually be able to do. The initial focus with them was on food and holding. Their diets had been primarily biscuits and milk, as we were told and all were small and thin.

May 2007, just three months after their arrival, the older girls had mastered enough to be admitted to Class I at the local government primary school. They had learned the alphabet, numbers, colors,





shapes, and the map of India! In the same month, the four handicapped children began outpatient treatment at Indian Institute for Cerebral Palsy. Every child was in a program. Shishur Sevay resembled an Academy as much as an orphanage. In addition to children going out to school, classes were held in the Shishur Sevay classroom six days a week from 10 am to 6 pm on school days, and from 8 am to 6 pm on weekends and holidays. In the evening the girls had classical dance three days a week, and classical song two evenings a week. The girls also had responsibilities in the home for laundry, cleaning the kitchen after meals, and cleaning the classroom.

It was the beginning .....



The founders of Shishur Sevay established the following guiding principles for the care of our children:

1. We shall provide a safe, nurturing, healthy, educational and culturally rich environment.
2. We shall develop each child's education and opportunities in ways that build competence, confidence, and independence.
3. We shall teach our children respect for others, irrespective of job category, caste, religion, skin colour, gender and age.
4. We shall teach our children to be responsible and contributing members of the community, and to participate in the care of those less fortunate.
5. We shall teach our children to respect and protect our environment.
6. We shall give our children a strong foundation in Bengali language, culture, and history, so they may be literate, contributory, and respected members of the Bengali community and Indian society.
7. We shall teach skills in English and Hindi languages so as to improve their opportunities for participation, work, and education in India and the global community.

*We shall have fun with our children and share our lives with them.*



## Shishur Sevay & The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children

The International Community has struggled with and debated what are “Rights of Children”: for more than eighty years. The first “Declaration of the Rights of Children was endorsed by the League of Nations in 1924, and called the World Child Welfare Charter.

The United Nations adopted more expanded version as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. 24th Nov. 1959. This date has been adopted as the Universal Children’s Day.

The 1959 Declaration evolved into the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child often referred to as CRC or UNCRC which was signed on 20th Nov, 1989 and became effective from 2nd Sept, 1990. Of the 193 countries in the world, only two have NOT ratified the CRC, namely the United States and Somalila. India ratified the Convention on Rights of the Child in December 1992, and just celebrated the 16th anniversary of its signing.

Shishur Sevay, as a model of non-institutional care of orphans has looked to the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a framework in providing the care for our orphans. We are simply complying with what 191 nations, including India, agreed are the basic entitlements of children, particularly those under the direct protection of the state.

### Article 2 :

“The States Parties shall respect & ensure the rights set forth to each child without discrimination of any kind...

Shisur Sevay put no restrictions on the girls we would take. When asked to choose among four handicapped children, we simply took all four. We try our best to protect the children from all forms of discrimination.

### Article 3 :

“The state parties shall ensure that the institutions, ... conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision”

Shisur Sevay is a registered and licensed social organization and home for orphans. The department of Social Welfare conducts regular inspections of the home and the records. Staff are all experienced in their work.



**Article 7 :**

“The child .....shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents”

The girls came without clear names or ages. None could recognize a flag of India. They were not aware of the rest of the world. They now know the flag and are proud to be Indians. They celebrate national holidays with pride. One of the handicapped children was recognized from another institution and we were able to find her mother. This child could not be taken care of at home and requires 24 hr. supervision and medical care. But her mother and siblings come to visit at times, and that makes all the kids happy. They see her visits as evidence that we respect their families and understand their sense of loss.

**Article 14 :**

“State Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.....”

The children of Shishur Sevay enjoy the freedom of expressing their views and thought. Daily prayer is held following Hindu customs and integrated with other religious beliefs and thoughts. We celebrate other religions' holidays, teachings and beliefs.

**Article 19 :**

“State Parties shall take all.....measure to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect.....”

Our girls were already subjected to abuse. We provide both preventive and curative support related to physical or mental violence, injury or abuse and neglect.

**Article 23 :**

“States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.....”

At present, there are 12 children of which 4 are severely handicapped. They suffer from spasticity and other neurological disorders. All the children are going to school. The handicapped children are attending Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP), Taratala. One of them is in Pre-nursery while the other 3 are in Class-I.



#### Article 24 :

“State Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.”

All the children have been immunized (DPT, Polio, Hepatitis-B, MMR). Routine check ups are conducted for teeth, eye and skin. During this year 1 child was seriously ill with malaria and had a full course of treatment with no relapse. Several girls had skin infections but these have been successfully treated. One child suffers from seizures, was hospitalized and is on medications.. Filtered drinking water is supplied to the girls. Toilets are hygienic and washed daily with disinfectant. The handicapped children are receiving physiotherapy and have orthotic devices for helping them stand.

#### Article 27 :

“State Parties recognize the rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.”

Shishur Sevay is in an economically mixed neighborhood. The standard of living at Shishur Sevay is higher than the poorest and lower than the most well off. Consideration is given to what may be the standard of living for these children in their future lives.

#### Article 28 :

“State Parties recognize the right of the child to education,.....”

All the children are going to school. In addition Shishur Sevay has teachers and classes six days a week. The handicapped children have a special educator five days a week as well as attending OPD at IICP.

#### Article 31 :

“States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest, leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts .....”

The girls engage in sports and cultural activities in the community. They also study dance, singing, and drawing at Shishur Sevay. The handicapped children partake of these activities as well. Shishur Sevay has a small garden and play area.





## Meeting the Needs of the Children



### Safe and Secured Shelter

Safe and secure at night, warm and protected at Shishur Sevay they are watched over by night staff and by Dr. Harrison, who stays with the children. Shishur Sevay contracts with a licensed Security Company for 24 hour guard coverage.

### Healthcare Services

All the children have been immunized (DPT, Polio, Hepatitis-B, MMR). Routine check ups are conducted for teeth, eye and skin. During this year 1 child was seriously ill with malaria and had a full course of treatment with no relapse. Several girls had skin infections but these have been successfully treated.



One child was hospitalized for her seizures. Dr. Ganga Prasad Roy who is ex-officio member of the Management Committee attends the children.

Good nutrition is critical to good health. Below is a typical week's food menu.

Day	Items	How the girls named days of the week.
Sunday	Chicken, vegetables, rice, dal	Murgibar
Monday	Fish, vegetables, rice, dal	Machbar
Tuesday	Egg, vegetables, rice, dal	Diembar
Wednesday	Fish, vegetables, rice, dal	Machbar
Thursday	Nutrela, vegetables, rice, dal	Nutrelabar
Friday	Fish, vegetables, rice, dal	Machbar; also called Tiffinbar as we would buy tiffin on the way to school on Fridays
Saturday	Paneer, vegetables, rice, dal	Paneerbar

In addition each child has one egg daily, and milk and yougurt (doi). They have at least one serving of fruit daily.





The pumpkin vines grew up onto the roof. A special educator is showing the vines to her class. The big pumpkin from the roof, right, lasted for several meals. The girls helped prepare the meals.



### Education

We began with a model of teaching a wide variety of subjects to bring the children up to social awareness in the world – but we shifted back to basic skills. Without literacy the children are totally dependent on electronic information, multimedia, and the superficiality of the media. But once they can read they can take in information on their own and develop opinions and philosophies on their own. Bengali is the medium of education with English as a second language. It is their mother tongue, the language of their thoughts, emotions, and imagination. The girls attend the local government school from 6:30 am to 10 am. Shishur Sevay has classes for the remainder of the day, with teachers of Bengali, English, and Math.



The children all love to learn ....



At Shishur Sevay, everyone is given education and opportunity.



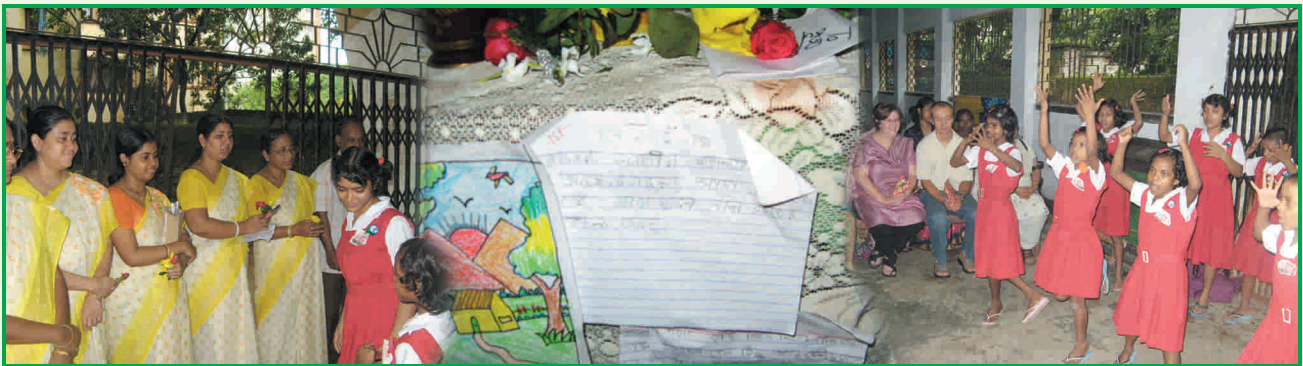


## Participation of Children in Community Activities : 2007-08



### Independence Day

15th August is the Independence Day in India. The girls of Shishur Sevay dance at their school, Sahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya. They are in the procession but it is not obvious who they are. They blend in, which is how it should be. They are part of the school community, which is how it should be.



### Teacher's Day

Teacher's Day was observed on 5th Sept, 07 when children offered flowers and cards to their teachers. Some recited poems, while others danced or sang songs. One of the Shishur girls was first in the handwriting completion in Class I.



### Sit & Draw Competition

A "Sit & Draw" competition was organized by the community and the Girls of Shishur Sevay participated. Our handicapped children were invited to participate also and were given special prizes.



### A Visit to The Academy of Fine Arts

Shishur Sevay visited the Academy of Fine Arts and loved the different kinds of art, drawings, paintings, they say. This particular picture caught their interest and they talked with each other about the girl and her obvious sadness and poverty. They met the artist and asked him why he painted that girl. He said he saw her in his imagination.

When the girls came home they began drawing from their imagination. The girls have a sense of what they missed in their lives and have a particular fascination with art, historical monuments, culture, things many children take for granted.



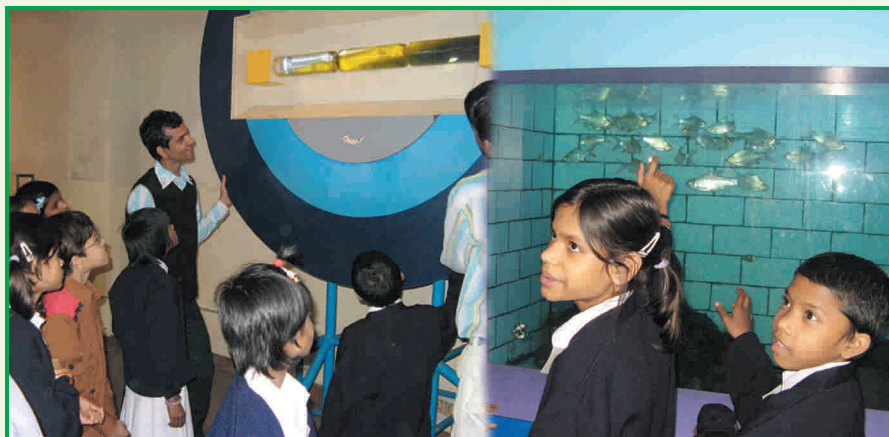
The artist explains his vision to the girls



Ice cream at the fountain after exploring the exhibits

### A Visit to The Archaeological Museum

Close to Shishur Sevay is the State Archeological Museum where the girls learned about Indian history through the models of archeological sites. They were especially excited by the terra cotta art, tiles representing Gods and stories.



### A Visit to Science City

A group of volunteers from AID India offered to take us all to Science City for the day. Everyone went, all the children and staff. Science City presents an opportunity for education and for fun. Science City presents an opportunity to understand experiments, physical properties, and forces, as well as having fun.





## More Education and Fun







## “Natural Inclusion,” written by Dr. Harrison for Deepshikha, a publication of the Indian Institute for Cerebral Palsy

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CEREBRAL PALSY

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Deepshikha

### Natural Inclusion

**Dr. Michelle Harrison**

*Mother and Founder - Childlife Preserve: Shishur Sevay*



*Mrs. Pal teaches us*



*Swarup Paul from IICP,  
comes to us for physiotherapy*

**“We didn’t plan on having handicapped children,”** I hear myself saying these words to a visitor and I think, “But who ever *plans* on having handicapped children?”

We are a new orphanage. One day we went to the government institution to pick up a group of orphans to come to our home. The authorities asked if we would also take four handicapped children, or at least one or two. We looked at them, four tired and lost looking children on a bench. We could not turn any of them away. I said, “Today we will take any child you give us.” We all piled into our car, seven children in all, that day, to come home to Shishur Sevay.

I am a mother, a doctor, a writer, and a visionary. I see things as they are, in the present. Then I have a vision of how they could be, and I want everyone to see and share the new vision with me. All my life, I have been this way. Shishur Sevay is a vision transformed to reality, a home for orphans. It is a shared dream of Mrs. Jasvinder Kaur and mine. For the past seven years, we have worked together sponsoring children in schools. Now we have Shishur Sevay, with thirteen orphan girls, aged 2-12 years. The children with disabilities are the youngest, ranging from 2-5 years. We do not really know their ages. They came without papers or histories.

The children with disabilities are thriving. All four receive the services of IICP, even at our Home. For them, as well as for the non-disabled orphan children, education is their best means of overcoming their handicaps. For the young ones, the handicaps are physical. For the older girls, they are social and educational. The handicapped children benefit from the constant attention of the older girls. The older girls, who have lost their families, soothe their pain by caring for the younger ones. When we all sit together for prayers, the handicapped sit on the laps of the others. When we set out for the playground

the children ask simply, “Can they come too?” Two of the young ones sit in on the regular classes. They cannot speak, but they watch intently. They try so hard!

**Our handicapped children are an integral part of our home, our lives, the lives of all our children who do not have disabilities, and our hearts. Their energy and drive to do what they see others doing is inspiring. With the help and guidance of IICP we will help them achieve their full potential. They are our children.**



*We go to IICP to learn*



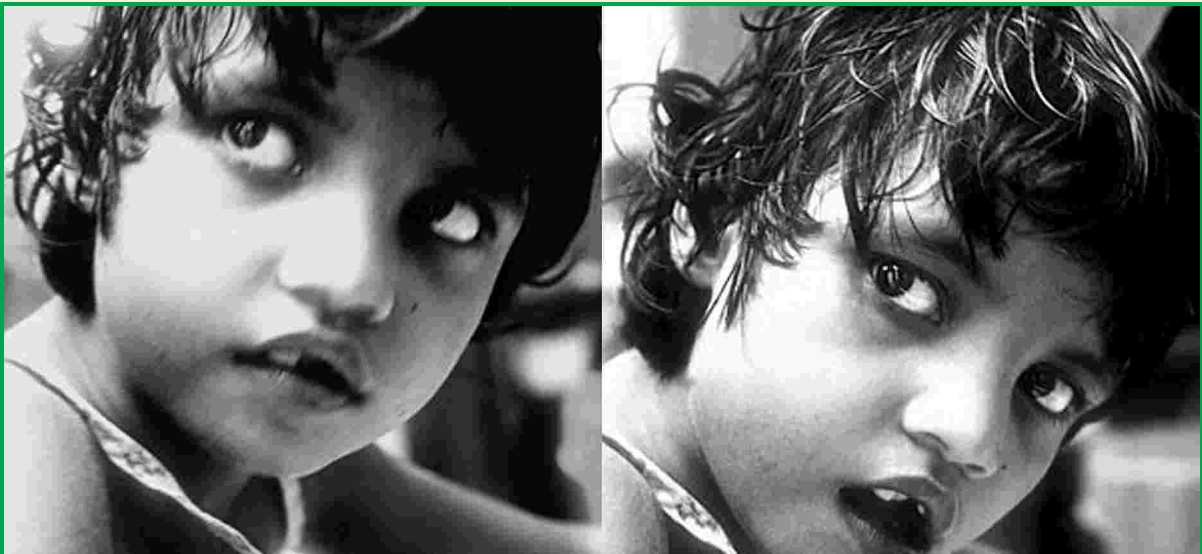
Our children with disabilities touch people in different ways as we reach for out human connections. A friend of Shishur Sevay visited and then wrote about Rani on her blog :

From Kasturi's Blog, 14 Oct 2008, with permission.

### Rani

I met Rani in June. Rani talked to me with her eloquent, expressive eyes. She smiled - just twice - but otherwise was meditative, quiet, absorbed. Her hair was still wet from the shower, and adored her innocent face in careless curls. Her thin lips were parted but she did not speak. She clutched at my camera-strap and pulled it so hard I almost dropped it. She clutched at my churidaar, too, and tugged at my dupatta. Rani is a keen observer and keenly observed every move we made. She watched intently, yet indifferently, as we fed the rabbits. She swayed and tapped her hands on the desk, in perfect beats, when the tape-recorder played Salil Chaudhury.

Rani is not this calm always. She gets into seizures - violent fits of rage, anger, passion.



Rani, sitting in her chair in the morning sun...

Rani, large, moist, eloquent, talking eyes...

Rani, swaying her thin fragile body with every beat of music...

Rani, tugging hard at my camera strap...

Rani will stand up and speak someday.





## A Report Card from the First Year. (For non-Bengali readers these are “A’s” across the top).

**ভূতায়**  
শিক্ষক - শিক্ষিকার মন্তব্য ও সুপারিশ

মন্তব্য ও সুপারিশ		
প্রথম পর্ব	দ্বিতীয় পর্ব	তৃতীয় পর্ব
'ক' খুব ভাল	'ক' খুব ভাল	'ক' খুব ভাল
Tobasi Goswami. শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08	Tobasi Goswami. শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08	Tobasi Goswami. শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08
Tobasi Goswami. প্রধান শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08	Tobasi Goswami. প্রধান শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08	Tobasi Goswami. প্রধান শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28/11/08
Hahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya (P-Primary) অভিভাবকের স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28.1.08	Hahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya (P-Primary) অভিভাবকের স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28.1.08	Hahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya (P-Primary) অভিভাবকের স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ 28.1.08

বিশেষ ইষ্টব্য :  
১। গুণগতমানের বিবরণ :  

নম্বর	গুণগত মান	তাৎপর্য
৮১-১০০	ক	খুব ভাল
৬৬-৮০	খ	বেশ ভাল
৫১-৬৫	গ	ভাল
৩৬-৫০	ঘ	সাধারণ
২১-৩৫	ঙ	অতি সাধারণ
০-২০	চ	দুর্বল

২। প্রতি পর্বের শেষে অভিভাবকগণ প্রগতিপত্র পেয়ে সেই করে বিদ্যালয়ে ফেরত পাঠানেন।

**কলকাতা প্রাথমিক**  
**বিদ্যালয় সংসদ**  
২৬, ২৬/৭, হিন্দুস্থান পার্ক, কলকাতা-৭০০ ০২৯

**শিক্ষার্থীর প্রগতিপত্র**

শিক্ষাবর্ষ (২০০৭-২০০৮) \_\_\_\_\_

বিদ্যালয়ের নাম সাহাপুর সবিত্রী বালিকা বিদ্যালয়

ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর নাম \_\_\_\_\_

জন্ম তারিখ ২২/০৬/২০০৭ (২২/০৬/২০০৭)

শ্রেণী প্রথম বিভাগ ১ রোল নং ২১

পিতার নাম \_\_\_\_\_

মাতার নাম মিশেল হুয়াংসন

অভিভাবকের নাম এ

ঠিকানা ২৭/২৭, সাহাপুর স্ট্রেন রোড  
কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৮

**কর্মনির্ভর বিষয় / কাজের মূল্যায়ন**

কর্মনির্ভর বিষয় / কাজ	মূল্যায়ন	১ম পর্ব	২য় পর্ব	৩য় পর্ব
খেলাধুলা ও শরীরচর্চা	মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	২০/৮/২০০৭	২৭/১২/০৭	২৮/৩/০৮
	গুণগত মান	ক	ক	ক
উৎসাহদানশীল ও	মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	২০/৮/২০০৭	২৮/১২/০৭	২০/৩/০৮
সৃজনশীল কাজ	গুণগত মান	ক	ক	ক
প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতামূলক	মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	২২/৮/২০০৭	২৭/১২/০৭	২২/৩/০৮
কাজ	গুণগত মান	ক	খ	ক

**১ম ও ২য় শ্রেণীর পরিবেশ পরিচিতির মূল্যায়ন**

দ্রব	তারিখ	গুণগতমান	তারিখ	গুণগত মান	তারিখ	গুণগতমান
১ম	২৭/৮/০৭	ক				
২য়	২০/১/০৮	ক	২৬			
৩য়	২০/৩/০৮	ক	২৬			

**বিশেষ গুণাবলীর মূল্যায়ন**

বিশেষ গুণাবলী	১ম পর্ব	২য় পর্ব	৩য় পর্ব
শৃংখলা ও নিয়মানুবর্তিতা	ক	ক	ক
সহযোগিতা ও সহযোগিতা	ক	ক	ক
নেতৃত্ব	ক	ক	ক
স্বাস্থ্য সচেতনতা ও পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা	ক	ক	ক
সাংস্কৃতিক নৈপুণ্য	ক	ক	ক

শিক্ষার্থীর উপস্থিতি	১ম পর্ব	২য় পর্ব	৩য় পর্ব
মোট কাজের দিনসংখ্যা	৭৮ দিন	৬৯ দিন	৬৮ দিন
উপস্থিতির দিনসংখ্যা	৩২ দিন	৬৫ দিন	৬৩ দিন

**পঠন-পাঠন নির্ভর বিষয়ের মূল্যায়ন**

বিষয়	১ম পর্ব		২য় পর্ব		৩য় পর্ব	
	মোট প্রাপ্ত নম্বর	গুণগত মান	মোট প্রাপ্ত নম্বর	গুণগত মান	মোট প্রাপ্ত নম্বর	গুণগত মান
মাতৃভাষা ২০০	৮৮	ক	৯৭	ক	৯৮	ক
গণিত ২০৫	৯৭	ক	৯৮	ক	২০০	ক
ইংরেজী ৫০	৮৮	ক	৫০	ক	৫০	ক
ক) ইতিহাস						
খ) ভূগোল						
গ) প্রকৃতি বিজ্ঞান						
মোট ২৬০	ক	২৪৫	ক	২৪৮	ক	



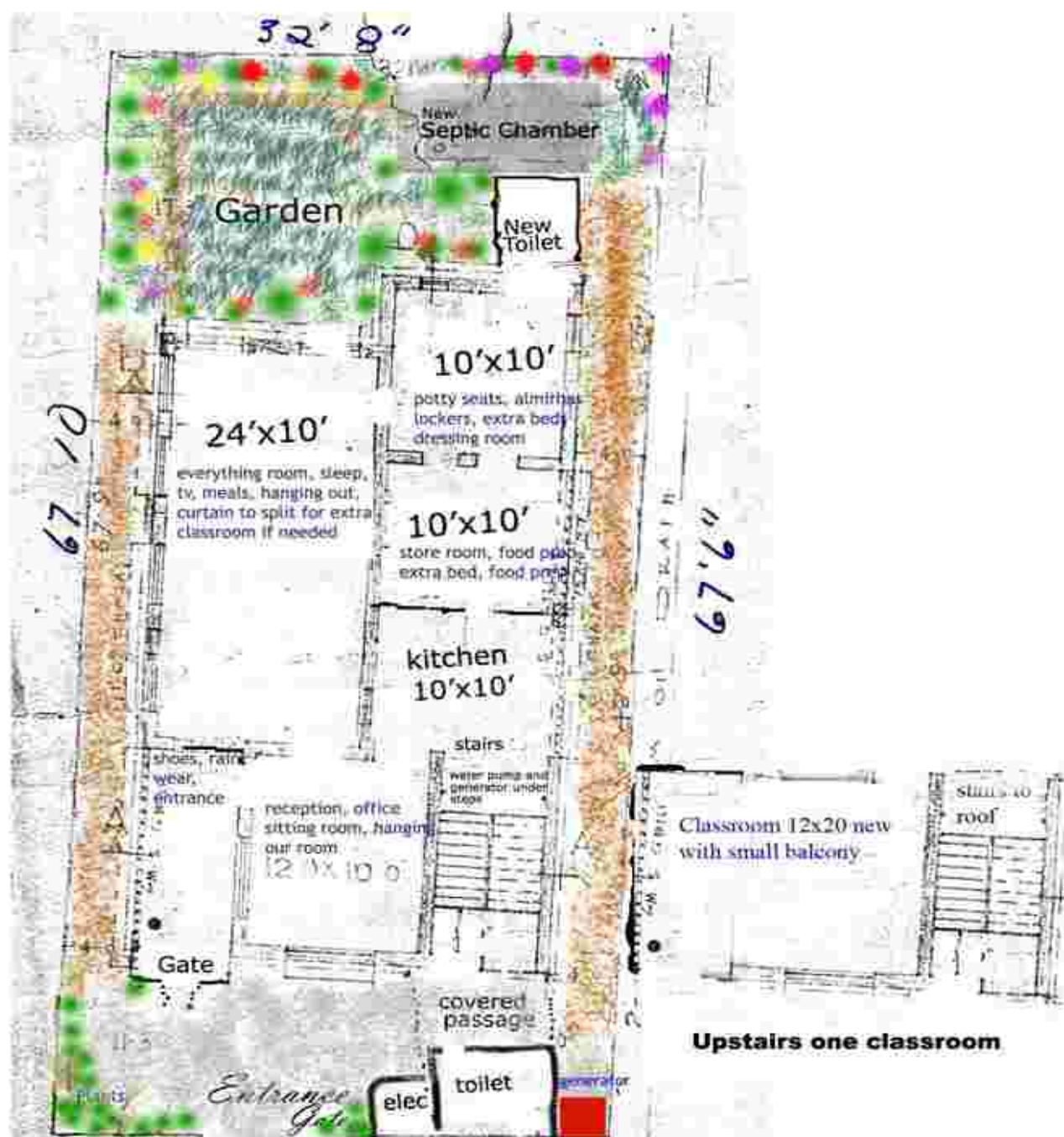
The governing body for the year 2007-08 consisted of some eminent personalities from different ways of life without whose active cooperation the organization could not function successfully.

Governing Body for the year 2007-08	
<p><b>Hon. Justice Mr. S. S. Ganguly</b></p> <p>Judge High Court, Kolkata(Retd.) and Vice-Chairman (Ex.) Salt Lake</p> <p>President</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Jasvinder Kaur</b></p> <p>Social Service</p> <p>Vice - President</p>
<p><b>Mrs. Seema Gupta</b></p> <p>Section Officer, High Court of Kolkata, Criminal Division</p> <p>Secretary</p>	<p><b>Mr. Jyotirmay Das</b></p> <p>Retd. Manager, SAIL Rourkela Power Plant</p> <p>Treasurer</p>
<p><b>Ms. Cecilia Devyani Harrison</b></p> <p>South Asian Studies; Graphic Designer; Percussionist</p> <p>Member</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Shanti Devi</b></p> <p>Yoga Specialist</p> <p>Member</p>
<p><b>Ms. Imroze Shami</b></p> <p>Educationalist Principal</p> <p>Member</p>	<p><b>Kumar Bhattacharya</b></p> <p>Development Consultant</p> <p>Member</p>





## Shishur Sevay - caption needed



শিশুর সেবায়  
Shishur Sevay

17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road, Kolkata 700 038

Land 2160 Sq. ft  
House approx 1000 sq. ft

(not all to scale)



**“Let all our children bloom as Gandhi did...”**

Orphans are the lost and unclaimed luggage of humanity. They lack family, community, religion, and caste. As adults their lives are marginal at best. Shishur Sevay has taken orphan girls from Sukanya Home between 2-13 years with the purpose of raising them to their fullest potential. The four youngest are severely handicapped. We are rehabilitating the children so they may make their contribution. We can't know their potential unless we try.



The children arrived with infections, malaria, dental problems, and a variety of skin conditions. The handicapped children were listless and sleepy. We have immunized all the children against DPT, polio, hepatitis B, and MMR. They have received dental and eye care. They arrived illiterate and undisciplined, at times fearful and defiant, but truly thankful for everything we give them. This is home.

**When we dare to dream big :**

**SONALI - February 2007 and 2008**



Sonali is blind, but full of joy, and learning fast. She was a “sleepy baby” but now she sits on her own, and climbs on whatever she can find.

**GANGA - February 2007 and 2008**



Ganga can hold her head up now, and uses her hands to turn the pages of books. She loves to watch Damu and Charlie Chaplin.

**BORNALI - February 2007 and 2008**



Bornali didn't do much for a long time. She just stared silently, tears trickling down her cheeks. Bornali has pierced ears so she must have had a family once. Bornali is very sensitive to loss. She was sad the whole time Rani was in the hospital with seizures.

**RANI - February 2007 and 2008**



Rani used to spin in circles all the time. In this picture she is kissing Bornali.



The handicapped children love unconditionally, and they accept us unconditionally. All four handicapped children began school at the Indian Institute for Cerebral Palsy in April. All receive physiotherapy and speech therapy. Ganga and Bornali won prizes in the local community “Sit and Draw” competition.

## Dreaming Big for the Big Girls

The girls arrived without clear names, so the first hurdle in teaching them to write their names was to figure out what they were.

The girls did not know numbers or alphabet or colors or shapes. None could recognize India on a map. In the first month they learned to write their names. Bengali is the medium of instruction



although they are learning English also. By May they were prepared to enter Class I at Sahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya.

Upon return from school each morning we hold classes for an additional six hours a day at Shishur Sevay. All but one child has passed, with five of them having A's. Two have been chosen as class monitors. One won a handwriting competition; One competed in an all-school sports competition. All the girls recognize the map of India and have learned about leaders of Indian independence. More important, the girls have developed a love for books, reading, and art.



The girls came without self-discipline, understanding of study habits, or respect for their elders. Much of this has changed dramatically in the past year. There is no point in dreaming big if there is no internal discipline,

goals, or respect. Their world views were narrow. We spoke of one day having “office jobs” and learned they thought this meant sweeping floors or washing dishes in an office. Some will continue academically; some will have vocational training. But all will be taught to do their jobs well, and with pride. The girls all have responsibilities in the home. They wash their clothes daily; Teams clean the kitchen after lunch, after dinner. One team cleans the classroom. All help with the handicapped. The girls would do more, but school remains the priority and time is short.

Today the girls at Shishur Sevay know India on a map, and hold India in their hearts. They will make their contributions in ways we cannot yet know.

Shishur Sevay welcomes visitors, comments, questions, and any contributions people are inspired to give. Childlife Preserve: Shishur Sevay is a registered society # S/IL/37263 of 2006-2007; West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961. All contributions to Shishur Sevay fall under Income Tax exemptions under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.





## More Education and Fun

