



Shishur Sebay
To Not Feel Alone in the Universe

LIFE AT SHISHUR SEVAY

Quarterly Activity Report October – December 2021



Pinki Weds Jyon



Shishur Sebay's first marriage occurred according to Hindu rituals when Pinki wed Jyon on January 15, 2022.

Lockdown delayed the original planned date from June 12, 2020 to the present.

Pinki had always wanted to marry and have a family of her own. She wanted to have children and be a homemaker. She loves taking care of those in need, a girl with much heart. Pinki is also a talented tabla player. She was in a sewing program, and regularly assist our physiotherapist who works with our girls having severe motor disabilities.



Pinki in 2007



The groom's family have roots in West Bengal but are currently living in Los Angeles, California. The families and the couple met three years ago when they were in Kolkata.

It was always Dr Harrison's intension, the girls would be educated so they had the option of being married within their culture and religion. Following the rituals Dr. Harrison went to the river before daybreak to invite Maa Ganga to the wedding and bless the couple. This was followed by the Halud (turmeric) ceremony for which the groom's family brought the halud which was used to cover the bride in preparation for her marriage later in the day. There was lunch, and then the rituals of marriage began.

We are pleased to say that the costs were covered by private donations including from our staff. Shishur Sebay really has become a family.

THIS WAS A FAMILY WEDDING.

OCTOBER

- October usually marks the beginning of the festive season, the biggest one being Durga Puja. This was the second year in a row when we did not go pandal hopping because of Covid.



Helping Masum offer her prayers

- Shishur Sevay has become the girls' home. Like in many households, around Durga Puja/Diwali when people do their annual special cleaning, the girls all pitched in giving the whole place a thorough scrubbing.



- As Covid restriction prevailed for reopening schools for younger children, we couldn't start the Children's Smart Centre (CSC). We continued doing home visits with the materials and following up on the kids' learning.



Reading three letter words

- The material is being designed and prepared in-house and most of it is bilingual. For the last few years we have had a printer friend who does our printing as his contribution to Shishur Sevay. Our anonymous printer donor has printed all the CSC study material and laminated them for longevity, all at no cost to Shishur Sevay.



Laminated sheets with alphabets, numbers, colours, shapes, body parts etc.

NOVEMBER

- The girls went on a trip to Hoogly, one of the districts of West Bengal, across the River Hugli, the distributary of Ganges that flows alongside Kolkata as well a place rich in cultural heritage.



They went to many places along the river Hoogly including the Hangsheswari temple, Hoogly Imambara and Bandel Church, among others. This was their first trip outside since the pandemic started.

- Lakshmi puja was celebrated.



Girls preparing for the rituals

- The girls went on a trip to South City Mall with our Board Vice President, Seema Gupta.
- One of the inside walls of the stairway was becoming damp and the paint had started chipping. A leak in the water tank was causing the dampness. The area was waterproofed. Maintenance and upkeep is an ongoing job.



The freshly cemented corner of the roof

- Dr. Abhay Das, from the UK, visited Shishur Sevay. He is a consultant in elderly medicine at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, nominated for Clinician of the year in the Celebrating Excellence Annual Awards 2021.
- Ria Nag and Purba Rudra attended a one day online seminar on "Place of documentation in NGO credibility file" organized by the Karl Kübel Institute for Development Education (KKID), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- The girls made beautiful rangolis on the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights.



- We have some regular donors who bring items from our wishlist of cleaning supplies, hygiene products and other supplies. This quarter they also got dresses for all the girls, for Diwali.
- On the occasion of Children's Day, the staff cooked a special meal for the girls. This has become a tradition.



Chicken curry being prepared

- One of the girls appeared for another exam at the Senior Secondary level, through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The exam was followed by a celebration with sweets and chicken roll. Even though it is not usual in most places to celebrate before the results are out, we believe in celebrating each step forward that they take. Happily she cleared the exam, the result for which came out in January.
- Shishur Sevay's founder Dr. Harrison's 79th birthday was celebrated. She is hoping that there are no more lockdowns for her 80th.



Cutting the birthday cake

DECEMBER

- Papers were filed for Pinki's and Jyon's civil marriage 'Registry Marriage' as per Indian Laws. With that taken care and the date fixed, shopping and arrangements for the wedding began in earnest.



Wedding shopping began



Learning to drape a saree from our board Vice President, Seema Gupta

- Four of the girls attended a workshop on Jamini Roy paintings.

- This year the girls did not want to use the store bought Christmas decorations and wanted to make them instead. So the art and craft project for the week before was making Christmas decorations.



Having some fun while decorating the tree

- It is a custom at Bengali weddings to get the mother-in-law a saree. Instead of a store bought saree, the girls, including the children with disabilities, painted a saree for her.



Saree painting in progress

- Chhaya massi had saved some pumpkin seeds while cooking and planted them in the backyard. The plants grew and spread all over the roof.



Here she proudly holds one of the pumpkins from the vine.

- Some of the puppies in a nearby lane were thin and weak, as were their mother. Ria, our communications officer, took the lead and along with some of the girls has been tending to them, feeding them, and nursing them back to health.



THE IMPACT

'You cannot make a tree grow by pulling at its branches' - Dr. Michelle Harrison

- Shishur Sevay is a successful model of a SMALL GROUP HOME and NOT AN INSTITUTION.
- We are known to promote long lasting and permanent programs. We are a family.
- Girls learn compassion, acceptance, and responsibility
- Girls carve the path from sadness and anger to hope and dreams

Foreign Contribution

Account Name: Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay
SBI New Delhi Main Branch, 11 Parliament Street,
New Delhi - 110001
FCRA Current Account No: 40108969339
IFSC Code: SBIN0000691
SWIFT Code: SBININBB104

Domestic Contribution

Account Name: Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay
RBL Bank Limited, New Alipore Branch
Account No: 309013832148
IFSC Code: RATN0000280

ONLINE DONATION

[U.S. Donation : friendsofshishursevay.org](http://friendsofshishursevay.org)

Friends of Shishur Sevay is a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit organization

[Indian Donation : shishursevay.org](http://shishursevay.org)

All Donations toward Childlife Preserve
Shishur Sevay are tax deductible under 80G