

Dear Friends,

Greetings for a Joy-filled Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to all! Fr. Mathew Parakonath has been transferred to a new place and I have replaced him. I am glad to send you this short description of the beautiful work being done here with your generous help. Prayerful wishes from all the Salesians of Nitika Don Bosco. May the new born Jesus bless you all! Thank you for the generous help. We have the following activities going on in our centre.

Tuition & Literacy training Centre: Nearly five hundred children come to Nitika in two shifts to avail the study and tuition facilities every day from the slums of Entally & Tangra. They spent two hours of quality time in the class rooms of Nitika engaging themselves in serious study. Each class is assisted by a teacher who would help them in their lessons. The senior students are given a silent zone for personal study. This helps the children who otherwise cannot do so in their homes due to lack of facilities. Besides this additional skills of spoken English and Computer are given.

Tailoring Centre: Young women who are not going to schools or dropped out of schools are given opportunities in various skills. Tailoring, Fabric painting and Beautician training are given to over 300 girls in the past few years.

Railway children: Every Saturday the children from the railway station who do not go to school are gathered in Nitika for games, hygiene and nutrition. About 150 gather every weekend. Some are weaned out to the regular school.

Hospitality Training for Hotel Services: Through the Don Bosco Tech programme training in cookery and food and beverage service is given to school and college drop outs and over 1800 youth are trained and employed through the intervention of Don Bosco Nitika.

Festivals: The children have many celebrations during the course of the year like: religious festivals (Pujas, Muharam, Christmas) cultural festivals like Dipawali & Raksha Bandhan. The children felicitate the teachers on teachers day and the teachers organize children's day with lots of fun. Feast of St. John Bosco is celebrated to thank and honor the founder and father.

Care for the sick, old and widows: The old widow and sick peoples with TB and widows with no income also are helped regularly from Don Bosco Nitika.

Success Stories:

Rocky Nicolas Gomes is the son of a rickshaw puller was assisted by Don Bosco Nitika through the sponsorship and is now a graduate employed in Don Bosco Kalyani as the physical education teacher.

Pushpa Sau who was a regular student of the tuition centre and later learnt tailoring is now a certified trainer in Don Bosco Nitika tailoring centre.

Rakesh was a student of the tuition centre at Don Bosco Nitika. He is employed and is also a teacher in the tuition centre as in the evening shift.

It is your generosity of heart that has helped us to achieve all these. Thank you very much and wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS & and a GRACE FILLED NEW YEAR.

Fr. Remesh Cherian SDB
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