



Registered with the Government of West Bengal, India in 1959-60

MANBHUM ANANDA ASHRAM NITYANANDA TRUST

www.mant.org.in

Nature of the Organization:

Manbhumi Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT) is a non-profit, development organization devoid of political, religious, racial and other sectarian affiliations and biases working in the field of Education, Health Service Delivery and Health Behaviour Change. It aims to ameliorate the immense sufferings of the marginalized sections of the society and empower them to strive for their own development. MANT functions primarily in 12 districts of West Bengal.

Genesis:

Swami Nityananda Brahmachari came like a "trailing cloud of glory" from Sargashram (Haridwar/ Hrishikesh) and became so enamoured with the shape of the then 'Patra' (a sprawling land) that he purchased it from its owners, the local Mukherjee family. He christened it 'Manbhumi Ananda Ashram'. Like a true Svami he espoused the cause of the local people who were at the time grovelling in poverty, superstition and lack of educational facilities. For him, the panacea was the

spread of education. He founded a 'Chatuspathi' and that turned out to be the lamp which dispelled the surrounding gloom and darkness. The Trust in its embryonic form took shape in his lifetime and on his demise it was registered as Manbhumi Ananda



Ashram Nityananda Trust bearing Registration No. S/3863 of 1959-1960. Our 'ZERO HOUR' commenced accordingly.

Historical Development:

The mantle of glory of the deceased Svant was then fittingly donned by his worthy disciple Late Harihar Mukherjee, an undaunted social activist with a checkered career. He began where the Svant had left off. Challenges and odds were plenty but the determined visionary in him took arms against the sea of troubles. The Savnt had his Chatuspathi - the proverbial 'jeevan deep' a flickering lamp against gusts of wind from all corners. Sri Mukherjee with his will and determination guarded this proverbial lamp with his hands and helped it glow brighter still. Under his leadership a High English School was started on 1st January, 1940. It was a long, patient and strenuous travel from pillar to post in search of resources. He did not aspire for any princely donations or charity from colonial rulers, instead he went to common people. The people contributed whole heartedly to translate his Guru's long cherished dream into a reality. Under the aegis of the Trust, and blessed with the founder Secretaryship of Late Harihar Mukherjee, an educational complex has since been developed through the years in the Manbhum Ananda Ashram starting from Nursery School to Degree College. And in the year 1994 the Trust revitalized itself and tightened its belt with an unrelenting vigour and determination to be instrumental in bringing about a sea change in the Social sector as it had successfully done in the Education Sector. Accordingly the Trust was revitalized and our 'Zero Hour' commenced anew.

Philosophy:

The Trust believes in people-centered development through empowerment of marginalized people. It believes that integrated development is a process in which people take conscious initiative in order to manage resources for the people, thereby ensuring people's participation, which leads to their development.

Goal :

Greatest good of the greatest number. "Bahujana hitaya, bahujana sukhayacha".

Principles:

- Participation of the People.
- Mainstreaming the Adivasi (Tribal People).
- Education and Health for All.
- Empowerment of the Marginalized People.
- Emancipation of the weaker sections of the society.

Modus Operandi

From thought to act, from act to habit, from habit to nature, from nature to destiny- these spell human progress with a view to spreading the mandate -

"Sarbeiba sukhina santu Sarbe santu niramaya Sarbai bhadrani pashyantu Ma kaschit dukhya bhak bhabet."

Let everyone be happy; let all be wholesome; let everybody see the good of life; let none suffer; let peace reign supreme Modus Operandi by spreading education and raising awareness- the cure-all to all ills that flesh is heir to.

Objectives:

- To create an awareness among the poor about their common social health and economic problems and to provide them with the wherewithal through the community organizing.
- To improve the economic level of the poor through the provision of credit extension in appropriate agricultural programmes and different skill building programmes.
- To promote self-reliance by enabling poor people to manage programmes themselves on a sustainable basis by using local resource inventories.
- To promote the local cultural action and to encourage dialogue at all levels in society
- To provide assistance during natural calamities and in distress.
- To undertake/initiate research, field study, documentation and debate on issues concerning development of communities.
- To promote the use of renewable and non-conventional sources of energy.
- To promote afforestation and Environment Development process.
- To impart stimuli to the children and youth to take up value-based behavioural patterns.
- To provide formal, non-formal, vocational education to those in need and to bring literacy to illiterates.
- To arrange for basic health facilities for all including nutrition.
- To provide care for the aged and the physically and mentally challenged people.
- To promote livestock development and rural infrastructure in respect to housing, irrigation, potable water, watershed management, link road etc.

Key Activities:

- An educational complex was developed through the years in the Manbhum Ananda Ashram with the following educational units-
 - Laulara Radha Charan Academy-A Co-educational High School
 - Vivekananda Jr. Basic School
 - Subhasini Pathagar - Rural Library
 - Manbhum Ananda Ashram Girls' Jr. High School
 - Ramananda Centenary College- A Degree College in Arts and Science
 - Naba Sishu Niketan- (Pre-Basic Nursery)
- Advocacy Programme on HIV/AIDS (Acting as Coordinating Agency of West Bengal Legislator's Forum on HIV/AIDS and West Bengal State AIDS Prevention and Control Society, Government of WB).
- Tobacco Use Prevention Programme with Support from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and World Health Organization (WHO- India).
- Strengthening the ongoing Government Initiatives to Implement NTCP and COTPA 2003 with support from The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.
- Tribal Health Service Delivery Programme in 6 Districts covered more than 500,000 tribal people living in under-served areas of the state.
- Mobile Medical Camps in 4 Districts in West Bengal covering more than 2 million people living in under-served areas.
- Advocacy and organizing National Seminar on Tribal Health and Rights
- Innovative Education and Capacity Building of Tribal Adolescents and Youth
- Innovative mHealth in Paschim Medinipur and Purulia
- Implementing sections of the COTPA in 5 districts of West Bengal with support from The Bloomberg Philanthropy, USA.

Communication for Development (C4D)

- Community Radio in Purulia- First ever (NGO-run) in West Bengal with support from UNICEF.
- Participatory Theatre coupled with Folk songs
- Forum Theater
- Jangalnama - A Weekly newspaper in Santhali with a readership of more than 20,000
- Community Television (Comming up)
- Prantakotha Mobile Vaani - to provide required information in Bengali and Santhali at the tip of the fingers of the marginalized people.

Historical Development:

