

# FRIENDS OF SHAMAYITA MATH

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Dear members and Friends of Shamayita Math

The goal of our organization is to support the Indian NGO Shamayita Math, situated in a rural area of West Bengal appr. 400 km. northeast of Kolkata. We have funded the building of a school in the village of Dangapara, and the funds we collect through membership fees, donations and events are primarily used for the running expenses of the school: uniforms, bags, books, utensils and not least a hot meal each school day. This can be a vital part of poor families deciding to send their child to school.



The school building with students and teachers lined up for visit.

We had two big events during the year - both in the spring, so we covered that in our summer news. So let me just mention the big Indian song and dance festival in February, honoring the songwriter and composer R. D. Burman. Our organization had its summer event in May with various songs - and dances performed by Deepshikas' Dancing Divas. These two events brought in appr. 11.000 DKR and I would like again to send a big thank you to all involved.

We plan a new event come May. The big turnout to the last event: 110 adults and 60 children and the adverse weather, we experienced, demonstrated that we have to find a large indoor venue. We are searching for a suitable place and will inform as soon as we know.

Shamayita Math originated in an attempt to build a Convent School for girls which was a big local desire. Over the years the organization has expanded to help other needs in the local area. Today it is a local center of excellence in a lot of areas: hospital, mobile clinic, agricultural development with different plants (e.g. tomatoes and mushrooms), handicraft, microbanking and a lot of other things.

Young people from the villages are taught craftsmanship and skill development which qualify for employment. Education to general duty assistant to nurses let last year to 68 students employed in hospitals. The rural development and self employment training trained appr. 700 students last year and more than 60% found employment.



Training of assistant nurses

During Durga Puja, Shamayita Math conduct a Dress Distribution Festival presenting new dresses to underprivileged people, especially elderly people who have no one to take care for them. 1500 sa-rees and 100 dhotis were distributed. The recipients came from 65 villages in the vicinity of Shama-yita Math.

Likewise Durga Puja is the time where the school children of our school in Darangpara and 3 other village schools receive new school uniforms, a pair of slippers, a new school bag and some students' stationeries. The students from the Convent School participated in collecting to the fund raising activities.



New school uniforms, bags and books.



Shamayita Math takes care of the Childline 1098 service within the Bankura District. An area the size of Sjælland with appr. 3.6 million inhabitants. Evidently, it is very important for the children to be aware of the existence of the childline. Following the national childrens day in India a walkathon was organized in several large town of the district. The students participated in a rally carrying posters with them and giving friendship bands to people from the local authorities.



Schoolgirls marching for the Childline

We in Friends of Shamayita Math are always happy when members pay a visit to Shamayita Math. We can help with information, and I can ensure it will be a great experience. Likewise, the people at Shamayita Math welcome visits from Denmark. In February the Sølvmoose family - Martin, Kim and Villads visited for a week and they conducted a course in robotics at the Convent School. The course participants build a watering-robot which could measure humidity in the soil and whether it was day or night so you could dose the water and avoid watering in sunshine.



Kim, Martin and some of their students

Next years general meeting takes place **8 February 5PM** at Deepshika Daga's place, Lyngbyvej 263B, Hellerup. All members are welcome.

Unfortunately, not all members have renewed their membership so we have a slight decline this year. We have transferred 30.700 DDR to Shamayita Math.

9 members have signed up to be a sponsor for a student. The sponsorship for a student in the village school is 700 DDK - for a student in the Convent School it is 3700 DKR. I have sponsored the boy Sanjit Tudu. He is now grown out of the village school and a student of a middle school, so I am now sponsoring a younger kid, Sudip Hansda. If you become a sponsor, Shamayita Math provides information and a photo of the student.

If you feel like giving a small donation on the occasion of Christmas and the new year, it would be greatly appreciated. You can use mobile pay box97814 (remember to start with "box" before the number) or by bank transfer to reg. nr. 5324 kontonr. 251179.

I wish all of you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Lars Fynbo

Chairman of Friends of Shamayita Math.

