



KOLOTAN

Shaping Chaos Into Cosmos

Project Report

KOLOTAN

KOLOTAN which means song of a flock of birds in unison, was born with the noble idea to provide holistic education to the children of the have-nots so that they can be a part of the inclusive growth trajectory the country is moving towards.

Established in 2018 and registered on 2nd November 2019, we, at KOLOTAN, primarily work with the children of rural, agrarian families who would otherwise have had little or no access to education, let alone a quality, well-rounded, and holistic one. Our goal is to ensure that our students grow up to be strong, independent, well-balanced individuals who go on to become upright members of the society, and work towards the inclusive societal growth.



KOLOTAN Trust Details

Regd. Under Registration Rules 1962, Ara- III, Govt. of WB

Regd No. IV- 6763

Address: Vill - Taraberia, P.O - Padmalavpur, P.S - Amdanga, Dist - North 24 Parganas, Kol - 743126

Working Office: Santhoshpur, P.O - Mirhati, P.S - Amdanga, Dist - North 24 Parganas, Kol - 700125

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PAN NO - AADTK7350E

80G - KOLKATA/80G/2020-21/A/10351

12AA - KOLKATA/12AA/2020-21/A/10413

NGO Unique I'd No - WB/2018/0220628

FCRA Registration Number : 147111195

Banking details

Name: Kolotan

Bank: Bank of India

Account Number: 4278 2011 0000 148

IFSC: BKID 000 4278

Name: Kolotan

Bank: State Bank of India

Account Number: 40901269846

Branch Code: 00691

IFSC : SBIN0000691

SWIFT: SBININBB104

"Contemplatives in the heart of the world." Mother Teresa

Committee members



Tapas Mondal President, KOLOTAN Trust

Acquisition of Knowledge is the inherent characteristics of all creatures. Learning is the ways of the world. KOLOTAN nurture this natural habit in an orderly manner. KOLOTAN aspire to cultivate each and every dimension of knowledge in order to embrace life at it's fullest.



Sujoy Sarkar Secretary, KOLOTAN Trust

Life is finite, but in these finite moments we aspire for the infinite. KOLOTAN is beyond the transient. KOLOTAN encourage thoughts that are timeless. KOLOTAN is an endless flow of eternal joy. All that is eternal is the Truth. The Truth is KOLOTAN.



Ritibrata Samanta Treasurer, KOLOTAN Trust

Human beings are considered the most intelligent of all creatures. We have achieved marvels that made the impossible, possible. KOLOTAN feels the necessity to fan the flame of ambition in every child, into a fruitful journey through life. KOLOTAN will nudge them to soar for greater heights.



Bivas Mondal , Trustee

KOLOTAN is synonymous to Creativity. All that is creative is nourished at KOLOTAN. From an organisation, KOLOTAN strives to become an institution where besides creativity, sensibility, culture, and love for one another is nurtured.



Tanmoy Mondal, Trustee

KOLOTAN is a medium, a medium which effortlessly resonates the music of tomorrow, reaching far and wide, soaring for the skies. The music that holds the power to cease the dark clouds of hard times and hailstorm of difficulties, and make them dance to its tune.



Sayrul Molla, Trustee

KOLOTAN is not merely a strive for achieving success in its own field. Rather it's a journey within each of the individuals' own understanding of the world, a continuous and collective effort to delve deep into the seemingly complex patterns of the surrounding society only to come up with more simplified yet unique solutions

to solve the problems that come in the way to make this planet a better place to live.



Pratick Das, Trustee

Boundless joy, unbridled love, sincerest care: these are the things that mean "Kolotan" to. The world becomes a better place to live in when all come together as a community to actively make it better. In order to make our mark, to leave behind a legacy, to carve out our niche, we don't have to antagonise our people, but be one with them, be one with nature.



Dipanwita Kundu, Trustee

Human beings are not lonesome creatures. We need co-operation from one another in order to survive. And we look up to those who are kind to us. KOLOTAN aspires to be the visionary institute that puts out a wave of positive influence into the society which inspires unity.



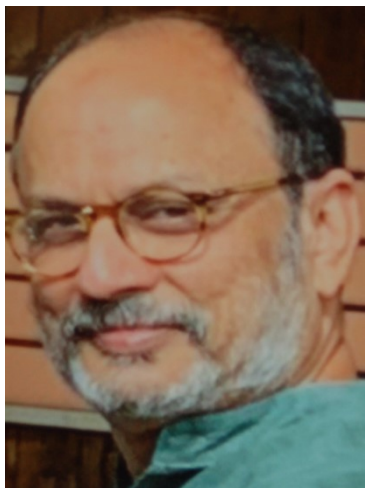
Souravi Ghosh, Trustee

KOLOTAN is a way of life where every bud is nurtured so it can bloom into the potential to its fullest. Here we do not believe in casting individuals in moulds to fit into the society, but show direction as to how best use one's talents and find their fulfilling place in life.

" The object of education is to give man the unity of truth "

Rabindra Nath Tagore

Mentors



Ananda Lal Roy , Biomedical Scientist

Kolotan is a unique effort to educate children not only through didactic teaching, but primarily drawing from natural surroundings and through audiovisual communications. Because our mother nature is the best teacher we have, this method of nurturing ensures that every child grows up to become a complete human being and learns to be in unison with nature.



Krittika Sengupta , Former head of the Montessori and Primary Dept, Patha Bhavan , Kolkata

Kolotan is a safe, inclusive space for children. It is doing wonderful work through a unique method which helps in all round development of children to make them free thinking, rational and environmentally conscious. It is able to reach out to the marginalized section of the society as the fee structure is very affordable for all. I hope the well wishers will extend all necessary help to Kolotan in its endeavors.



Abhijit Lal Roy , Consultant, Human Resources Management

Holistic education entails connecting myriad dots which bind living beings and non-living beings as well in a chain with a definite purpose.

Kolotan has taken up the mission of spreading around this holistic education so that the children coming out of this school have an universal view and can become global citizens.

My interest is centred around the basic mission of theirs.



Biswanath Dasgupta, Senior Editor (TTIS), Educationist, Artist

Kolotan dreams to create a multifunctional educational space at Kolotan where the students will have uninhibited natural organic growth having the freedom of thought and expression, and they will eventually become a complete human being totally in-sync with Universe.



Sanjay Sen Gupta, Artist, Head of The Department, Fine Arts, SNU

I find Kolotan a happening space, where children are valued for their possibilities and not judged by their mere performances. The continual monitoring by the teachers is devoid of unnecessary intervention – leaving the children happily active and learning from their own deeds. The mutual exchange of positive vibes in between the teachers and the students in Kolotan charges Sanjay with motivation and creativity and helps him grow simultaneously. He is pleased and thankful to be a part of this great endeavour.



Maitreesh Ghatak is a Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics and an elected Fellow of the British Academy

I support Kolotan because of its vision of education as a transformative force that not just creates productive and able citizens but inculcates a sense of humanistic values, creativity, open-mindedness, and public-spiritedness.



Shivaji Banerjee, Technologist, IBM

Kolotan approached me for help a couple of years back. I don't know how much I could help Kolotan but Kolotan helped me immensely to be a better person. I am thoroughly impressed by their dedication to promote Child education, Self Help Group and Communal harmony. I wish continued success to Kolotan.

The Vision

In 2018, a group of like-minded young enthusiasts with an insatiable hunger of contributing towards the society while taking a “Path less travelled” had taken an initiative in the field of education having in mind and the rural children as the prospective beneficiaries. The seed had been sown in their minds when they had undergone the B.ED course together and had increasingly realized the vacuity of the conventional educational system which fails to shape a child as a total man connected with the environment around and with the global community at large which Rabindranath Tagore had envisioned. Hence, in 2019, Kolotan was set up by a group of dreamy-eyed youth of the local area. The vision of Rabindranath Tagore had got strongly imbibed in their psyche that ‘ The object of education is to give man the unity of truth’.

Vision

We have therefore been imparting holistic education to children who would be able to connect the myriad dots of life, in terms of connecting themselves with nature, with community and with the global civilization so that they can become a ‘Global Citizen’ in the true sense of the term. We want them to be connected with the global community, hold their heads high and express themselves without fear. The principle which has been embedded in our approach; to quote Tagore once again ‘Education should be part of life itself and must not be detached from it and be made into something abstract’.



We are fortunate that brilliant Educationists, Scientists, Economists, Industry Managers and Artists from different creative fields have come forward as our mentors in forging ahead our initiative and giving shape to our dream. Their level of commitment demonstrates that they had never given up their dreams and have found an avenue in the form of 'KOLOTAN' to channelize their energy. We feel much energized with their inclusion and we are confident that we are being able to set our direction.

We have chosen an area in Mirhati, Amdanga Block (Barasat, North 24-Paraganas) in West Bengal which is essentially lacking in opportunities in terms of infrastructure, education, primary health and hygiene and providing the people avenues of eking out livelihood. In structuring our educational model, we wanted that we should be visible as different from other schools in the area which provide text-based academic education only and not holistic education which has been deeply imbibed in our educational model. In terms of affordability also, these schools are not within the reach of the majority of the population. We on the other hand have been providing a holistic education which is affordable and within the means of the common people.



Why different

Kolotan is a space for children to give expression to their imaginations and encourage free thinking. Kolotan intends to offer thoughtfully designed quality education to children from diverse background.

Following are the features that make Kolotan different from others educational institutions:

- In Kolotan children are always free to ask questions and provided enough flexibility to choose their work. Hence classes are not very structured.
- Kolotan does not believe in compartmentalizing different subjects and interweaves them effectively to ensure joyful learning .Art, craft, music, clay modelling, language, maths and science are interwoven with equal importance.
- Children learn to connect with nature routinely rather than occasionally.
- Kolotan strives to connect discussions in class with daily life situations, seasonal changes and social awareness.



- To address the issue of mental health the teachers in Kolotan are in constant touch with the families of the children.
- Children of senior classes are often given the responsibility of taking care of their juniors to create a good bonding among different age groups.
Kolotan ensures children to be self- reliant without imposing any regimentation on them.
- The teachers/facilitators regularly assess the children but grades are not awarded as Kolotan does not encourage competition .A detailed report on the child's overall development is given to the guardian twice a year.
- The fee structure has been kept low to make it accessible to marginalized children too.



Breaking the confines of the narrow walls;’ The dream School-Building’.

To start with, ‘Kolotan’ as a school was housed in a rented local shelter. However, with more and more parents from the local community taking interest in the non-conventional educational approach, more and more children got enrolled with the school. As a logical corollary, it has become imperative that we have a school-building of our own. In conceptualizing the design of the school-building, we wanted that narrow confines of the walls should be broken so that the children can have a physical and emotional connect with the environment.

One of the key features of the school design is the use of local materials and skills. The design of the school emphasizes the use of natural light and ventilation to create a comfortable and healthy learning environment. The school spaces are designed to make maximum utilization of natural light and ventilation with a minimum number of walls. The design also incorporates double-height spaces for interaction between levels and niches in the cob walls for reading, creating dynamic spaces that encourage play and exploration in children.



This not only helps to create a sustainable and eco-friendly school but also empowers the community by providing opportunities for skill development and economic growth. The school will focus on up scaling existing craft forms such as embroidery making, quilt making, and saree weaving, providing a platform for the women in the community to grow and develop their skills. The design of the school-building has taken into reckoning that after-school hours can be utilized for community activities, creating a strong sense of place where the community can be emotionally connected with the initiative.

Also, it is important that our School which is structured around a different educational model gets affiliation of West Bengal Board of Education for which a school-building in conformity with the required standards is but imperative.

Total built up area -
6685 Sqft



The Support which we look for

The first priority ahead of us is construction of the school-building of our own. While the narrow confines of the flat wherein Kolotan school is presently housed is completely in anathema with our philosophy of breaking the barriers and getting the children connected with the environment, the payment towards the monthly rental has been also creating a huge and recurrent pressure on our finances.

In our effort to impart low-cost and affordable education to the children of the local community, we had kept the fees-structure comparatively quite low.

We have kept a panel of brilliant teachers who have a conviction about the educational model which we have envisioned and can impart education to the children in synchronization with the educational model. However, due to our financial constraints we are not being able to suitably remunerate them.

Added with this, we have a team of very enthusiastic non-Teaching administrative personnel as well to whom we are not being able to suitably remunerate.

Like many other social institutions across the globe, COVID-19 induced different spells of lockdowns between 2020 and 2022 had put up a roadblock in our journey which we had started in 2019 and had played a havoc with our efforts.

The roadblocks created in the form of serious financial impediments is required to be removed so that we can move ahead with giving proper shape to our dreams.

We are looking forward to your partnering in our effort which is weaved around an inclusive societal growth and come forward in generously contributing in terms of financial support so that we are able to surmount the financial hardship which we are faced with.