



Annual Report 2009 - 2010



**Mankind in Action for Rural Growth
(MARG)**

Annual Report 2009 - 2010

Dear sponsors, well wishers and friends,

Greetings!!

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you about our activities for the period 2009 – 2010. Our dreams would not have come true if our valued sponsors, well-wishers and friends have not extended their support to MARG. MARG would like to thank each one of you for their generous support.

The academic year 2009 started with MARG sponsoring thirty one children for their education in the hills of Darjeeling in various schools. Out of thirty one students, twenty eight of them were promoted. Two of our children who had repeated their classes failed again. Hence, as per MARG's policy, we had to discontinue sponsorship to them in favor of more deserving children. Our efforts to make them realize the value of life and how lucky they were as compared to other children went in vain. But this was compensated by new sponsored dedicated children. We felt sad when some of our sponsors stopped their support but at the same time we were blessed with new sponsors who assured us of their support

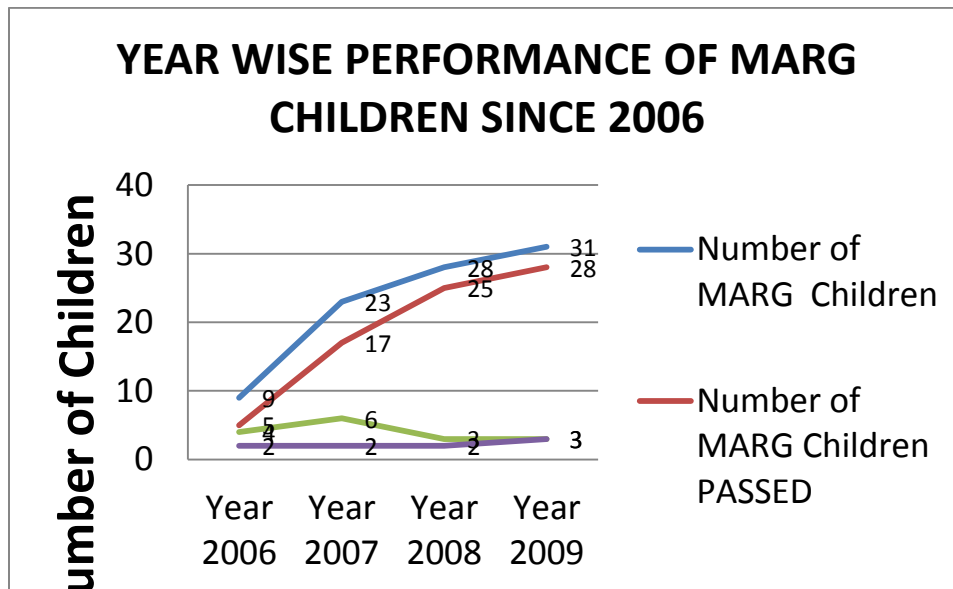
On 25th of May 2009, the hills of North Bengal was hit by Aila Cyclone which left 37 dead in Darjeeling. In Dali, where MARG project office is located, we witnessed eight major landslides. For a week the hills of Darjeeling was thrown into darkness as there was no electricity. Telecommunication was down for more than a month. The cobble path road which the villagers of Dukka had been making was scheduled to be inaugurated on 29th of May 2009. A part of the road was damaged by the landslide. The villagers worked very hard for two whole days and repaired it. The road was finally inaugurated as per schedule on 29th of May 2009. SDO Kalimpong Mr. Amayas Tshering, BDO Mr. Mathiyas Lepcha, Dr. Kalyan Dewan and Bishop of Darjeeling and Sikkim Rev. Stephen Lepcha were present at the inauguration.

Ms. Phurba Doma Sherpa from Ghoom Girls' Higher Secondary School lost her elder sister and her mother in the landslide. House of Mr. Atish Thapa and Aditya Thapa was also badly damaged. MARG took these children under its wing for their education.

Mr. Puran Singh who was with MARG since 2007 left with his patents to Sikkim for puja holidays and did not return. People were sent to look for him throughout the hills but he and his parents have been missing till date. An FIR was lodged at Pedong police outpost.

A very special program was organized by MARG children for the landslide displaced families on its 3rd Anniversary on 8th September 2009 followed by another program on 20th September 2009 at the Rink Mall Darjeeling.

The year was very challenging and there were lots of difficulties on our way. But with the support from sponsors, well wishers and friends we never felt we were left behind and nothing stopped us from stepping aside from our motto IGNITING SMILES.



Inauguration of the Dukka Road, 29th May 2009

Their long awaited dream came true on 29th May 2009 when the wheels of more than eight vehicles rolled down the cobblestone path constructed by the villagers themselves without any help from the government.

The weather gods also seemed happy with the villagers of Dukka as we were blessed with a bright sunny day on the 29th of May 2009. The villagers had dressed themselves in their traditional attire and were standing on the sides of the road built by them to greet guests. How happy and proud they were as they had accomplished a great job which the government had not been able to do. Their joys could be easily seen on their faces. Tiny colourful paper flags on the road sides fluttered as if to convey that they too were proud of this place.



Village children perform a Nepali folk dance

For the first time in the history of Dukka, villagers saw vehicles parked at one corner of the primary school ground where the programme for that day was organized. A 90 year old blind lady heard the sound of the vehicles passing her hut and could not stop herself and asked her neighbors to carry her to the Dukka primary

school ground.

Bishop Steven Lepcha, Bishop of Darjeeling, Mr. A. Tshering, Sub Divisional Officer, Kalimpong, Mr. Mathais Lepcha, Joint BDO Raiganj, Dr. Kalyan Dewan, President Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, Kalimpong Branch, Mr. Samuel Gurung (General Secretary, GJMM Kalimpong Branch), Mr. Nirnay John Chettri, General Secretary, Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) were some of the guests present. Dr. Navin Jyoti Pradhan and his team who had also come down in an ambulance conducted a health camp for the villagers on that day.

Fr. Paul Sitling, (Parish Priest, Maria Basti) the brain child behind this initiative welcomed all the guests and addressed the crowd saying how dreams can really come true if we all work with dedication and with love. Guests present for the programme were welcomed by traditional dances performed by old and young of the village of Dukka and its surrounding area.

The government officials and the political leaders present there assured that they would now surely look into this matter. Finally a photo exhibition and a documentary film on the road construction prepared by MARG was shown to all. Before the guests left a typical village lunch was served to all who were around six to seven hundred in number. Finally the ambiance was so endearing that most of the people present there felt that they will contribute something in their own capacity to make the dream of the villagers of Dukka and its surrounding area of joining this road with Sikkim one day come true.

PURAN DREAMT OF JOINING THE ARMY

On my first visit to Maria Basti in 2006 I met Puran Singh with his parents. He was just three years old then. Fr. Paul Sitling (Parish Priest of Maria Basti, Kalimpong) told me about this family who had just come to the village in search of work.



They had come all the way from Sikkim in search of work and had finally landed in Maria Basti and were staying in one of the local's land where they had planted potatoes and maize. Puran's father was given the job of a care taker. A hut of approx 8ft x 8ft with a thatched roof was all they had as a shelter. On interacting with Puran's parents we came to know that they were both spastics. But God's had blessed them with a lovely child.

Seeing their living condition I assured Fr. Paul that I would be happy to look for a sponsor to sponsor his education and his stay in the hostel. Dr. Nilay Ranjan from New Delhi came forward to help us.

Puran started going to St. Mary's Primary School in Maria Basti and was staying in the hostel which Fr. Paul had opened for the local village children. He started looking smarter and when asked about his ambition it changed from becoming a witch doctor to an army officer. He was very introvert when I had met him the first time but his life in the hostel changed him. He became extrovert and was liked by every one in the hostel. Before dinner he would often sing for all and make every one happy.

During my visit in 2009 I was shocked to see Puran. He had grown taller. His usual uncombed hair had disappeared and now he looked smarter. He even sang a nepali song for me. "Ashar re maina ma, Pani paro" I was speechless and gazed at him not knowing that he had already finished singing the song for me. As a token of love I took some of them to a near by village shop and bought a small packet of Kur Kure each. They were all very happy.



Puran's father and mother

In the evening I was told by Fr. Paul that Puran's mother was also staying with him helping him in the hostel. But he told me that she had taken Puran out of the school and hostel as she felt that he should become a witch doctor. The locals got together and managed to counsel her and got both mother and child back.

On 8th September 2009 MARG celebrated its 3rd Anniversary and all our children from the various regions of Darjeeling came for the programme. MARG children had staged a cultural programme for the Landslide displaced families of Darjeeling. Puran was also there. His narration of poems, song and mimicry was well appreciated by the audience of 180 in Divya Vani Darjeeling.

It was in the last week of November I got a call from Fr. Paul saying that Puran and his family didn't return to Maria Basti after puja holidays. The whole village searched for the family. Messages were sent to the neighboring villages but Puran and his family was nowhere to be traced. Fr. Paul even sent people to Sikkim too to look for them but till date they have not been able to find the family. We do not know where they are. We can only hope that they are fine and doing well,

It's sad not to see him as army personnel which he always desired after coming to the hostel. Probably one day I will definitely meet him in the hills of Darjeeling but don't know as what. May be a witch doctor?

3rd Anniversary Celebration



Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) celebrated Its 3rd Anniversary on 8th September 2009 at the Pastoral Centre, Divya Vani Darjeeling.

MARG children from Kalimpong, Kurseong and Darjeeling had staged a cultural programme that evening for its guests. MARG's special guests for that day were the children of the Landslide Displaced families of Darjeeling.

More than 40 children from the relief camps (Haridashatta, Youth Hostel, Johar Basti & Darjeeling Government College Boy's Hostel) along with their parents and guardians were there for the programme. MARG had raised fund for the Landslide Displaced families from its well wishers. Though MARG was not able to collect heavy amount it collected a total of Rs 29,790/-. By going with its motto Igniting Smiles MARG decided to distribute School bags with a lunch box and a

geometry box to all the children who were affected by the recent landslide.

MARG children from Ghoom Boys' Higher Secondary School, Ghoom Girls' Higher Secondary School, Turnbull Higher Secondary School, Municipal Girls High School Darjeeling and St Mary's School Maria Basti made the guest very emotional with their performance.

MARG's General Secretary also gave a brief of its work for the past three years. Mr Rajesh Garg, an ardent supporter of MARG announced that he would provide medical insurance to all MARG children. He also announced that he would give all the children present that evening Rs 250/- to buy dress for the coming puja and he also announced that each family would be given a food packet (Rice, Flour and sugar). Mr. Raju Pradhan an advocate from Darjeeling also announced that he would donate Rs 10,000/-

The children were very happy to receive the school bags with lunch and geometry box inside. The event which was attended by more that 150 men women and children finally left for the day after getting a snacks packet and sipping a cup of tea.

MARG would like to thank all its sponsors, well wishers and especially individuals who sent in their donations for the Landslide affected families.

Mrs. Renuka Pradhan (Darjeeling)	Rs 500/-
Mrs. Sharon Lepcha (Darjeeling)	Rs 1500/-
Mrs. Rebecca Chettri (New Delhi)	Rs 2000/-
Fr. T C Joseph (Bangalore)	Rs 5000/-
Mr. Ravi Pradhan (Gangtok)	Rs 3000/-
Dasho Ugen Tsechup Dorji (Thimpu)	Rs 10000/-
Mr. Sudhir Rai (Darjeeling)	Rs 1000/-
Mr. Amitava Datta (New Delhi)	Rs 5000/-
Mrs. Rukmini Gopal (New Delhi)	Rs 500/-
Big Bazar MARG Donation Box (Darjeeling)	Rs 455/-
Glenary's MARG Donation Box (Darjeeling)	Rs 835/-

TOTAL Rs 29790/-



Dashai Gift

On 20th September 2009 Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) again got together with its children at the Rink Mall to show its documentary film. Again the children and the families who were affected by the recent landslides were invited that day.

6 films made by MARG was screened inside the Mall with the help of LCD. Visitors and well wishers who ever passed by appreciated the documentary.

A gift voucher of Rs 250/- (Big Bazar) and food packet (5kg rice, 4kg flour and 1.5kg sugar) which was sponsored by Mr. Rajesh Garg was then distributed by the MARG children to all the landslide displaced families and their children who was present that day.

MARG CHILDREN PASS BOARD EXAMS 2010

Congratulations to Miss Sapna Thapa and Miss Soma Subba



Miss Sapna Thapa and **Miss Soma Subba** of Ghoom Girls' Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling has been associated with MARG since they both were studying in class eight.



This year both of them appeared for their boards exams and both were successful. MARG in a special way would like to congratulate Miss Sapna and Soma for trusting us. MARG would also like to thank the Teacher in Charge Ms. Punya Prabha of Ghoom Girls' Higher Secondary School and all the teachers involved in joining hands with MARG in Igniting Smiles of the underprivileged children of this area.

We are also grateful to Ms. T.N. Anuradha of New Delhi and Mr. Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman, Dhaka for sponsoring their education.

BALANCE SHEET
As on 31st MARCH 2010

31/03/2009 AMOUNT (Rs)	LIABILITIES	31/03/2010 AMOUNT (RS)	31/03/2009 AMOUNT (Rs)	ASSETS	31/03/2010 AMOUNT (Rs)
	<u>CAPITAL FUND</u>			<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
40842.00	Opening Balance	32669.83	1747.00	Computers	2623.00
			1924.00	(+) Additions	4250.00
	Add:		1048.00	Less: Depreciation	4124.00
0.00	Excess of income over Expenditure	5733.00	2623.00		2749.00
40842.00		38402.83	1000.00	Printer	400.00
	<u>UNSECURED LOAN</u>		600.00	(+) Additions	1775.00
			400.00	Less: Depreciation	773.00
10000.00	Mr. Rajan Takkar (Treasurer)	10000.00			1402.00
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
8376.00	Expenses Payable	11134.00	3200.00	<u>LOANS & ADVANCES</u>	
11022.00	Mr. Nirnay John Chettri Imprest A/c	11022.00		Amount Receivable (Municipal Girls High School)	0.00
			55844.83	<u>Balances with Scheduled Bank</u>	
			0.00	Central Bank of India	58448.83
			0.00	Cheque in Hand	0.00
				Cash in Hand	7959.00
62067.83		70558.83	62067.83		70558.83

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31st MARCH, 2010

31/03/2009 AMOUNT (RS)	PARTICULARS	31/03/2010 AMOUNT (RS)	31/03/2009 AMOUNT (RS)	PARTICULARS	31/03/2010 AMOUNT (RS)
40465.00	To Scholarship	44330.00	51400.00	By Donations Received	103915.00
166.17	To bank Charges	584.00	8172.17	By Excess of Exp over income	0.00
880.00	To Travelling and Conveyance Exp	2984.00			
2387.00	To Printing and stationary	3287.00			
9274.00	To Telephone and Internet Expenses	8947.00			
500.00	To Programme implementation Exp	26840.00			
0.00	To Repair and maintenance	2125.00			
1494.00	To Misc. Expenses	1430.00			
2758.00	Auditors Remuneration	2758.00			
1648.00	To Depreciation	4897.00			
0.00	Excess of income over expenditure	5733.00			
59572.17		103915.00	51400.00		103915.00



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