

EXPEDITION AGAPE

A journey empowering and transforming lives

India

Overseas Expedition Summary

6 to 20 December 2010



The team formed in July 2010 and poured immense time, effort and sweat to make this overseas service possible. The cold weather of Kolakham Village, its inaccessibility and the cost that it would take to get there, made the team rethink the journey. Yet, with perseverance and determination, it came to pass, and the experiences were breathtakingly beautiful, as the team served as "Leaders in Action".

"The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They're there to stop the other people."

– **Randy Pausch**

Serving the Community

Expedition Agape partnered with **Help Tourism**, a local NGO that champions conservation and sustainable development for the villages, and ventured to serve in Kolakham Village in West Bengal.

Kolbung Primary School

The only school in Kolakham Village serving 40 children in grades 1 to 4 with only 3 teachers and one small classroom.

Education

Over 10 days, Expedition Agape used creative and experiential teaching methods, coupled with games to teach English, Maths, Arts and Crafts, Dance, Music and even Hygiene. The principal Mr Durga Rai shared that he learnt a lot from observing the lessons. A sports carnival and a farewell Christmas Party were also organised for the children.



Infrastructure

A school extension was completed for the primary school, as well as a metal fence around the school boundary, so the children can play safely without risk of falling over the hilltop.



Learning in Adversity

To get to Kolbung Primary School, the team trekked 1.5 hours there and 1.5 hours back again every day. The weather was unbearably cold as well, hovering between 5 to 12 degrees and the team learnt to work together, and support one another through the challenging moments.



Expedition Agape Malaysia

Gillian, a Malaysian residing in Kuala Lumpur, travelled 5 hours to and fro by bus every meeting for almost 30 sessions from July 2010 to March 2011. Now, she has started EA Malaysia, serving the orphanage youths in KL.



3 years on...

Friendships continue, despite the distance, with a heartwarming letter received from the principal in Dec 2013.

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A volunteer-driven programme of

