

Pappu Mishra



Nagendra Kumar Mishra was born on 11th November 1983 to a Bihari Brahmin family in the city of Kolkata, where his father was working for the Calcutta Tramways Company, driving the old trams from Tollygunge to Kalighat and Ballygunge.

Pappu wanted to join the Indian Navy and because his mother had gone back to Bihar after he finished his schooling, he did his further studies at Calcutta University and ended up living in digs with other students in Jubilee Park, rather than staying with his father in the Tram Depot Staff Quarters.

When David took the first boys, Anna and Sunil, and started looking for somewhere to rent after being thrown out of his apartment, he was shown a house in Jubilee Park, which

really was the perfect place to begin shuktara. The house was on 2 floors with 2 flats on each floor. David had the ground floor rear flat and the boys and staff had the front flat. The upper floor housed Alison and Bryan, who went on to start Uddami, and an empty flat which belonged to the owner.

The house in Jubilee Park was on a lake with a wonderful view across to the Royal Calcutta Golf Club grounds and the roof was a perfect place to grow plants and begin what was to become a small home for 6 boys.

In the house next door on the ground floor lived Pappu with his roommates, studying for their exams at Calcutta University. Sunil, Bapi and Sanjay would communicate with Pappu and soon he was coming in to spend time with them. We asked Pappu if he would like to tutor them in some of their subjects and help with homework for the boys that were going to REACH school for the deaf. Pappu was already tutoring other young people in the neighborhood, but our young people were deaf, from low caste backgrounds and had disabilities!

The room in the house next door that Pappu lived in was owned by a Bengali Brahmin family. When they became aware of Pappu's friendship with the shuktara boys, he was told that if he did not stop visiting them he would pollute himself and their home. Pappu left this place and rented another small room in the locality and continued to tutor the boys. When we took on one more flat in the locality, and another 6 boys, he also tutored them. It was when we were told that we had to leave

Jubilee Park that we decided to rent a big house and have everyone living together under one roof. This was organized by Pappu, who was now Chairman of shuktara in India and helped David make the transition of shuktara into an official Indian registered charity.

With Shuktara Trust (UK) up and running and providing enough money for shuktara to purchase a house, Pappu was called on to do the work for this as well. He managed to get our FCRA paperwork to allow foreign money into India in 2008, purchased our boys house in Behala and squeezed in a marriage to Deepika Upadhyay in 2011. This was followed by the arrival of a beautiful baby girl, Navika in June 2013 as well as purchasing and moving our girls into Lula Bari in November also in the same year!



Pappu with his wife Deepika Upadhyay



Navika

Pappu's commitment to the care of our children is integral to shuktara and the honest, straightforward way he deals with anything that comes his way is surely amongst one of the reasons why shuktara continues to inspire so many people. Most of all for those donating to shuktara and the visitors that come to our homes, the knowledge that Pappu is looking after everything is a reassurance that all is well and will continue to be so for as long as he is with us.