

FOREWORD

To fulfill its vision and mission Rashtriya Sewa Bharati has been bringing out publications by name "Sewa Sadhana" every year with a particular theme. This year also we have brought out The "Sewa Sadhana" Magazine in English & Hindi which depicts the exemplary work done by the various service organizations (N.G.Os) in our country.

To Supplement the same, we have now come out with this first publication of "Sewa Kunj" in which the various types of service activities being conducted by 39 service organizations and their social impact are given, in brief. We are thankful to News Bharati, Nagpur for conducting thorough study of the projects of these service organizations and for compiling these articles.

We have proposed to bring out many more publications of "Sewa Kunj" on other service organizations also and on other themes periodically.

The stories of untiring efforts, selfless dedication and hard work put in into various projects of our Karyakartas to uplift the downtrodden of our country and also to create an awareness in our society.

This will certainly enthuse the readers to involve themselves in service projects of their choice, in the service of society and the nation.

– **Surya Prakash Tonk**
President
Rashtriya Sewa Bharati

Sewa Kunj

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ABOUT 'NEWSBHARATI'

To quench the intellectual thirst of genuine readers all over the world, Bharati Web Private Limited has launched a unique portal www.newsbharati.com of international standard.

Apart from the daily national, international latest news, newsbharati has a unique feature called 'sewa shadhana'. The daily news we read, depict a shabby image of India. But this is not true. Lakhs of sewa projects run in India by various organizations, is the other and very bright, promising image of India. These 'nation building' projects are doing a noble work of bringing the depressed, neglected masses from tribal belts into the mainstream. Dedicated volunteers from NGOs never appear in the limelight despite their painstaking efforts. 'Newsbharati' is an effort to bring forth such invaluable contribution before the society, so as to show this bright and promising image of India to the world.

Harinachhapar (Jharkhand) marches towards goal of development

Located in Gumla district of Jharkhand's remote mountainous region is Harinachhapar village surrounded by dense forests. An Ekal Vidyalaya was opened in this village in the year 1994. In 2005, the village was selected for Gram Vikas Project and thus the journey began towards the goal of development.

Villagers came together and constructed a room for the school using concrete and bamboo. After this, villagers moved a step further by established self help groups separately for men and women. Legislator from the region also rendered active help for these development works; gave economic assistance through his legislator fund for the construction of Vikas Bhavan and bore well for irrigation purpose.

As happens in most of the villages, the absence of education and employment made many villagers to opt for liquor manufacturing, in this village also. However, after the beginning of village development process, the atmosphere of the village started changing rapidly. Volunteers from Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram started coming to the village for meetings and discussion. This also had an impact upon the lifestyle of the villagers. They became more hygiene conscious. People started exploring new sources of employment, in the place of liquor manufacturing reech as tomato farming led by village chief Santu Nagesiya.

They initiated the farming activity for yielding tomatoes in rainy reason. They also started taking a keen interest in the production of vegetables and lac. Women self-help groups initiated the production of rice from paddy and started selling it in the market. Due to a variety of all these economic activities initiated enthusiastically by the villagers, the face of the village certainly transformed. If the area of activities is small, then there is an advantage. Little but joint efforts by people brings

drastic development within a short span of time.

Social and economic relations got strengthened amongst villagers. All of them successfully organized some cultural and training programmes. When 75 vanayatris from Ranchi visited the village to have a glimpse of the ongoing programmes, they witnessed the fruits of working together towards the development of the village. Setting an ideal example of hospitality, these villagers made an excellent arrangement for accommodation and food for these vanayatris.

Initiating a step further towards village development, Santu Nagesiya donated one acre land for setting up cattle farming training centre and other economic activities. Thus the united efforts and will to move further has made these villagers taste the fruits of development.

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How to reach

Harinachhapar village is situated at a distance of 25 km from Daltonganj district centre and Daltanganj is at a distance of 165 km from Ranchi.

Jankalyan Blood Bank, Nasik

In India, most of the people die due to nonavailability of blood at the time of operation. Jankalyan Blood Bank at Nasik is one of the ten blood banks run by RSS Jankalyan Samiti in Maharashtra, to-ensure availability of blood to save precious lives since 1989 at economic cost.

Volunteers organize blood donation camps throughout year on various occasions with the help of Government blood banks and Indian Medical Association (IMA) blood bank.

This blood bank crossed many milestones within a short period of time. With every coming year, it saw an increasing number of donors and increasing turnover of blood bags. Strict maintenance of the quality of blood, affordable cost and social outlook brought an excellent acceptance and reputation for the blood bank in the society. Number of blood donation camps are on rise, and the blood bank could cross the important milestone of 1 lakh units collection since inception.

Blood bank always kept abreast in its technical up gradation and formed the first Component Preparation Laboratory in north Maharashtra in 1998. The components like red cell concentrate, fresh frozen plasma, liquid stable plasma, cryoprecipitate, platelet concentrate and washed red cells were made available for the first time to the medical faculty of Nasik. This facility helped many patients suffering from various clinical disorders. Excess plasma remaining in the blood bank is being sent to National Plasma Fractionation Centre located at Mumbai. This has enabled the centre to produce products like factor VIII, Albumin, Immunoglobulin etc. on regular basis in our country. Previously these products were being imported and hence were too costly to be affordable by common patients.

Considering the qualitative and quantitative growth of the blood bank, it was taken in the Modernization Plan of Ministry of Health, Government of India. Due to this inclusion, the blood bank has received

various modern equipments for component separation. In addition to this help from National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), blood bank also received valuable help from State Government, Sai Sansthan (Shirdi) and many other organizations. However, the operational cost of the blood bank is high for common people. The present space seems to be inadequate for the huge turnover of the blood bank. It needs bigger space for more up gradation, newer facilities like thalassamia unit, research centre, voluntary AIDS counseling centre, which are the activities needed by the society.

Peripheral Distribution Centres are being established at remote taluka places for the district to enable easy availability of blood and blood products to the people in remote areas. This will require a huge investment in terms of storage facilities in the Peripheral Distribution Centres and maintenance of cold chain during transportation of blood products through refrigerated van. Computerization has been done in the blood bank but there is a need to include all fields (related with blood bank) in the computerization rather than the technical records alone.

Research activity is streamlined by formation of a well-equipped research centre. All these activities should be located in the same campus for their smooth functioning. Hence there is the need for a new space for the blood bank. New construction, equipment and research as well as educational activities will require huge funds (approximately Rs 3 crore). Though Jankalyan Blood Bank is trying to raise it locally, a generous help from Indians all over the world is sought for this social and noble cause.

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Jankalyan Samiti, Jamnagar vows to establish an integrated society

With an aim of arousing the feeling of self confidence, self-reliance and establishment of an integrated society, Jankalyan Samiti is functioning in Gujarat's Jamnagar district since year 2000. And the activities are spread in the districts of Jamnagar and Kutch transcending barriers of caste, class and religion.

Jankalyan Samiti is a united force running scores of social, medical, educational and character building projects with dedication and selfless service. It intends to funnel in the experience and resources from various vertical, narrow band programmes into a people centric rather than programme centric approach. Its aim is to promote and conduct activities of healthcare, mass literacy, employment generation training activities, cultural and of charitable nature among the poor and the neglected brothers residing in undeveloped colonies and slums.

Mobile Medical Van

No one can forget the disastrous earthquake that occurred on January 26, 2001, where lakhs of people had to face psychological, social, economical, financial, educational and clinical problems. Amongst all, the most affected area was Kutch-Bhuj district. As a helping hand to these people, the samiti started a mobile medical clinic wherein Managing Trustee Dr Hitesh I Jani along with doctors of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar provided free medical service to the victims for a period of one year. At present, this mobile clinic is engaged in rural health programme in the villages of Jamnagar.

School on Wheels

Similarly, lots of schools were also affected by the disastrous earthquake. So the project under the name of 'School on Wheels' was undertaken, where in all relevant material such as books, toys, school

bag, stationery etc were made available to children of Kutch district at their doorstep. In the mobile van, two teachers along with one driver impart education to children, play with them at scheduled time and at the selected place, in Kutch-Bhuj district and the expenses are borne by the samiti.

Kamdhenu Clinic

Also running clinical centre under the name of Kamdhenu clinic, known for carrying out special types of clinical treatment through natural and scientific way (panchagavya) in Motihaveli, Jamnagar. Patients are treated free of cost by the expert panel of doctors and medicines are prepared from cow's ark (extracts) are provided at a nominal rate.

Kamdhenu Mahila Co-Op Society

The samiti is proud of Gujarat's one and the only one committee formed in village Ishwarya of Lalpur taluka under the name of Kamdhenu Divya Aushidhi Women's Co-Operative Society. The committee prepares household medicines from gomutra (cow urine). This enables women of this village to be independent enough to earn their living.

Yugandhara Pratishtan

It's a part of Jankalyan Samiti and is carrying out several activities focusing on children and women. At present, the activities carried under this are Sanskar Kendra and Bal Pustakalay for children belonging to economically weak families.

Yugandhara Pratishtan has resolved to fight against life threatening, genetically inherited disease thalesemia for which a mega event was organized on Republic day where in 1,111 women for first time donated their blood.

The pratishtan is also planning to carry out research on thalesemia and other blood related disorders and prepare blood group directory which will have a detailed information about 1,111 donors so that they can serve as a helping hand to thalesemic patients by providing blood to them.

Sanskrit speaking classes are running successfully since 2003 where 45 participants of three batches are taught 3 months Sanskrit speaking certificate course with the help of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. Yoga classes are also held free of cost for women at Iswarya

village of Lalpur Taluka. Also Nivedita computer classes for girls are held since 2002 where the participants are provided computer training free of cost.

Nivedita clinic

Nivedita clinic is operating since 2001 in slum area of Digjam woolen mill wherein children and women are treated free of cost by the expert panel of doctors and medication is also provided free of cost.

SABLA (Society of Able and Bright Lady of our Area)

As the name suggests, it's the society formed only for women, by women and of women. The focus areas are training, research, awareness and development.

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Hedgewar Seva Samiti transformed the agri-face of tribal region

Dr Hedgewar Seva Samiti works with the principle 'Nasti Seva Samo Dharma' which means there is no religion as service to mankind. The samiti utilizes the traditional knowledge of tribals for village development and imparts them knowledge regarding the modern innovative techniques of farming so as to make them self reliant. For more than two decades, the samiti has successfully executed various ventures covering all the aspects of tribal life and incubating the development in true sense.

Dr Hedgewar Seva Samiti believes in institutional way of development and also plays a consultative role in the initiatives of various agencies and bodies in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district, which has 62% tribal population that comprises of Bhills, Tadavis, Kokanis, Pawaras, Mavachis etc. In 1997, The Govt of Maharashtra declared Nandurbar as a separate district, but the Tribals were left behind and were deprived of various basic facilities such as health, education, sanitation, etc. in the region. For the upliftment of agricultural sector and people engaged in agricultural work, Hedgewar Seva Samiti (HSS) initiated the efforts and soon a remarkable improvement was noticed in the entire region.

Land-based livelihood is still the sole choice of millions of people. HSS runs a vibrant and people-oriented Farm Science Centre (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) and ventures at village-to-district level for improving the agriculture. It is credited for pioneering Agro-Technology Mahotsav that is now replicated all over the country. Agro-based processing and forest-based micro enterprises have a huge potential of ensuring livelihood of the rural populace. HSS has reached the unreached people with appropriate technology and capital support.

Biodiversity and IPR

The country with some of the hot-spots of global bio-diversity and with thousands of years of knowledge must be conscious and protective of its biodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). HSS works

with the farmers and the scientific community, in order to conserve, enhance, and protect the local bio-diversity and related IPR of the community holding knowledge.

Vanoushadhi Sankalan Samvardhan Kendra looks after the globally critical issue of biodiversity and intellectual property rights over traditional knowledge of the people of India. It fosters the conservation of medicinal herbs and documentation of medicinal knowledge about flora. The Hindu tradition of medicine says that 'naasti moolam anaushadham' i.e. there is no herb without a medicinal element. India being a home to 45,000 known species of plants; the task before this kendra is gigantic and challenging.

National Agriculture Innovation Project

HSS is implementing NAIP (National Agriculture Innovation Project) in Khandbara cluster of Nandurbar district and is a partner in a consortium appointed by NAIP. The NAIP experience in Khandbara is unique as it has technical perfection giving amazing results and it has community ownership carrying the benefits beyond beneficiaries. The HSS approach of community involvement leading to institutional development of community groups; viz. farmers' clubs at village level and primary groups (like Water User Groups, and Advanced Agriculture Groups) - has enabled the community continue the pace of development that this project has set in. The groups have received meticulous training on each step of technology transfer. Most of the trainings have been on the field - thus emphasizing hands-on learning. The groups have been led to interact with government (line) department officials. The farmers' clubs are recognized and affiliated to NABARD. That has empowered the groups with authenticity and strong foundation. Farmers other than the participants are also following the project technologies and are benefitting. The project has also been successful in integrating its findings in the village and district plans of development.

Education: Education in tribal dominated regions is not just limited to bookish knowledge by memorizing the lessons, but it is related to learning practical lessons by sweating at farms in harmony with Mother Nature. HSS has implemented such system of education that utilizes the traditional knowledge of tribals for village development and equips them with the technical and scientific knowledge of farming thereby making them self reliant.

Education in its social parlance is not as simple as opening a school and giving books, especially when the issue is related to bringing forward

the most backward, poorest and those solely dependent on fast dwindling natural resources. HSS therefore works at multiple levels ranging from elementary and non-formal education to vocational and agricultural education.

Gram Shikshan Mandir

In order to set up a non formal school at such remote places, the samiti selected a few local youths and designated him as 'acharyas' (teachers) after a systematic training of ten days. This non-formal school runs from 4 to 6 pm. The syllabus has been framed as per the requirement of the students and all the contents such prayers, poems and stories are crafted in a language that matches with their level of understanding. The strategy of this Gram Shikshan Mandir is to begin with games, folk songs, fairy tales, national and local ancient heroes, fables, & then numbers, letters etc. The project has been implemented with a close involvement of local people. Presently, 270 Gram Shikshan Mandirs are running in the remote areas of Satpuda benefiting over 5000 students from 115 villages. This campaign is being well executed by a dedicated team of 48 co-ordinators and 270 acharyas.

Aashram Shala (Residential School)

A common tribal family has a dual difficulty in sending their children to school; children cannot attend school every day in absence of transportation and the family cannot provide them a learning environment amidst extreme poverty. Realizing the gravity of the problem, HSS decided to run a residential school for such children giving formal education up to class 10.

This residential school located at village Jalke is known for its quality education and the bond of care between students and teachers. The school is situated in 4.5 acres of land, where students are learning horticulture and improved farm practices. This ensures that they are not alienated from farming and also that they will be the carriers of new technologies to their remote villages. The school also has an excellent record in sports training and the students have actively participated in state-level competitions. Aashram Shala currently houses 400 students.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) is a people's open school where short term skill-training courses are conducted for helping people to earn

livelihood. JSS is a project recognized and fully funded by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. JSS identifies the needs of the people and market potential of various trades while designs its courses. More than 28 trades are currently covered under this initiative. Training for these trades is imparted by experts and certificate is granted on successful completion. The certificate issued by JSS has Central Government recognition and is accepted by all nationalized banks providing credit to small enterprises. Numerous JSS trainees have turned entrepreneurs.

Mukt Krishi Shikshan Kendra

This school is affiliated and recognized by Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. It offers diploma and degree courses in agriculture and agro-based processing. This school is a boon for rural and tribal youths, because it is accessible, affordable and directly applicable in earning a decent livelihood.

This open school of agriculture has received a tremendous response from rural and tribal youths and many pass-outs have entered agro-based processing enterprises. 200-odd students of this school also act as messengers of agro technology to their home villages. There are many moments of pride in the 5-year record of the school, when its students gave alerts about impending pest attacks and helped a big number of farmers save their crops.

Malnutrition

Deforestation, declining of the fertility of land, unprofitable farming, increase in poverty and malnutrition are some of the issues of grave concern in tribal belts of the country. In order to eradicate malnutrition, government and non-governmental organizations mainly distributes food stuffs among tribals, but in spite of this, the problem of malnutrition still persists in tribal belts.

HSS gave a serious consideration to this problem and decided that the problem can be completely eradicated, if livelihood is strengthened. In order to protect the farm, soil should be protected, water should be conserved, methods of farming need to be improved, small scale industries that run on the forest produce should be improved and selling price should be increased.

Dr Hedgewar Seva Samiti karyakartas sent their proposal to Small Grant Programme run by UNDP. The proposal was accepted and the karyakartas initiated this livelihood project. Scientists working for samiti's

Agricultural Research Centre also gave a helping hand for the project. The project began in five remote villages of Satpuda mountain range. RSS had an excellent communication with all the villages.

Kisan Mandali (group of farmers) was constituted in each village. Through these mandalis, the project began to run. In the first phase, the cropping pattern of rain-based farming was innovated. 20 to 25 farmers from each village participated in this innovation. Training was given to produce two crops at a time in a single field. At some places, traditional methods were adopted and at some places, new breed of arhar and soybean were used. Soybean was sowed for the first time and the production of new breeds arhar and soybean was also increased.

In each farm, pits of 6x1 feet dimension were dug in the lower portion, so that the soil should not be swept away. After rainy season, it was observed that over 1 tonne soil was accumulated in all these pits! The other farmers also decided to dig such pits before next rainy season. For digging work, gram panchayat arranged the labourers through National Employment Guarantee Scheme (NEGS).

Technicians of Krishi Vigyan Kendra prepared a layout for vegetable garden in every house. The type and amount of vegetables to be grown in 10x10 sq m area was also decided. The scientists paid a special attention towards the nutrients to be obtained by growing such vegetables. The purpose was that even if the experiment yields just 50% result, then also no child will remain under nourished. All 25 families in the village purchased seeds and the vegetable garden started growing. Experts used to visit the garden from time to time and give training for maintaining the garden. A mini-watering kit was prepared for ensuring round-the-year water availability.

Right from the year one, the yield was good and by eating these vegetables, the health of the villagers started improving. Active co-operation is being received from the villagers. Thus Hedgewar Seva Samiti through its dedicated efforts has proved that the problem of malnutrition can be completely eradicated.

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Maitreyi Gurukulam: Reviving lost Vedic tradition

Woman is the nucleus of Indian culture. She plays various roles such as mother, daughter, sister, wife, etc and in each role she plays, lies the welfare of the nation. Mother is regarded as the first Guru of the child. She grooms the child so as to make him a responsible citizen. Maitreyi Gurukulam has revived the tradition of Vedic education for women that was lost in the passage of time.

The Gurukulam for women has been started so as to induce ideal womanhood and make girl child service oriented. It is obviously through her that the ideal society of the future is going to be shaped. The project is run under the aegis of a local Trust that is a part of Hindu Sewa Pratisthan, Karnataka.

The Gurukulam is situated in a serene atmosphere in Moorukaje village, 4 km off Vittla, Bantwal taluka, Dakshin Kannada district, Karnataka. Hindu tradition does not approve commercialization of education, medicine and food; the three essentials in life. Maitreyi Gurukulam being true to tradition does not charge fees from the students. Education including lodging and boarding is provided free of cost in the Gurukulam that is run on public contribution. The education being free of cost, being supported by a philanthropic society in the vicinity of the project, was looked down by many as the Gurukulam sprouted initially. However the society has recognized this endeavour and now the entrance test qualifiers only get the admission.

Gurus sit on the platforms and the shishyas sit on the floor, right beneath the huge 'cool' green trees. No blackboards, chalk pieces and dusters; the oral tradition being practiced flawlessly in a modern world where no one understands a concept unless it is presented through visuals. Most of the girls come from rural areas. The admission is open to all Hindu girls above 10 years of age without any consideration for caste and class with only 20 students per batch. The first phase consists

of six-year course and the admission to the higher course is given on the successful completion of the first phase. The evolution of a personality is being experimented in this lab of human performances.

Two decades ago, an old couple, the owner of over 100 acres of land costing some crores, used to live happily on that land with some 200 dogs and they served the dogs as the service to the Almighty. However, after the demise of the husband, the old lady wished to donate this land to some voluntary organization working for welfare of women and did it to his satisfaction and left for heavenly abode after a work.

A team of karyakartas started working day and night to turn the dream of the noble lady into reality. Now the dream has come true as Maitreyi Gurukulam.

Salient feature of the Gurukulam

- 1) Learning through the medium of the mother tongue-Kannada.
- 2) Working knowledge of conversation Sanskrit.
- 3) A perfect blend of traditional knowledge and modern information. Hence Vedas, Yoga, agriculture, native medicines and modern science form the core subjects of this multidimensional curriculum. Revival of the tradition of women learning Vedas is also an important aspect of the Gurukulam.
- 4) Motherly care of in-charge matrons.
- 5) Learning with a spiritual outlook.
- 6) Extra facilities to study literature, music and other fine arts.

Contact

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Manav Seva Pratishtan bringing revolutionary tribal development in Bengal

Manav Seva Pratishtan, as the name indicates is working for all round development of human beings with an attitude of selfless service in the regions where the stream of development has not yet reached. The pratishtan is working in the tribal belts of West Bengal for elevating the standard of living of these people belonging to the underprivileged sections of society so as to catalyze the progress of the country.

Following projects have been undertaken by the pratishtan so as to sow the seeds of development in the northeastern tribal regions of India. Definitely, true to the fact 'As you sow, so shall you reap' the efforts have started yielding fruits now and it seems that a drastic development of the region will be noticed within a few years.

Jalberia Ashram

At Sunderban, located at a distance of 64 km from Kolkata, the ashram is doing a commendable work in various fields. The land for the ashram on Jaynagar-Jamtala Road has been donated by the local villagers.

Following activities are being run by the ashram:

1) **School:** Primary and higher secondary school is run by the ashram since 1982, with strength of 500 students. The library that has been built for the students is also utilized by the villagers for their intellectual enhancement. Local tribal students and backward class students stay at the hostel. Tailoring training is compulsory for the students of class VII and VIII.

2) **Physical education:** Physical fitness training camps are regularly organized from time to time for the local tribal students as well as hostellers. Local residents along with people from the surrounding villages also participate in the training programmes so as to enhance their physical strength through scientific training by trained instructors.

3) **Health centre:** About 500 patients get treated at the homoeopathic

clinic established by the ashram. Homoeopathic treatment has proved effective for these economically backward brethren who cannot bear the expenses of costlier allopathic treatment. Apart from this, an eye clinic is also run by the ashram.

4) Temple: In the year 2008, a temple of Lord Shiva was established in this region that is closely attached to Bangladesh border. This is the first temple in this region. Devotees throng the temple in large numbers during the holy month of Shravan. Various occasions such as Bengali New Year, Gajan Mela, Baisakh Utsav, etc are celebrated with religious fervour. A variety of plants such as coconut, mango, etc have been planted that adds to the beauty of the region.

Krishnanagar Project

Saraswati Shishu Mandir has been started in the building that was received as donation from the kind-hearted donors. The provision has been made for primary education and at present, over 600 students study at the school. Computer training centre has also been started to run with time.

Lalpur Bodra Ashram

The project is running at Lalpur village since 1982, located at a distance of 35 km from Malda city. Vishwa Hindu Parishad laid the foundation for the ashram with the active support from various trusts. Now, the ashram has been handed over to Manav Seva Pratishthan for further progress and expansion. The ashram has a Shiv Mandir where many devotees regularly take part in puja rituals. In due course of time, the ashram also started school and hostel for educating the underprivileged children from the village and the surrounding regions. Over 135 students study at the primary school that was established in 1992. The hostel that is running since 1997 houses students belonging to tribal and backward communities; over 100 students are still waiting for having admission at the hostel. The students here are also trained in gardening.

Puleshwar Project

The project is situated at Puleshwar village, at a distance of 30 km from Kolkata. All the festivals are celebrated with fervor at the temple of Lord Narayana in which all the villagers participate with enthusiasm. Over 350 patients are treated at the homoeopathy clinic every month. Regular eye check-up camps are organized by the eye care centre and

every year.

A computer training centre is also running, where about 180 students are availing the computer education in six shifts. Guidance is provided free of cost to the students from class 5 to 10. Kids are given moral education at Bal Sanskar Kendra. Villagers and students are trained for physical fitness and also in various outdoor games at the physical education centre. Women are given self employment training at the tailoring centre. At present, the expansion work for the centre is in full swing and about 25 women are receiving the training at the centre. An old age home is also run for the senior citizens.

Podra Project

The construction of the building for this project is in full swing on the land donated by the local villagers for this noble cause. The project is in Howrah district near Andul road located at a distance of 8 km from Kolkata. Yoga centre, library, satsang kendra, yuva kendra, mahila kalyan Kendra, etc are in the offing. At present, homoeopathy clinic and sanskar kendra are functioning under this project.

Amta Project

Saraswati Shishu mandir was started in 1995 on the bank of Damodar river. The land for the kindergarten school was donated by renowned social worker Chandi Tarandas. At present, over 300 students are studying at the school. Eleven teachers have been appointed for teaching them. A clinic has also been started in the school premises to provide healthcare facility to the kids and teachers.

Every year, Manav Seva Pratishthan organizes free eye check-up camp in which surgeries such as cataract, glaucoma, etc are performed for poor villagers who cannot afford expensive medical treatment at metro cities. In addition to this, a homoeopathic clinic is also run in the school building.

For empowering women and make them self-sufficient in earning their bread, a tailoring training institute has been opened in the Shishu Mandir campus. Over 30 girls per batch avail the training and utilize this knowledge for earning a supplement for their families.

Bhagwanpur Ashram Project

A seva project has been initiated at Shiv Bajar in Bhagwanpur village, situated at a distance of 135 km distance from Kolkata. Nanibala Bishnupad Dutta from the village donated land for this project in the

year 2008. The pratishthan aims to build one school, a few buildings for other seva projects and one temple in the forthcoming period. Apart from this, Shrimati Dutta has also made available six rooms in which one Shishu Mandir and one primary school have been started.

Farakka Project

The pratishthan has opened a health centre near Farakka dam. Each year, over 3000 patients from nearby villages are treated. Today, on one hand, the doctors are not even ready to go to villages for rendering their services and on the other hand, the pratishthan has indeed done a commendable work by providing healthcare facilities in these remote regions.

Gangasagar Project

Every year, a religious congregation is organized at Gangasagar in which devotees from not only India but from all over the world participate. During this mela, Manav Seva Pratishthan also plays an active role in providing various facilities to the devotees. During this mela, the most difficult problem is that of the lavatories. Realizing this, Manav Seva Pratishthan has constructed a huge building near bus stand for the accommodation of devotees where appropriate arrangement has been made for lavatories. During mela, the karyakartas provide tea, breakfast, lunch, fuel, etc free of cost to the devotees.

Kathakar Yojana

Under this scheme, karyakartas visit the remote mountainous regions in northeast region and tell the villagers stories based on the lives of great national heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country. The scheme has been greatly proved beneficial for the propagation of Indian culture and values among the northeastern tribal belt that has been cut off from the mainstream of social development even after several years of Independence. These story tellers are called kathakars who communicate with the villagers in a charming way so that the kids, youths as well as elders equally take an interest in listening to their sermons. This also raises their moral values.

Contact

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Bilaspur orphans have 'Her' motherly touch

Sunanda Vaishampayan! A name lost in the densely populated Bilaspur city. A simple face with slightly weak eyesight that always needs spectacles. The entire book of her life filled with bitter and sweet experiences can be read with the help of each and every wrinkle on her body.

Even if there is a chaos, whenever her voice is heard, orphan kids guess that their 'kaku' (mother), has come. All kids then rush to get her love and affection. This is the speciality of Sunandaji that even if she doesn't have any child of her own, all children of the orphanage get relief by her motherly touch.

All children call her 'kaku.' She stays at Tiwari Chawl near Jarhabhatha. Her husband has expired and whenever somebody questions about her loneliness, she says, "What loneliness? I have 22 children. Come with me. I will introduce them to you." Saying this, she knocks the door of Matruchhaya, the orphanage at Kududand. As soon as the door gets opened, all children look at her. It feels as if all kids want to sit near their mother, talk to her and feel her motherly touch. Some kids even want to get her scolding that is filled with love.

For kaku, Matruchhaya is her house. She is visiting Matruchhaya from last 7 years. She says, "If some day I don't meet children, I fell restless. I even cannot eat or sleep properly. A tension grips the mind about the well being of my children."

She has decided to donate her entire property for the nourishment of these children. She wants to see the smile on their face. She feels that donating her property worth lakhs of rupees along with her house to Matruchhaya will bring happiness on the face of these kids. Then she will feel that she has got a correct price for her property in the real sense.

She says, "I came from Banaras to Bilaspur along with my husband

in 1962. Then we hired Seva Bharati treasurer's house. We got attached to Seva Bharati work in the year 2000. After that, this organization established an orphanage called Matruchhaya and from then onwards, I am trying to impart love and affection to these kids." Suddenly, as she hears the cry of one of the kids, she immediately wakes up and tries to move towards the cradle. Though her speed has reduced due to joint pain and old age, she tries her level best to move. Slowly, she reaches the cradle and picks the kid. As soon as the baby gets her motherly touch, it stops crying and starts smiling.

Contact

Matruchhaya Anaathaalay
Sewa Bharati,
Bilaspur
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How to Reach

By air: Raipur Airport is the nearest one that is located at a distance of 110 km.

Mathru Sakthi's motherly touch for destitute girls

"Serving the society is the real meaning of worshipping God." To implement this principle, Mathru Sakthi Prathishtan is serving and helping the poor and destitute girls over a decade. It runs a destitute children's home in Aluva (Ernakulam, Kerala), on the bank of the river Periyar. Mathru Sakthi has been delivering its social committed service since 1998 at the feet of the Almighty.

Mathru Sakthi is a symbol of selfless and non commercial service, an empathy and an attempt to help the needy girls. It initiates a better way of living and education for girls who are deprived of education and have no parental care & love in the society. The only way to take care of them is to provide a good environment for all round development. Children at Mathru Sakthi are provided with wholesome food and a periodic health check-up is conducted. It is ensured that at regular intervals, the girls are taken for educational tours to different parts of the state and many cultural and spiritual activities. The establishment of Mathru Sakthi was initiated by Sevabharathi along with its many socially committed people.

Mathru Sakthi as the name indicates is the power of mother's love to her kids. As the number of needy, abandoned girls in India is getting colossal, a motherly touch and tremendous compassion is necessary to uplift such women and girls by giving them shelter, thus helping them integrate into the society and educating them to stand alone by trade. Mathru Sakthi is running with the help of well-educated and competent staff dedicated towards the growth of this needy sector.

At present, Mathru Sakthi has 45 girls from different social background. However, most of the girls hail from this remote region. After coming here, they have started to relive their lives leaving behind their horrifying and disappointing yester days and they have begun to learn to tread forward with confidence and dignity. They live here as

different members of a single family, where everyone is treated equally.

Mathru Sakthi is providing education in highly profiled schools and colleges with English medium with a complete sense of social service. There are more than 30 students studying in various standards up to post graduation. A full attention is paid towards the physical and spiritual growth. Yoga and meditation classes are regularly conducted by dedicated and qualified Yoga teachers. Apart from all these, different traditional festivals are celebrated and cultural events are held to discover the latent talent among students.

Mathru Sakthi stands for empowerment of destitute girls and women. But there are a lot people who deserve these type of services. Hence Mathru Sakthi karyakartas conduct a number of health programmes not only for the members, but also for people living in remote and tribal areas. People living in remote areas are deprived of basic health facilities and are totally cut off from the mainstream of development. Hence the karyakartas provide medicines, medical advice and conduct awareness camps as a part of social commitment.

Contact

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How to reach

By air: Kochi International Airport is the nearest airport at a distance of 4 km.

Seva Bharati's health shield for Meghalaya villagers

Meghalaya region that is situated in far off mountain ranges with a population of around 25 lakh is extremely deprived of health facilities. The entire north-eastern region has the same situation. In such regions, where doctors are also not willing to come, Aarogya Redshank Yojana has brought much relief. The project that began in 1999 in Assam is now slowly and steadily spreading its wings in the entire north-eastern region. At present, 5000 'Aarogya Rakshaks' are working in the region.

In each village, there is one Aarogya Rakshak (male or female) and they are given the responsibility to look after the primary health of the villagers. Their training comprises of diagnosing the disease, prevention of the disease and the primary treatment. In many villages, due of lack of doctors, villagers don't go for treatment till the case doesn't become serious. In such cases, the situation can go out of control. Because of the Aarogya Rakshaks, the disease is detected quickly and the patients are also requested to visit the hospital. Aarogya Rakshaks take the patients to the hospital along with them. They also treat the patients when the Seva Bharati mobile clinic visits the villages. They create awareness among villagers regarding health and hygiene in day to day life.

Aarogya Rakshaks work purely on a voluntary basis. No remuneration is paid to them. During training, travelling allowance and a medical kit is provided. This kit is well equipped with various allopathic, homoeopathic and ayurvedic medicines. The medicines differ from region to region but it is observed that homoeopathic treatment is easy regarding training as well as giving medicines.

Their training is carried out in languages such as English, Assamese, Bangla, Bodo, Khasi, etc and the literature is also provided in all these languages. For the effective implementation of the project, full-time doctors are also available. A special training is also provided to those

who treat more than 1000 patients annually in which about 500 Aarogya Rakshaks have achieved a special mastery.

Mahila Aarogya Rakshaks are running Sanskar Kendras (value education centers) in 170 villages. In terror-hit regions also, there is no threat to Aarogya Rakshaks.

Apart from north-eastern region, Aarogya Rakshak Yojana is run in the other parts of the nation also.

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Narmada Samagra, Bhopal

There are many rivers in India but river Narmada has a historic significance, unhampered even today. Narmada is the only river whose parikrama (rotational journey) has a religious significance. The river is next to mother for the people; they call it Narmada Maiya (mother Narmada) with great respect. Mythological kings, seers and rishis used to reside along the banks of Narmada. Many big cities are situated on the banks of Narmada and a number of large industries are also being run. Including Sardar Sarovar, many big dams have been constructed on river Narmada. Due to all these reasons, Narmada water, regarded as sacred since ancient times, is polluting day by day. In order to nip this pollution in the bud and maintain the historical, mythological and religious significance of Narmada, Narmada Samagra, a voluntary organization from Bhopal is working quite effectively from last several years. The organization has been established with a view to unite various organizations working for water resource management round the globe and protect the tribes and communities associated with those resources. Rajya Sabha MP and social activist Sri Anil Madhav Dave is the man behind Narmada Samagra. Along with the dignitaries like Amritlalji Vegad, senior artist & parikramavasi, Dave Ji moulded the concept of Narmada Samagra. He himself has performed the parikrama of the holy river by road, air and boat. In this journey, he visited many ashrams run by seers and temples located on the banks of the river. He communicated with people belonging to different tribes and took a detailed account of their problems. At various places, he tested the water pollution level and also inspected the industries that are adding to the pollution of the river.

Challenges

Pollution-free Narmada; reviewing the depletion of the banks and ensuring its protection; development of the region surrounding the valley; maintaining the mythological and religious significance of Narmada along

with its development from tourism point of view; maintaining the purity of Narmada water like it was in 19th century and ensuring that the same will also be maintained in the year 2047 when the nation will celebrate the centenary of its Independence are some of the challenges before Narmada Samagra.

Plans

To maintain the environment around Narmada and purity of water, propagating the cultural, historical and religious significance of the river and bringing an awakening among people are the main objectives of Narmada Samagra. Besides this, the focus is also being laid on other aspects such as

1) Hariyali Chunari Prakalp: Planting saplings along the banks in large numbers and conserving the forest region.

2) Improving the river's health: Considering that the river also has life, making efforts are to strengthen its health that includes publishing the information such as purity of water, salinity of soil, etc every year.

3) Paryavaran Panchkoshi Yatra: Visiting the villages situated on the banks of Narmada; creating awareness among villagers regarding the conservation of river; preventing the release of pollutants in river water and ensuring the cleanliness of the banks.

4) Research and development: Exploring the new avenues of research and utilizing them for the work of development that has to be done for the welfare of villages. For effective implementation of these objectives and creating awareness about all these aspects, Narmada Samagra had organized international convention on conservation of rivers in the year 2008 and 2010 at Bandrabhan village located near Hoshangabad city of Madhya Pradesh. 577 representatives from all over the world attended the meet in 2008 in which 110 research papers were presented. This strength was increased to 733 in 2010. A number of important resolutions were passed in these conventions regarding the conservation of Narmada.

Contact

Narmada Samagra

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'Nele' transformed life of street children

Hindu Seva Pratishthana's Nele project has transformed the life of children wandering on Bangalore streets and has enabled them lead a respectful life. Nele means shelter in Kannada. Their life has been brought on correct track of schooling and good conduct so as to become the responsible citizens of tomorrow.

It is a common sight in Bangalore to see children with torn clothes, disheveled hair, eyes full of hope, lugging a dirty bag on their tiny shoulder, picking bits and pieces of rags from the streets. They are totally deprived of the right to parent's love and affection, basic education and support from society. The only choice for these kids to have their living is to feed themselves on the leftover food thrown around by the people. Apart from the rag-pickers there are also thousands of other children deprived of parental care and facing financial hardships who need homely atmosphere. It is no wonder that many of these children, devoid of basic schooling and cultural education, cultivate all the wrong habits and end up as anti social elements marching on the path of crime.

The city of Bangalore alone encompasses thousands of such children. It is the responsibility of any civilized society to take care of its people, especially children like these. Hindu Seva Prathisthana offers a ray of hope to these children in the form of Nele. Nele project was initiated by Hindu Seva Pratishthana in the year 2000 to provide residential care to such children. So far, 10 centres have been established in Karnataka that provide shelter to over 260 boys and girls. Facilities such as food, clothing and shelter; school based education, cultural education & social awareness; sports, music, fine arts, Sanskrit and Yoga along with the health and hygiene awareness are provided to destitute children. Many of the children are brought here by the police or social workers to prevent them from falling victim to crime and social evils.

The idea behind Nele is to provide a home-like atmosphere with loving care so that their emotional needs are also met along with the financial and material ones. So, the wardens and volunteers treat the

children like members of their own family, mingle with them freely, and even dine with them regularly.

Of course, there are a handful of children who show little or no inclination for studies and show consistently poor academic results. Such children are first encouraged to study hard but if the situation does not improve, they are given vocational training. Once they are adults and equipped with minimum education or vocation skills, all Nele inmates are helped to find jobs. There are a few dropouts too, who want to return home instead of staying in Nele for their own reasons or due to family pressure with their elders insisting on taking them away.

Most parents regard Nele as a boon, because their children are receiving what they themselves could never provide--three meals a day, safe shelter, hygienic bathing facilities, clean clothes, decent education and opportunities for extracurricular activities. There are mothers who express relief that their children have escaped the horror of seeing their drunken fathers and scenes of domestic abuse everyday and being emotionally scarred by that.

Some children have seen their mothers walk out from the home abandoning them to the father and/or grandparents who then bring the children here. Also, street children are vulnerable to many other dangers--they get drawn to or are forced into drug abuse/being used as drug peddlers, thievery, beggary, gang fights, smoking, drinking, prostitution, etc. Many of them turn into juvenile delinquents. Nele aims to rescue children from that fate and put them on the path to becoming productive, disciplined, self-reliant and socially useful individuals. They are also encouraged to return to their parents.

Various festivals such as Raksha Bandhan, Makar Sankranti, Shrikrishna Janmashtami, etc are celebrated with religious fervor. A unique programme called Makkala Mantapa provides a platform to Nele children to compete in various sports and cultural events. Children from Nele have won prizes in music, drawing, athletics, kabaddi and kho kho at district level competitions. Nele children were invited to present a programme at prestigious Dussehra festival at Mysore and their performance was much appreciated by all.

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Seva Bharathi's 'Manonethra' imparts a new vision

The disabled in India comprise only 1.5 percent of the total beneficiaries of various poverty alleviation and welfare schemes. Statistics tell the tale of neglect, of how the benefits of many government schemes don't percolate to the people with disabilities. Also, India is now the home for world's largest number of blind people. Of the 37 million people across the globe who are blind, over 15 million are from India.

Understanding the gravity of the problem, Seva Bharathi initiated Manonethra project that aims at giving a helping hand to empower the handicapped and bring the sunrise of knowledge in the life of visually disabled. RSS senior karyakarta Sri Suryanarayana raoji laid the foundation for the project in the year 2001.

Under Manonethra project, a full-fledged audio library is provided for visually handicapped. In twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad, there are eleven government hostels for blind students. Out of these 11 hostels, Manonethra is active in four hostels and plans to extend the services to the remaining. Medical facilities are also being provided at the hostels and at the office of Seva Bharathi in general. About 250 blind students have been benefited by the services. There is also a hostel for physically handicapped in Warangal run by the government and in Nalgonda, Seva Bharathi co-ordinates a school for visually handicapped run by a visually handicapped person itself.

Counselling sessions have yielded beautiful results in the hostels for orthopaedically handicapped in Nizamabad. Sessions comprise of reciting shlokas along with the basic awareness in health and personality development.

The work done so far

About 290 audio books have been distributed among 100 children

and 50 children are being provided with writer for their examination. Children of classes from 10th to degree and competitive exams are also assisted with all support.

How you can help

1. Be a volunteer
2. Be a volunteer to record cassettes for the blind
3. Donate your eyes at the nearest eye bank
4. Just spread the message of the good work

The shortage of donated eyes is becoming a huge problem. Of the 15 million blind people in India, three million, 26% of whom are children, suffer due to corneal disorders. But only 10,000 corneal transplants are being done every year due to the shortage of donated eyes. Hence eye donation can certainly overcome the problem.

Seva Bharathi has an affiliated organisation Akhil Bharatiya Drishtiheen Kalyan Sangh that is working closely with Bharath Vikas Parishad to distribute artificial limbs. Also, the organization has a well equipped sound library, writing club and the volunteers to record lessons for the blind.

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Mohan Thuse Eye Hospital: A ray of hope for tribals

Mohan Thuse Eye Hospital and Research Institute is doing a commendable work of providing eye care to the tribal populace residing in the remote areas of Sahyadri mountain range in the north-western region of Maharashtra.

Thirty years ago, the colleagues of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's karyakarta Mohan Thuse, laid the foundation for the hospital after his death in a tragic mishap. The hospital built in the memory of Thuse is situated at Narayangaon, about 80 kilometres from Pune. The hospital has now earned fame as the only hospital in the entire region equipped with latest technology.

Free eye treatment is provided to the tribal people residing in the vicinity. The hospital undertakes activities such as free eye check-up camps for 22 days in a month, distributing specs free of cost, arranging ambulance for people who need urgent eye operation, post operative care, arrangement for medicines after operation as well as providing food free of cost to the patients after operation.

In 1982, Dr Manohar K Dole started this hospital in a small room at Narayangaon situated on Pune-Nasik road. Money was the major problem, but the will to continue the charity work in the memory of Thuse helped him to clear the hurdles. He continued the noble work with the help of Pune's renowned eye specialist Dr Sudhir Kale. Slowly, the efforts started yielding fruits and after 15 years, society as well as government came forward. Government allotted 10,000 square feet land in Narayangaon. The family members of late Thuse also gave 3,600 sq ft land and thus the sapling turned into a banyan tree.

The hospital consists of three air-conditioned operation theatres with latest equipments, and about 500 patients are operated every month. The hospital has a special provision for the treatment of glaucoma that is usually found in tribal people. Two eye specialists examine patients

in OPD and waiting room is also provided to the patients. The staff comprises of eight surgeons, three specialists and thirty-five nurses who provide 24x7 service. Two ambulances are available. One of these ambulances visits different villages and awareness is created among rural masses regarding eye treatment.

The hospital has been awarded with various honours. Special award was given by Janata Sahakari Bank, Pune at the hands of then Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh in the year 2000. The special award by Pune Municipal Corporation has added a feather to its cap.

Additional projects of Dr Manohar Dole Medical Foundation

Atharva Eye-Care and Hi-Tech Laser Centre: This treatment centre, situated on Pune-Nasik road, is equipped with latest technology and five star facilities. It symbolizes 21st century's technological progress. Along with the various facilities such as waiting room, reception counter, etc, the hospital has an arrangement of viewing the operation through close circuit cameras. Computerized machines for laser treatment are available.

Matoshree Dr Shakuntalabai Mirashi Eye-Treatment Nursing School: The candidates are provided training in nursing. From last four years, the nurses trained in this centre are rendering their services not only in Maharashtra, but also in the entire world. Training is provided by the experienced nurses in a large conference hall. Free hostel facility is also provided.

Madhav Netra Pedhi: Madhav Netra Pedhi's branch has been started three years ago. The activities such as creating awareness about eye donation, eye transplantation, etc are conducted by the centre, that was established in the memory of RSS's second sarsanghchalak Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar (Shri Guruji).

Late Vinayak Shripad Rajguru Eye Care Unit: A mobile unit in the memory of Vinayak Shripad Rajguru is in the offing to provide treatment to the villagers in 8 tehsils. At this ripe age of 81, Dr Dole is not only imparting service with dedication in the region, but is also exploring new aspects for this noble cause. He has also vowed to establish small 10-bedded hospitals in various tribal villages. Stem cell lab and technical assistance centre is also on cards for which the chief

of Sakaal newspaper group Pratap Pawar has allotted 10,000 sq ft land. In addition to this, eye treatment college, post graduate college and blood bank are also on anvil

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Platform Gyan Mandir school, Nagpur

'They' get the correct platform

Vishwa Hindu Jankalyan Parishad's 'Platform Gyan Mandir' has transformed the life of the children who had lost the joy of childhood and were begging on the platforms to have their living. The 'train of their life' was running parallel to every train that was arriving on the platform. One day, they got the correct platform. Platform Gyan Mandir is the name of the school and Railway Police has enrolled these children at the school.

This residential school is located at Nagpur near Geetanjali Cinema. Now these children stay here, play and learn. Values are also inculcated among them besides studies. The school grooms their life by showing them the path of good conduct. Railway Police and Vishwa Hindu Jankalyan Parishad have rescued them from entering into the world of crime by roaming around the railway station.

Ravindra Singhal was Railway Police Superintendant at Nagpur. He saw some children begging at the railway platform and was disheartened to see their plight. Some of these children were even less than three years of age while some were about six to seven. He decided to pull out these children from such dirty environment and give them a new life by starting a residential school for them. He sought the consent of Mayor Archana Dehankar. Mayor, while approving the project, made a provision for corporation building and thus the foundation of the school was laid with the active co-operation of Vishwa Hindu Jankalyan Parishad.

The story of Wasim and Ajay studying here is the evidence of the hardships faced by these students. Wasim narrated, "At the tender age itself, my father forced me to lift the load of life. One day I made a mistake and he beat me ruthlessly. The signs are still visible on my body."

After that incident, Wasim fled the house and reached Nagpur railway station. He started begging there. He said, "One day, Railway Police enrolled me in this school. Today I am leading a life filled with self-respect. I want to become an engineer." Wasim burst into tears while recalling his childhood.

Ajay has also the same story. His father forced him to work on the farm day and night. He had to lift the sacks filled with food grains. He was not given food until the entire work was finished. Ultimately, he fled the house and came to Nagpur. Railway police enrolled him at the Platform School. The bitter experiences of his childhood still reflect in his talks. He says, "This school which has imparted me a life filled with self-respect is dearer to me than the father who made me work like animals by merely providing meals twice a day."

Co-ordinator of the school Shrikant Aglawe says, "This is not only the school but also a nest for these children. When these children came, their habits of speaking, eating and living were different. Here, values were taught to them. Now they wake up at 5 am. Do Pranayam and Yogic exercises. Many of these children even don't know to which cast or religion they belong but all of them live together in harmony."

Shrikant Aglawe has appealed to people to join this noble task. "Here, you can come and teach these children. You can provide them clothes, sweaters, toys or other educational material. You can celebrate your birthday or festival with these children. If nothing of this is possible, at least you can spend a few moments with them so that it will add a little joy to their life," he says.

Contact

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Prabodhini Gurukul, a blend of Vedic and modern education

Prabodhini Gurukul has been established with a vision to develop human resources with profound knowledge and ability to apply techniques derived from ancient Indian wisdom to address challenges faced by nation in the field of health, education and employment.

In this gurukul, students are not over burdened by textbooks and their parents don't have to worry about donation and fees. Education is not confined within four walls of a classroom. They study in a beautiful and serene campus where they are offered boarding, lodging and value-based education free of cost. Every year, 15-20 boys of age group 9-10 years are admitted to gurukul. The six years of education is divided into six classes called 'ganas' namely Shraddha, Medha, Prajna, Prathibha, Dhriti and Dheehi. A perfect plan for six years of education is chalked out.

Prabodhini Gurukula imparts Panchamukhi Shiksha; a five pronged system of education imparting knowledge in Veda, science, Yog, agriculture and fine arts. Along with the conventional subjects, the boys are also taught dignity of labour. Training is imparted to them starting from cleanliness to cooking, making toys out of mud, growing vegetables by organic farming, preparing Ayurvedic medicines, etc. Boys living in gurukul are taught cooperative living. Sports activities like swimming, kabaddi, volley ball and many other such activities are available to the students. With so many choices available as a part of the curriculum and the freedom to choose from them, it is no surprise that the institution produces highly qualified and motivated citizens. Such graduates also do not face problem in finding jobs or making their own careers. But the greatest benefit from this system is the recognition of the fact that no work is beneath anyone's dignity.

Daily activities

For boys, the day begins at 5 am and ends at 9.30 pm. The work

begins with a prayer, followed by Yogasanas, cleaning of gurukul premises, bath, pooja, breakfast, self study and regular classes. They play games in the evening. They work in the garden and agriculture field. At night they sing bhajanas, chant Bhagavadgita, do meditation and are engaged in self study. In this way, attention is paid to all round development of students.

Languages: The mother tongue (Kannada) and Sanskrit are taught from first year. English is introduced in third year. Hindi is taught during last two years. Skills of effective listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught to enable good communication skills.

Balagokul: Students of Pratibha Gana visit primary and higher primary schools in Addada and Hariharapura villages in the vicinity and conduct Balagokul. They tell stories of great Indian epics, famous characters and great events in the Indian history. Devotional songs, bhajans, quiz competitions, etc are also conducted.

Village stay: Students of final and pre-final year (Dhruti and Dhee Ganas) go to selected villages in Chikmagalur district and stay there for 10 days during October/November every year. They conduct Yog camps, bhajan camps and Balagokul there. Along with this, they interact closely with villagers and also study village life, problems and opportunities there so as to understand the society in a better way.

Summer camps: Selected students, under the guidance of acharyas conduct summer camps at different places in which they teach Sanskrit, shlokas, bhajans, Yogasanas, pooja vidhis, Bhagavadgita, swadeshi games, moral stories and stories of great national heroes and other things that help in developing the personality of the school students attending the camps.

Labs: The laboratories are well equipped with modern scientific equipments. Students are also provided training at hi-tech computer lab that is most essential in this 21st century.

Library: Gurukul library has a good collection of books on various subjects. Grammar books in English, Kannada and Samskrita, encyclopedias, biographies of great personalities are also available. Spiritual books, story books, comics, novels, poetry books, textbooks of different states and literature books also decorate the shelves.

Experiments in organic farming: Gurukul follows organic farming practices in its farm land. Students have cultivated beautiful flower garden and grow vegetables in an area of $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. Planting,

watering and other maintenance work is done by the students. Gomutra (cow urine), cow manure are used as fertilizers and neem based pesticides are used. No chemical fertilizers and pesticides are used.

Fine Arts : Apart from regular syllabus, students are taught fine arts like Bharatanatyam, Yakshagana, classical music and painting. Musical instruments like keyboard, mridangam, flute, harmonium, tabla, veena, etc are also taught. It helps students to improve concentration and imbibes innovativeness in them. Guest lectures by experts are also arranged from time to time.

Prabodhini Trust

Prabodhini Trust was established in the year 1994. It is located at Chitrakoota, Hariharapura in Chikmagalur District. The trust is run purely on donations from public. Also, trust has involved itself in promoting organic farming, self-reliance, good sanskars, Bharateeya way of life among people. Trust is achieving these with the help of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and other resource persons outside gurukul. One person from gurukul is designated to manage these activities.

Self Help Groups (SHG) : NABARD has selected Prabodhini Trust as an NGO which inspires and guides SHGs in Koppa, Sringeri and Narasimharajapura taluka of Chikmagalur district. Refresher course is conducted for members of all SHGs from time to time. Also, ledger maintenance training is given to these SHG members. Trust has formed 102 SHGs in Koppa and Sringeri taluka till now.

For handicapped children : A home based education programme is run by the trust in association with government for physically handicapped and mentally retarded children under which 22 children have been educated.

Swajala Dhara : This programme, sponsored by Central Government, aims to provide drinking water and fulfill other daily needs of the villagers. Government provides 90% of the fund and rest is arranged by the villagers. Trust is identifying and guiding the village panchayats for effective implementation of the programme.

Savayava Gram (Organic farming village) : State Government, through this programme, is promoting organic farming by identifying 100 hectares of agriculture land in every taluka. Government has given the responsibility to the trust to implement this programme in Addada and Kavadi villages of Koppa and Sringeri taluka respectively. Trust is arranging the necessary infrastructure and training to implement the

plan. The trust is also organizing workshops on preparing organic fertilizers. As a result of this, the Central Government has distributed organic fertilizer manufacturing units to the farmers free of cost. A demonstrational workshop on Zero Investment Farming (which is becoming popular in recent days) is arranged by the trust at Halmattur of Koppa taluka. These workshops are arranged frequently at different villages. Training in honey collection is arranged in cooperation with NABARD. The Trust also arranges demonstrational workshops on Vanilla processing at gurukul.

Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) : Under this programme sponsored by Central Government, awareness programmes on health, toilets, roads and waste management are conducted. These workshops are inspiring other villagers to implement the same at their villages. In the programme run by the health department, resource persons from the trust participate and create awareness about AIDS.

Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana : Youth in the villages are trained for self-reliance through small scale industries. Workshops are conducted under this programme.

Village survey : Trust is involved in survey and detailed study of three villages in Koppa taluka (Binthravalli, Koppa, Devagodu) and submitting reports to the Government. Reports have the details on status of roads, light arrangements, schools, health facilities and other basic infrastructure status. Trust is not only submitting the reports to government, but also the plans to improve the infrastructure in villages.

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport to Sringeri is Mangalore International Airport Bajpe, that is at a distance of about 100 km.

Samatol, a ray of hope for platform-wandering children

A certain passive event leaves a strong impression on the minds of children and a deep void is created in the relationship. At this tender age, in a fit of rage, such children then opt for an extreme decision of leaving their homes and the equilibrium of their life gets disturbed. Mumbai's Samatol Foundation is working hard for bringing these children back on track. The foundation is saving their childhood from wandering into the darkness of crime and intoxication and striving hard to send them back to their homes by transforming their lives. Hindu Seva Sangh has indeed served as a backbone for this noble work.

Thirst for materialistic pleasure brings these children on Mumbai's railway platform. The struggle for earning their bread takes them on the path of developing bad habits. A series of spine-chilling experiences is left with them and thus their life starts wandering in the darkness of crime.

Interacting with these children on railway platform, Vijay Jadhav and the karyakartas earned their trust. By staying with them, sometimes even chasing them, karyakartas tried to develop the love for their homes in these children. However, before sending these children back to their homes, it was necessary to get them rid of bad habits so that their parents happily welcome them. It was certainly necessary to inculcate sanskars among such children and for this, Vijay Jadhav and his karyakartas initiated Samatol Foundation.

Vijay Jadhav, man behind this institution is the native of 'Aale' junction located in Junnar district of Maharashtra. After completing ITI, he joined a private company as a technician and quit after some time due to some personal reasons. After this, he decided to dedicate his life completely for the welfare of society and joined one social service organization. While working for the noble cause, he was moved by the plight of children wandering on railway platforms. Some institutions

were running shelter homes for these children but he decided to find a permanent solution to the problem. The question, why these children leave homes at such a tender age began to strike his mind again and again. He started communicating with these children and found that because of the poverty and attraction towards the material pleasures, most of them have quit their homes.

In a metro city like Mumbai, there is a danger of getting these children indulged into bad habits and intoxication. Before sending these children back to their homes, Jadhav felt it necessary to first get them rid of their bad habits. However, it was not that much easy. Inculcating sanskars among these children by taking their psychology into account was indeed a Herculean task which Samatol accomplished by initiating various activities. Sanskar camps are organized for such children at a peaceful place outside Mumbai six times in an year where these children are made physically and mentally strong.

In this five-week-long camp, Samatol karyakartas, social workers and experts interact with children. During the first week, these children are given liberty to lead life like that on the railway station. In second week, they are taught to live a life filled with discipline, rules and regulations. The activities at the camp go on increasing as the time passes.

Blending of informal education system with value education is effectively taught and along with this, moral values are also induced among the children. Counselling is done by expert doctors, motivators and psychologists. They accompany these children round-the-clock so that the children don't move again towards the path of intoxication and bad habits.

Regular exercise and primary education form the nuclear part of the camp. Sankars are also imparted at the time of meals. Through discussion, story telling, etc, children are groomed to think logically. The activities just do not end here but in the meantime, the addresses of these children are searched and they are sent back to their homes when they really start developing affection towards their families.

Such behavior of wards certainly annoys their parents but because of this, there is a danger of re-indulging of kids into bad habits and intoxication. Therefore, the institution also does counseling of parents and convinces them to re-accept their children without scolding them. For Samatol, the correct definition of rehabilitation is that these children

should enlighten themselves by living together with their parents in their own house. Samatol endeavours such kind of rehabilitation.

The economic condition of some of the families is extremely poor. Hence if children are staying outside, their endeavour is that their heart should be always connected with their family members. Samtol karyakartas always keep in touch with their families and visit their houses in every 4-5 months to confirm whether the children are living in harmony with their families or not. The re-union of children who have transformed their mind through this camp and their parents is celebrated with enthusiasm.

Samatol Foundation that is doing a commendable work of uniting such path-lost children with their parents was established in 2006 and till now, the foundation has achieved success in sending 300 children back to their homes. However, accomplishing such goals requires a firm support and this has been provided by Hindu Seva Sangh. By allotting a widespread land with scenic beauty outside Mumbai, necessary facilities and a strong economic support, Hindu Seva Sangh has shared more than half workload of the institution.

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Sanjeevani Samithi's Urakam Balikasadanam

From last 18 years, Sanjeevani Samithi's Urakam Balikasadanam is providing shelter and quality education based on eternal Indian culture and tradition to the destitute girls from various districts of Kerala. It has transformed the lives of destitute, underprivileged girls and has given them a new vision towards life. Since 1986, Sanjeevani Samithi has undertaken a number of development projects for the upliftment of the deprived sections of society and has greatly contributed towards the noble cause of nation building.

Inspired by the seva ideology of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sanjeevani Samithi laid the foundation for Balikasadanam at Urakam in the year 1993 with an initial strength of only six inmates. The activities slowly gained momentum with the active co-operation of RSS workers and well wishers in and around Urakam. With the passage of time, RSS workers in Cherpu, Karuvannur and Irinjalakkuda got increasingly involved in Balikasadanam activities and with their help, an awareness campaign was initiated in these areas. At present, 75 destitute girls of different age groups hailing from almost all districts in Kerala are being looked after in Balikasadanam. This also includes girls who were directly taken over from areas affected by natural calamities.

The applications that are received are scrutinized annually by a Scrutiny Committee and girls in the age group of 5 to 15 who have lost their parents are given admission those from very poor financial background having their parents still alive are also duly considered for admission. Girls living under quite pathetic circumstances, recommended by service organizations and social workers from rural and other backward regions are also considered for admission.

8 to 10 girls are accommodated in a single, spacious room. Efforts are in full swing for providing berth type arrangement in rooms and

also a pond in the compound for bathing and swimming. A separate study room is provided for children studying in higher classes. A library and reading room has also been set up for specialized reading. Vocational training is provided at the computer training centre and tailoring training centre conducted by the samithi. A complete arrangement has been made for sports and other recreational activities. For the sake of blending entertainment with knowledge, televisions have also been provided to the students. During examination period, competent people with teaching experience from among the well wishers of Balikasadanam visit and give special coaching to those requiring such coaching from the exam point of view. The inmates are allowed to send letters to their homes occasionally and also to make phone calls on Sundays in the afternoon.

Activities

The day in the Balikasadanam starts at 6 am with morning prayer (Prathasmaran) followed by yoga classes. There is an evening prayer (bhajan) from 6.30 pm to 7 pm. All the inmates take part in Prathasmaran, bhajan and yoga classes.

On holidays, at 4.30 pm, Sevika Samithi's shakha is held and on Sundays, at 10 am, Balagokulam unit functions. Prescribed training programmes are arranged in these assemblies and these activities add to the overall development of children. Children having talent in music, dance, etc are given special training in classical music, dance, Sanskrit and also Akshara Slokam (poetry recitation).

Cleaning and maintenance of Balikasadanam building and premises is done by the inmates themselves. They also render their valuable help in the kitchen. Looking after the cows, vegetable garden work, gardening etc are some of the other activities undertaken by the girls during their leisure time. State level personality development programmes are arranged during annual school vacation for the benefit of inmates of all similar Balikasadanam orphanages in the State and children from Urakam Balikasadanam usually take part in those programmes. This helps the inmates to improve upon their general knowledge and leadership qualities.

Many girls from Balikasadanam have actively participated and won prizes in the state-level school youth festivals and orphanage festivals. Reasonably well-conducted Onam celebrations and anniversary

celebrations in the Balikasadanam provide opportunities for talented inmates to stage their artistic performances.

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport to Thrissur is Nedumbassery International Airport at Kochi, at a distance of 85 km.

Vanavasi Seva Kendra Tamilnadu's Single teacher school

In order to connect the tribal brethren with the mainstream of social development, Vanavasi Seva Kendram, Tamilnadu, affiliated to Akhil Bharatiya Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, is working by burning the midnight oil in the mountainous regions of Karumandurai in Salem district since 1980. Today, this work has expanded in the entire Tamilnadu region and over 7 lakh vanavasis residing in 35 hilly regions are availing the benefit of these schemes. For the fourfold development of these remote regions, Vanavasi Seva Kendram has initiated work in the fields of education, health and culture for the upliftment of tribal masses.

Free hostel

In order to provide necessary facilities to the talented tribal students from economically backward sections along with the educational opportunities, tribal hostels have been established. Here, these students are provided education, accommodation, uniforms and food free of cost. In 1980, Shriram Chhatrawas was established at Karumandurai in Salem district. There is a dire need of more such hostels.

Single teacher school

Vanavasi Seva Kendram runs free of cost single teacher schools in the backward tribal regions of Tamilnadu. Karyakartas who work as teachers in these schools spend maximum time with the students for developing their personality. These teachers also work hard for resuming the education of dropouts. Various festivals such as Gurupournima, Vijayadashmi, etc are celebrated with religious fervour in these schools.

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SHG women in Tamilnadu execute a noble idea

It has always been a difficult task to organise women of the society but the Self Help Group (SHG) scheme taken up by Seva Bharati, Tamilnadu, in Kanyakumari district has made this dream come true.

In a remote Vanvasi village called Kodithuraimalai, SHG women resolved to execute a noble idea. After every weekly meet all the members gathered to work in the farm of one member of the SHG without any payment. The owner of the land offered them lunch and evening tea. The next week the same activity happened in the farm of another member. This rotation of work is carried out in the farm of all the members in a regular turn. The resultant yield of self-reliance is promising both materialistically and socially.

Alcoholism is a menace in our society and it is very difficult to do away with it. The SHG women achieved a few victories in this field too. In a village called Thenkarai a liquor shop was situated near the only pathway leading to the village. The villagers took up the matter with the authorities concerned, several times directly and through various associations, but the shop was not shifted from the place. The SHG women of that village informed about the difficulties caused by the liquor shop to Sewa Bharati activists. The women were advised to present the matter before the District Collector under the SHG banner in person. The gravity of the problem expressed by the SHG women was appreciated and the District Collector ordered to shift the government-owned liquor shop to another place. And it is no more an arduous task for women to approach the bureaucratic systems, to derive the needed results in order to eradicate social evils afflicting the society.

Maruthancode village

The village called Maruthancode witnessed a unique revolution. The SHG women ruined one production unit of spurious liquor under

the banner of Ayurvedic medicines established in their locality by some anti-social elements thereby manufacturing large quantities of intoxicating drink called Arishtam, which was sold at a cheaper price. The drink worked as a slow poison for the persons who consumed it resulting in incapacitation. Some persons even died of various unknown ailments caused by it. Since the unit was situated near a temple and a bus stop, it was creating a problem to the women going to the temple and waiting for a bus.

Sewa Bharati SHGs for women in the village decided in one of their weekly meetings to root out the menace of the spurious liquor-producing unit. All the members rounded up the unit and staged a demonstration. The owner of the unit locked the building and ran away. The crowd was persuaded by Sewa Bharati organisers to disperse and a complaint was lodged in the Police Station concerned. The police were reluctant to take any action on the ground that the owner possessed a license for the unit. The SHG women with much perseverance and belligerence knocked the doors of local court and filed a law suit, to unravel the mysteries and mischief in issuing such licenses, and proved the violations of the terms of the license by all such license holders in black and white and managed to get a decree in their favour.

This judgment proved to be a yardstick for the entire State of Tamil Nadu. During the entire process the goondas hired by the owners of the unit threatened the women. Now the village is free from the menace of the spurious liquor, thanks to the efforts of the SHGs and Sewa Bharati. The women are up in arms to fight the social evils. The owners of such units presented the details of this case and a paper regarding the menace of Arishtam before the Madras High Court where the criminal petitions were filed against the District authorities to get a judgment banning the production and sale of Arishtam throughout the entire Kanyakumari district.

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Suresh Khanapurkar, 'Bhagirath' of Shirpur

Dhule district's Shirpur taluka that was once regarded as drought-hit region has now become rich regarding water availability in spite of scanty rainfall. A cloud called Khanapurkar showered its praise on these villages and rivulets, streams started flowing full to the brim. The transformation that RSS swayamsevak Suresh Khanapurkar brought in these villages mesmerizes each and everyone who visits here. He has vowed to make the adjacent 80 sq km region free from drought and flood.

Four years before, the condition of Shirpur was quite miserable. If the rains arrived on time, crops used to survive and in rainy season, farmers used to helplessly watch the crops that were washed away in flood. Now the situation has transformed. They earn minimum Rs 4 to 5 lakh in just 4 acres of plantation. Water is now available not in just one village, but in all the villages round the year. Water level in wells and bore wells has escalated. There is enough drinking water and even in harsh summer, water is available for farming. This is not a miracle but it is a result of the dedicated efforts taken by Suresh Khanapurkar by setting a particular goal in front of him.

On the bank of Arunavati river in Shirpur, Suresh Khanapurkar is working with a simple idea of groundwater conservation. Being a geologist, his project has a scientific background. Because of his dedicated efforts, the drought hit regions like Shirpur have become fertile. Nullahs such as Nageshwar which used to be dry even in the rainy season are now filled full to the brim. Due to this, water table in the nearby region is also elevated. As a result, the wells and bore wells are yielding water at a few feet.

Till now, no steps were taken for absorption of water into the land and the water was carelessly lifted. Hence the water level dropped. Filth started accumulating in the streams and rivulets. Their capacity to

hold water decreased. As a result of this, during rainy season, rivulets and nullahs used to flow in full swing but came to a standstill as soon as the rains stopped. There was a need to change the situation and harvest the water so that it can be absorbed into the land. Khanapurkar accepted the challenge and his Herculean efforts yielded results. He planned to increase the breadth and depth of the rivulets and build the embankment so that the rain water will be harvested in maximum quantity. In addition to this, he also made the efforts to pour extra water from various places into the wells. The project is running since 2005. By employing huge machines, till now, the widening of 11 nullahs has been accomplished and the depth of 16.5 km long rivulets has also been increased to about 50 feet. 56 embankments have been constructed. Extra water from various places is poured in about 78 wells. Three artificial ponds were also constructed.

Angioplasty in water conservation

For water absorption, it is not just sufficient to dig rivulets and nullahs but it is also important to note at what level the water can be absorbed into the rock. If it is not taken into account, there is a great possibility of failure. Hence Khanapurkar's focus is on eliminating the hindrances in the process of water absorption. He has named this process as angioplasty in water conservation.

Like Shirpur, such development can be carried out in the entire state. Not only for drinking purpose, but the water can be also made available for farming, claims Khanapurkar. "In order to accelerate the work, each and every district should be provided with 20 pokland machines and seven dumpers that cost around Rs 22 crore. If the system is utilized in an effective manner, the entire district can be made fertile," says Khanapurkar.

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Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission, Wynad (Kerala)

"To reach Narayana we must serve Daridra Narayana, the starving millions of the land. Feel for them, pray for them, and strive for the relief and upliftment of the suffering miserable brethren." Inspired by this rousing call of Swami Vivekanand, the Patron Sant of Modern India, Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission was started in 1972 with an aim to cultivate a sense of responsibility, sacrifice, service and devotion among people to serve Motherland.

The Mission chose the hilly, backward, tribal district of Wayanad as its centre of activities in Kerala with a concern towards health of tribal masses. The tribal population of Wayanad is nearly 1,50,000. They come under about 18 denominations, prominent among them being Kurumar, Kuruchiyar, Paniyar, Adiyar etc. Each community has its own culture and has a strong faith in it. Their main occupation is agricultural labour. Literacy is very low among them and superstitions are prevalent. They live in hamlets where facilities for drinking water, approach roads, toilets, etc are not available. Malnutrition, unhygienic habits and living conditions of living are the main causes of diseases among them. Others are exploiting them because of their poverty and ignorance.

The Mission started its activities opening a free dispensary for Vanvasi brethren at Muttill near Kalpetta in 1972 which steadily grew into a fairly well-equipped hospital with three medical officers, visiting specialists and nursing staff. Its growth was hastened by a dedicated young doctor- Dr D D Sagdeo from Nagpur in 1980. This dispensary has grown into a thirty bedded full- fledged hospital with three full time resident medical officers, 10 visiting specialists, 15 para-medical staff and a dozen helpers and volunteers. Majority of them are from vanavasi communities and were trained by the Mission for the job.

Sickle Cell Anemia Control Programme

The presence of Sickle Cell Disease among the tribal people of

Wayanad was found out and taken to the notice of Govt and the AIIMS New Delhi by the Mission's Chief Medical Officer Dr. D. D. Sagdeo. The AIIMS initiated their first pilot project of Sickle Cell Anemia Control Programme in Wayanad with the Mission as the NGO partner and more than 70% of the tribal population was screened. A separate trust by name SCARF was formed to continue the campaign. As the second stage of the programme, a free clinic is functioning in SVMM Hospital Muttill with a Sub-centre at Mananthavadi. Screening camps and health education camps are conducted in tribal villages. A research project with the Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Shala to find out a proper Ayurvedic Medicine for the ailment is in progress. A South India Conference on Sickle Cell Anemia was organized at Muttill in 2005 and followed by a 2nd one, SCD CON 07 in Feb 2007.

Services : Out patient department (OPD) is catering to nearly 200 patients a day (free of cost), free dispensary, general ward with thirty beds (food is provided free of cost to tribal patients), maternity ward, minor operation theatre, well-equipped laboratory, nebulizer, x-ray unit, ultra sound scan, endoscopy, ECG and cardiac monitor, EEG, multi-specialty clinics, counseling centers and ambulance.

Pain and palliative care clinic

This clinic is functioning since May 1998 with the assistance of the Pain and Palliative Care Society of the Calicut Medical Collage and serving the patients suffering from terminal cancer and acute pain. Besides this, dental clinic, ophthalmology clinic, child clinic, orthopedic and gynecology clinic are also run.

Prevention, Control and Treatment of tuberculosis

As the cases of tuberculosis are found in large number among the tribal people, a special attention is being given for the prevention, control and treatment of the disease. Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, this hospital has been recognized as a Microscopy Centre and is fully engaged in the diagnosis and treatment through DOTS .(Direct Observation Therapy)

PROJECTS FOR 'HEALTH FOR ALL'

Mobile medical unit: Diagnostic and treatment camps in tribal

colonies throughout the district are arranged daily, taking health care to the very door steps of the ailing, which are unable to travel.

Three sub weekly centres: Three weekly centers are functioning, one at Chulliyode near Tamil Nadu border, second at Kalloor near Karnataka border and the third at Cherukara in North Wayand.

Swasthya Mitra Scheme: under which batches of tribal youths are given training in first aid, hygiene and economic matters and each of the trained volunteers is given charge of specified area of work which they visit regularly to create awareness among people in regarding health and hygiene.

Other activities: With a view to give training and employment leading to financial upliftment, a tailoring class for tribal girls is functioning since 1994 at Kalloor near S Battery where nearly 60 girls have been given training.

Sanjivani: Health Awareness Campaign in tribal colonies with the aid of video films, charts and posters etc.

Preventive care: Distribution of prophylactic Vitamin A dose and immunization for children are arranged in the medical camps in the tribal colonies besides Health Care check-ups in nursery schools and hostels for tribal people.

Vocational training centre: for tribal girls at Kalloor is another activity that aims at economic development of the tribal people.

Dhanwantari Mandir: in the hospital campus provides peace of mind to the patients and bystanders.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tailoring: With a view to provide training and employment leading to financial upliftment, a tailoring class for tribal girls is functioning since 1994 at Kalloor near S. Battery where nearly 60 girls have been given training.

Bamboo craft project: A project for rehabilitation of sickle cell disease patients. They are taught to make handicrafts from bamboo in three centers benefiting 90 tribals. The project envisages training production and sales, so that they become self-reliant.

Service activities: Besides its service activities in the health field, the Mission is catering to the educational, cultural and other social needs of the vanavasi brethren. It is running 6 Grameen Vidyalays, 15 Bala Samskara Kendras and eleven gram seva samitis. Drinking water scheme was implemented in two colonies and sanitary conveniences provided in another two.

FUTURE PLANS

As our aim is not to have a centralised super speciality hospital but to take basic health care to the doorsteps of our ailing poor and needy tribal brethren, our future plans are as follows.

1. Opening more sub-centers in different parts of the district and State.

2. Developing the sub-centers into community centre with facilities for Balawadi, library and reading room, tuition classes for children and vocational training for promotion, socio-economic progress.

3. Expanding the work of the Swasthya Mitra project to all tribal colonies in the district.

Drinking water and sanitation: The Mission with the help of Dr. Govindaraj of Calicut and the Chest Foundation has provided drinking water facilities and sanitary latrines in some Vanavasi colonies.

Mother NGO: The Mission was chosen as Mother NGO for Wayanad district under the NRHM scheme to implement different health programmes of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India. The 1st phase of RCH programme has been completed and the second phase is being taken up.

RNTCP (Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme): The Mission continues its active participation in this programme for the last 10 years as a Microscopy and treatment centre and has obtained its Certificate of appreciation from the State Government.

Economic Development

With a view to improving the financial condition of the people the Mission is implementing different projects.

(1) **Bamboo Craft:** The Bamboo craft training was started for the rehabilitation of Sickle Cell patients who are not able to take up any heavy work. 140 tribal patients have been trained in handicrafts. They are utilizing their skills and the products are marketed in fairs and exhibitions.

(2) **Self Help Groups under the CAPART (Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology):** The project in which Mission is participating. Self Help Groups of Tribal Women have been formed in 15 colonies in 4 panchayats.

(3) **Micro-Insurance:** The Mission is promoting the Jeevan Madhur policy of LIC. Intended to develop savings habit among the people. 198 persons have been enrolled.

Education and Culture

Grameen Vidya Kendras: In order to monitor the progress of education and culture of the tribal students, the Mission has organised 100 Vidya Kendras (coaching centers) in the colonies. They are conducted in tribal colonies where school going children up to standard 7 and drop outs are brought and given tuition in the evenings. A total of 2,768 children are attending them. Children are provided nutritious refreshments also. According to the teachers of the neighbouring schools, those attending the Kendras have improved their standards remarkably. This project is financially aided by the TIDE Trust Mumbai. Reading rooms and libraries have been arranged in four sub-centers of the Mission. Vidya Kendras also provide mobile library services.

Bal Sanskar Kendras: have been organised in 90 localities in the district once a week where children are given moral education and music and cultural activities are also conducted. A total number of 1497 children are attending these kendras.

APPRECIATIONS

The Mission was honored by Jana Kalyan Samiti, Pune, by awarding Sree Guruji Golwalkar Puraskar in 1995. The Govt of Madhya Pradesh selected the Mission for its first National Award "Thakkar Bapa Rashtreeya Samman-2008" for services to the tribal brethren. The Chief Medical Officer Dr. D. D. Sagdeo was honored by the Rotary Club, Jaycees and the Indian Medical Association, State branch.

Contact

Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport from Wynad is Karipur airport of Kozhikode and railway station is Kozhikode. It is situated at a distance of around 100 km from the city.

Sadhvi Ritambhara's 'Vatsalya Gram' ashram

In today's age, when even the relatives do not care for us, Sadhvi Ritambhara's Vatsalya Gram ashram has set an ideal before the society by performing a noble task of looking after those whom people call destitute. Sadhvi Ritambhara's ashram is located in Vrindavan's 54 acres of land. The ashram provides shelter to the women, children and old people whom their families have left.

On the left side of the ashram, there is a cradle. Anybody can keep an unwanted kid in this cradle anytime and leave. Nobody from the ashram questions that person. As soon as the kid is kept in the cradle, the sensor mounted on the cradle alerts the ashram management. Somebody from the ashram comes and takes away the child from the cradle. As soon as the child enters the ashram, he or she becomes the member of the Vatsalya Gram. He no longer remains orphan. He gets all relatives such as mummy, daddy, aunty, uncle, grandfather, grandmother, etc. That is why no child is called 'orphan' here and the nickname of every child is Parmanand, the name of Sadhvi Ritambhara's guru.

For educating children, Samved Gurukulam school is located in the ashram premises. Education is provided according to CBSE curriculum along with the focus on overall development of children. Various replicas of the animals are kept in the garden for general knowledge of children. Tableaus depicting epics like Ramayana have been made for moral education. Yoga and naturopathy training is also given. Boys are educated in the ashram up to class 5 and after that, they are sent to renowned residential schools such as Bhonsala Military School.

Apart from this school, an additional school is also run by the ashram in which about 350 external students study by paying just Rs 10 per month. School uniform, lunch and study material is provided free of cost to these students.

Women who have been left by the families have the arrangement of Gokulam. According to the age, a family of three women is constituted comprising mother, auntie and a grandmother. A 3 BHK flat is given to them equipped with all facilities. 5 to 10 children live with this family. About 30 such families live in Gokulam. These women are trained regarding customs, traditions and values along with self-defense. For women belonging to the backward classes, there is 'Geeta Ratna' training centre where these women are provided self-employment training in areas such as bakery, embroidery, etc.

The ashram also has its own hospital well equipped with ICU. The services of the hospital are also available for poor people outside the hospital. Free service is provided at the eye hospital.

Sadhvi Ritambhara says, " Before 20 years, in Delhi's Jwala Nagar, I initiated the work of providing self-employment training to women under women empowerment programme. When I came to Vrindavan in 2003, I had nothing for the ashram. People gave a helping hand and the fruits are now clearly visible."

Seeing this inspirational project of 'Didi Maa' the first thought that strikes our mind is the multi-faceted aspect and universality of Hindutva. It is to be remembered that the roar of this Sadhvi Ritambhara had imparted energy to Ram Janmabhoomi agitation. But inside this aggressive lioness is the soft heart of a woman filled with love and affection that melts for the society. This greatness of heart is the backbone of Hindutva; protest injustice and protect the concerns.

Contact

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'Samvedana', triggering passion for life among handicapped

Handicapped children are a great cause of concern for parents. Such parents have to carry the piles of sorrow on their head throughout their life. Their heart breaks at every moment while witnessing the fact that their children cannot lead a normal life like the other ones. Samvedana Rehabilitation Centre has come to the rescue of such children that enables them lead a normal life by boosting their confidence.

All parents have a dream that their child should excel in every walk of life. However, destiny plays a cruel game with some people. Suresh Patil is one such victim. His son was born with multiple physical disorders. However, instead of grieving over the issue, Mr and Mrs Patil began to discover the way through which their son can stand on his own feet. One thing they realized was that their son is not sick; he is disabled. Like various kinds of other disabilities, this can also be overcome and their son can also become self sufficient to a maximum extent.

Patil couple initiated research in this direction and came to know that their kid has been hit by cerebral palsy; a disorder caused by injuries or abnormalities of the brain. While thinking about the needs of their own child, Patil duo was moved by the plight of similar such affected children in the society. What can be done so that along with our own child, these children will also get an equal right to live like the other normal children in the society? This question struck their mind and this gave birth to a unique rehabilitation centre in the name 'Samvedana' for cerebral palsy-hit children.

With the confluence of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Jankalyan Samiti Maharashtra Prant and Vivekanand Medical Foundation & Research Centre, the foundation was laid for Samvedana Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped at Latur. At this school, these children get homely love; their passion for life is triggered and talents are rectified.

The school that was started along with just three children has a strength of 25 at present. There are a number of government run schools for handicapped but the number of schools for children hit by cerebral palsy is quite low. Taking this fact into account, Samvedana Rehabilitation Centre was opened.

Along with the education, they get one more important thing here and that is self sufficiency to stand on own feet. For this, their self confidence is boosted and physical stamina is increased. Children love to stay here because of the affection. They are treated with utmost care and belongingness.

Children come to school by a school van. After the prayer, Suryanamaskar and other physical exercises are taught. As per the requirement of the individual child, massage and physiotherapy are given. Efforts are made so that the child can maintain his balance and stand on his own feet. With the help of walker or with somebody's help, children become self sufficient to stand and walk slowly.

A lot of feelings are hidden in their heart but due to the lack of speech, those cannot be expressed. Hence, in order to get them expressed, speech therapy is given and that too through the medium of games and entertainment. By playing small and simple games, they learn to speak and recognize letters & numbers. Their tongue is very stiff and it's indeed a Herculean task to make it flexible for utterance. However, with great patience, the teachers here accomplish this task and make these children earn the right to speak. Their thoughts are channelized so that they can easily express their feelings.

By showing various objects, they are taught to recognize colours and move the fingers. Because of this, slowly, their fingers start moving on the keyboard. Food is fed by the teachers only. Teachers look after their meals with a great sense of belongingness.

After the classroom session is over, children are given the work of their own choice. This includes gardening, cleaning the premises, planting the saplings, watering the plants, etc through which they derive utmost pleasure. Each child works as per his physical capacity.

Teachers also render selfless service for the welfare of these kids. Earlier, the centre was run by Patil duo alone but now there are 8 to 10 teachers here. In spite of having their own children, they devote their precious time for teaching at the centre. Along with school, training is also necessary for these kids at their homes. Hence the counseling of

parents is also done by the centre.

These children don't want our sympathy or mercy; what they want is just our sensitivity towards them. Samvedana has boosted the confidence of such children to touch the sky who earlier did not even know to move their fingers also.

Contact

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport to Latur is at Aurangabad, located at a distance of 290 km from the city.

Sri Vivekananda Maharogi Arogya Kendram, Rajahmundry

With the sole aim of supporting severely disabled leprosy people and their kith and kin who have no other option except to live along with the patients, Sri Vivekananda Maharogi Arogya Kendram was established in 1975 with the initiative of late Dr Mandalvilli Mallikarjuna Rao of Rajahmundry town with the active cooperation of Ramesh Kumar Jain and his friends. The then District Collector encouraged the cause by allotting 11 acres of land to the kendram. The kendram was registered in 1978 under the societies act.

At Kakinada, Rajahmundry and in the nearby villages of these towns, a number of activities have been undertaken such as financial aid, providing medical assistance to old and disabled leprosy affected people. At Bommuru village, near Rajahmundry town, Sri Vivekananda Hospital has been set up since 2002. Around 500 families from 10 surrounding villages of Bommuru are getting benefitted. The medicines are also supplied free of cost.

Besides villagers, around 100 leprosy affected people living in Sri Vivekananda Maharogi Arogya Kendram and 100 leprosy patients living in the surrounding villages are also receiving medical treatment at the hospital. A retired civil surgeon is rendering his valuable services to the hospital. Along with the allopathic treatment, homoeopathic treatment is also being provided. Two experienced doctors are rendering their dedicated services.

Activities

Right from the beginning, around 100-120 patients are being supported by the kendram by providing shelter, food, medical aid, footwear, clothes and all other necessary amenities. Nursery seedlings are being grown under the scheme of Social Forest Department. Tobacco nursery is being maintained in partnership with local farmers.

The kendram has 13 coir machines provided by Coir Board. The inmates and some other people are undergoing training in the preparation of coir thread. Occasional speeches on our culture, history, are being arranged. A Bal Sanskar Kendra for children is being run. All Hindu festivals are celebrated in the kendram.

Infrastructure

In the beginning, the inmates used to live in thatched huts. In 1983 Andhra Pradesh Government got 50 houses constructed under RLEGP scheme. After 20 years when those houses were getting dilapidated the then state government sanctioned 40 houses under Indira Awas Yojana and got them constructed immediately in 2002-03. Presently, 120 people are getting assistance from the kendram. Among them, 100 are inmates and the others are outsiders. Among the inmates, 80 of them are patients and the remaining 20 are their dependent children.

Agricultural land of around 3 acre is allotted so that every able-bodied individual has the satisfaction that he is also contributing to the welfare of the inmates by generating some income.

A community hall in the memory of Sri Gopalrao Thakur and Surya Mandiram (Sun temple) were constructed in 1996-97 to conduct cultural, philosophical and spiritual activities. Goshala is being maintained with 12 cows so that the inmates can worship Mother Cow in accordance with the Hindu belief that leprosy will never afflict a cow worshipper in their future lives.

Contact

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S-VYASA bringing academic education of Yog to all

In this 21st century, our lifestyle has totally changed. We have adopted a mechanical way of life that is full of mental stress. In a bid to compete with West, regarding technological progress, we are forgetting the teachings of our forefathers who lead a peaceful life by practicing Yog throughout their life. Yog enables an individual to enhance his physical as well as mental fitness. Swami Vivekananda Yog Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) has been established so that today's youths will learn Yog in detail at an academic level. S-VYASA is a Yog University declared deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 of the Government of India.

Yog Courses at S-VYASA Yog University are recognized by the University Grants Commission, Government of India. The varsity has 50 Ph.D.s, 100 M.Sc. holders and over 350 students at various branches.

S-VYASA campus is 32 km away from Bangalore. The campus is called Prashanti Kutiram, the abode of peace. Lying in the lap of nature amidst greenery, the campus lies sprawling over 100 acres. The campus is about 15 km away from Bannerughatta National Park.

S-VYASA has an excellent Yog Library with a good collection of 15,000 books and videos. SVYP (Swami Vivekananda Yog Prakashan) is the publication wing of S-VYASA. The university is open to all persons of whatever race, religion, creed, caste, class and geographical area of the country. No test or condition is imposed as regards to religious belief or occupation in admitting or appointing members, students, teachers, workers or in any other connection whatsoever. The educational system at S-VYASA is holistic, based on the consciousness-based approach of Yog systems and spiritual lore. It is not merely a bread-earning educational system, but a personality-developing and world-building tool through Yog. Vice-chancellor Prof H R Nagendra is Chairman whereas T Mohan is the secretary.

Yog is a systematically developed science of holistic living; a conscious, intelligent process for unraveling these hidden dimensions of human potential. The four streams of Yog bring about total physical, mental, emotional and intellectual personality development with a spiritual basis and transform the students to develop patriotism, service zeal and spiritual quest.

The two dimensions of education are Paravidya and Aparavidya. Para is the basic education for transforming the students and Aparavidya, the translation of this wisdom and growth to make this world an ideal one. Both these aspects are incorporated in the education system of S-VYASA.

The vision of S-VYASA is 'Be and make.' It is to bring the holistic vision of Yog and spiritual lore to one and all as a way of life. SVYASA strives to impart self-reforming and soul-elevating education along with the usual academic components found in any other normal educational institutions. Mere careerism is not the mission of the institution. The revival of the ancient tradition of Gurukul was the dream of Swami Vivekananda and Dr H R Nagendra and his team made this true in the year 1986 with the establishment of S-VYASA. This life-training and character-building education is inseparable with each of the seven criteria enunciated by NAAC.

Mere book learning will not make one a complete student. The binding force is the value education that is the life blood of this institution. This being a residential university where teachers and students live together, there are ample opportunities for students to emulate their dedicated teachers who bestow parental affection upon students. Quite close to the university is the ashram where Guruji and the other sanyasis reside leading a life filled with simplicity, selflessness and austerity.

As the harmonious development of hand, heart and head is the mission of the institution, activities to enrich the physique of the students spread over the day. Students make their physique stronger by practicing Yogasanas. Yogasanas, pranayam, Krida Yog and devotional sessions inculcate values in the minds of students such as health consciousness, self-confidence and courage. Such training makes young men and women agile and alert. The life-training which they receive at the gurukulam helps them a lot in shouldering responsibilities and managing difficult situations in future. That they get up early in the morning at 4.45 am teaches them the value of briskness. Study hours during early

morning teach them the value of concentration. The value of service is inculcated when they serve food to their fellow students in the mess, cut vegetables in the kitchen, clean dining hall, classrooms, roads, water tanks, drainages and gardens. "Earn while you learn" is followed by some students of the university. They take up teaching, co-ordinatorship, assistance in research projects and Yog camps. Such students pay their mess fees and examination fees from their earnings. Dignity of labour and value of self reliance are the virtues they imbibe during work.

Short term courses comprise of Yog Instructors Course (YIC), Yog Therapy Orientation Training For Doctors (YTOT), etc. The long term courses comprise of Bachelor of Science in Yog BSc (Yog), Bachelor of Science in Yog education B Sc (YE), Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Science (BNYS), Bachelor of Arts (Yog and Journalism), Post-Graduate Diploma in Yog Therapy (PGDYT), etc.

VYASA: VYASA is the parent organization of SVYASA (Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana). S-VYASA is a premier Yoga research institution in the world with over 150 research papers in leading peer reviewed national and international journals on health, education, management and other fields.

Svyasa has, over the years, standardized advanced Yoga techniques as CM (Cyclic Meditation), PET (Pranic Energisation Technique), MSRT (Mind Sound Resonance Technique), MEMT (Mastering the Emotions Technique), MIRT (Mind Imagery Technique), VISAK (Vignana Sadhana Kausalya) and ANAMS (Anandamrita Sinchana). SVYASA has entered into collaboration with Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, University of California, San Francisco in writing a grant proposal for National Institute of Health on Complementary and alternative medicine. A proposal has also been submitted to Alkem Laboratories, Mumbai for infrastructure development of Immunology and molecular biology lab.

Arogyadhama (Holistic Therapy Home)

A yoga therapy health home has now become a holistic research based health home in tune with traditional Indian holistic health care by Yoga Therapy, Ayurveda, naturopathy and modern medicine for the treatment of stress related ailments with following salient features:

1) 250-bed facility for patients along with daily medical supervision by qualified expert senior physicians of modern medicine, Ayurveda

and naturopathy.

2) Specific yoga techniques based on research data selected individually after detailed examination and thorough check-up.

3) Yogic counselling by certified and well trained yoga therapists based on texts of yoga comprising of Jnyana yoga, Bhakti yoga, Karma yoga and Raja yoga.

4) Panchakarma Ayurvedic treatment: following the traditional management system with technical support from Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore.

5) Naturopathy treatment comprising of state of the art equipments for Sauna water therapies, Jacquzi massage, Colon therapy, mud therapy, mud bath etc.

6) Simple wholesome vegetarian individualized diet prescription based on concepts from modern medicine, Ayurveda, Yoga & naturopathy.

Ailments Treated

Neurology: Epilepsy, Migraine, Parkinsonism, Muscular dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple sclerosis, Mental retardation.

Oncology: Breast cancer stage I, II, III & IV; Colon, Prostate, Blood, Myelomas.

Pulmonology: Bronchial Asthma, Nasal Allergy, Chronic Bronchitis.

Cardiology: High B P, Low B P, Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD).

Psychiatry: Anxiety, Depression, Psychosis, OCD.

Rheumatology: Arthritis

Spinal disorders: Acute & Chronic Back Pain, Scoliosis, neck pain.

Metabolic disorder: Diabetes.

Gastroenterology: Gastritis, Peptic Ulcer, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Ulcerative Colitis. Endocrinology: Obesity, Thyrotoxicosis.

Promotion of Positive Health: Eye Problems: Short Sight, Long Sight, Astigmatism, Squint, Early Cataract, Glaucoma.

Yog is an ideal way for working women to combat stress. It has been found that the regular practice of some specific 'asanas' followed by shavasana, nadishuddhi pranayama and meditation on 'Omkar' for about 5 minutes can be beneficial to women who suffer from menstrual

disorders. Stress is not in the situation but it is your response pattern that causes all the distress. As a human race we all have the inbuilt freedom to change our response pattern towards a healthy and harmonious way. Yoga is the trick to do this. To reverse your pattern of response, it is very important to practice slow breathing with awareness several times in a day even during working hours.

Diabetes is a life-style related condition due to an imbalance in handling the glucose load and is not a disease. It is one of the several life-style related chronic conditions with an end result of complications that are related to early aging changes resulting in blockage of small and large arteries. Yogasanas are techniques to bring about very deep rest to different parts of body. In the treatment of diabetes, those asanas are used which need to bring deep rest to the pancreas and help in increasing the efficiency of pancreas.

Contact

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How to reach

By air: Bangalore International Airport is 50 km away from SVYASA campus, Prashanti Kutiram.

Yamgarvadi Ashramshala for most neglected tribes

Paradhi community resides in the hutments that are located near Naldurg in Maharashtra's Osmanabad district. The colony that comprises of about 35 hutments has a very pathetic picture. In front of every hut, there is a pit filled with dirty water. Pigs and dogs roam all around the locality. People are living in extremely poor hygienic conditions.

Pig keeping and begging had become their daily routine. They used to nurture pigs on the waste food from the nearby eateries and used to beg so as to have their living. Their kids had no concern with education at all.

Samajik Samarasta Manch, through Bhatke Vimukt Vikas Pratishthan' vowed to bring all tribal sections of the society back to the mainstream of social development. The foundation of the project was laid on October 2, 1991. Along with pardhis, 28 communities such as Bhili, Waidu, Wadar, Bahurupi, Wasudev, Nath Jogi, Nandibailwale, Mendgi-Joshi, Sarode, Shikalkar, Kolhati, Dhangar, etc were brought under one roof.

In 1993, retired army man Chatufale donated 18 acres of land at Yamgarvadi for this project. For the first time, school for 25 kids of Pardhi community was started. These people speak language that is similar to Telugu. Hence the first problem that was confronted was that of language. Later their curriculum was designed as per their convenience. Slowly, children acquired the linguistics skills and thus the doors for education were completely opened now.

Yamgarvadi's Eklavya Primary School got government recognition in 1996. Now, after 14 years, this school has become the chief education centre for tribals. At present, there are total 360 students; 230 boys and 130 girls. The unique feature of these students is that they know four to five languages because each student also knows the language similar

to the language of his or her community along with Hindi, English and Marathi.

Madhav Gopalan along with Agricultural Development Centre has started farming on 18 acres of land. Food grains and milk production is carried out. At Mahatma Phule Self Employment Centre of the school, training is given in various areas such as tailoring, chalk manufacturing, candle making, plumbing, welding, etc. These students also shine in activities such as music, acting, dance, etc. They also effectively present street plays based on various social issues such as child marriage, superstitions, casteism, freedom fighter Umaji Tantya Bhill, Shelgaon Pardhi massacre, etc. The school has received many awards from government and various social organizations for this commendable work.

Contact

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'Baghuwar' sets an example of an ideal village

Whenever we think of a village, the picture that comes to mind is of people having personal quarrels, absence of proper roads and unhygienic living conditions with no signs of development. However, Baghuwar village in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district has set an example of exemplary development.

Each and every corner of the village has turned green as if the entire village is a garden! There is no garbage and sanitation problem. People migrated to nearby cities have started coming back to the village for settlement. They are now utilizing their experience, talent and knowledge for village development. When there was no approach road, youths themselves constructed a three km road for the village. Pleased by their efforts, government helped them for constructing the cement road. The village is now ready to get declared as ideal village.

Efforts are also in full swing to have school education up to class 10, so that every girl child will be properly educated. Realizing the importance of sports in the overall development of children, enough arrangements have been made in the village. An indoor hall was constructed. An open mini stadium and a swimming tank near Dhamni river were also constructed. Inspirational quotes are written on public walls so as to impart values to the villagers. In Ramayan Mandal of the village, Ramayan is recited every Tuesday and Saturday. All villagers come together for this spiritual work. This village is so beautiful that anybody will love to get settled here permanently!

Selfless service: Though the entire village has cement concrete roads, the approach road for Gram Panchayat chief's residence is not yet in proper condition! The Gram Panchayat chief says, "Panchayat's money should be spent for villagers' development only. I will not use that money for constructing road to my house. When I will have enough money, I will do it." Such selfless attitude of top officials has made the village development possible. Each and every villager is associated with RSS work and is rendering his selfless service for village development.

Prabhat Pheri (morning procession): From last 50 years, a Prabhat

Pheri is held regularly at 5 am in which all villagers participate with enthusiasm. Through bhajan and keertan, awareness is created among people for discharging their duties towards nation. People participate in large number setting aside religious and caste differences.

Effective utilization of government schemes: In this black age of corruption, none of the schemes reaches villages; the money doesn't reach up to the villagers at all. Hence the government schemes go unsuccessful. But, in this village, none of the government schemes fail because the villagers know how to effectively utilize government schemes for village development. They work hand in hand for the success of the scheme by giving their 100% contribution regarding money, efforts and skill. Thus the villagers participate in the development work with full dedication. **Village free from quarrels:** Maximum quarrels arise out of politics. Keeping this view in mind, elections are never held in village so as to maintain a peaceful atmosphere. Opinion of elderly people is sought for selecting 'Sarpanch' (village leader) and their advice is followed with due respect. Hence there is no place for quarrels. Even if the problem persists, it is sorted out by panchayat samiti. No quarrel reaches up to the court. As the liquor consumption is totally banned, family quarrels are also rare to be found.

Clean, beautiful and efficient village: All the houses have lavatories. Hence the atmosphere remains clean. Each locality is unique in cleanliness and decency. Specially, Harriman locality is the best in this regard. People used to go for morning walk in this locality.

There are 35 tractors, 51 gobar gas plants, 75 sugarcane processing machines, 25 hand pumps and threshers in the village having a population of about 1600. 25 pits have been dug by gram panchayat for pouring the filth. These pits are auctioned every year and the money generated is utilized for panchayat development. Adequate measures are adopted for water conservation. Farm ponds have been built so as to conserve the rain water. This village has broken all the caste barriers. An auditorium has been built for entire villagers in the Harijan locality to inculcate a feeling of equality and brotherhood.

How to reach

Baghuwar is a small village in Kareli mandal, district Narsinghpur. The nearest railway station is Narsinghpur. We can easily reach Narsinghpur from Bhopal or Nagpur. Nearest air port from Narsinghpur is at Jabalpur and at a distance of 100 km.

By road, Baghuwar is 172 km from Bhopal. Kareli is 15 km from Narsinghpur and Baghuwar is 4 km from Kareli.

Champa Kushthdham's leprosy eradication mission

Even after making a remarkable progress in the field of medical science, we are still lagging behind in the field of social science. Yet we have not been able to elevate our level of social consciousness. There are many misconceptions about leprosy prevalent among the people of India. Many people think that it is an incurable disease and hence this section of society leads a life full of sheer neglect and apathy. In order to eradicate this social stigma, great visionary Sadashivrao Katre laid the foundation for Champa Kushthdham in early 60s.

Late Katre established Bharatiya Kushth Niwarak Sangh at Champa in Janjgir district of Chhattisgarh in the year 1962. He himself was a leprosy-hit karyakarta. It is always said that some people walk in rain, others just get wet. Katre was one who belonged to first category and hence in order to clear the misconceptions regarding leprosy among people, Katre used to visit different villages on his bicycle in search of leprosy patients so as to create awareness about this dreadful disease. Villagers used to show sympathy but nobody used to render the practical help. At last, a whole-hearted donor gave one acre land having a hut along with a well for the project. The work slowly grew and at present, the project is extended in 80 acres of land as a result of the herculean efforts of Sadashivrao Katre.

Currently, the project is engaged in the treatment of 161 leprosy-hit patients. Cured patients render their service for this noble cause and stay at the campus along with their families. There is a foolproof arrangement for accommodation and well equipped clinic for treatment of leprosy patients. Karyakartas look after them with full affection and dedication.

A farm has been erected for production of vegetables and fruits for the patients. Two tractors are also employed for easing the farming activity. A huge well has been constructed to meet the water requirement along with five bore wells. Schooling up to class 8 is available along with the hostel facility for children who are not hit by the disease.

The campus also has a gaushala having more than 140 cows. The gaushala is well maintained by the karyakartas. Gomutra (cow urine) treatment is given for various diseases. Vermi compost is also manufactured. The epidemic of malaria is largely spread in the entire region. In order to overcome this problem, tablets consisting of gomutra, neem leaves and black pepper are distributed among people which has greatly proved effective.

Because of this commendable work, Kushthdham campus is officially pronounced as Katrenagar. Government has opened a post office in the premises. Madhavsagar lake has been constructed on the project land with people's participation. On the bank of the lake, there is a temple of lord Shiva. Katreji's samadhi is also located nearby. The road adjacent to the project leads to Jagannathpuri. Devotees halt at Madhavsagar during their holy journey towards Jagannathpuri. Male devotees take a bath at Madhav Ghat whereas for women devotees, Mausli Ghat serves the purpose.

In the premises, a crematorium has also been constructed. Thus right from the entry at the campus, there is an arrangement for each and every facility for the patients such as medicine, treatment, work, education for the family, training of karyakartas, last rites, etc. Kushthdham has really set a brilliant example of selfless service.

The responsibility of this huge work is shouldered by Damodar Bapat from last 38 years after the demise of Katre. Along with him, karyakartas such as Balasaheb Telang, Sudhir Deo (pracharak) and Shridharao Kale also play an active role in the functioning of Kushthdham. The work begins at 5 am in full discipline. A temple of Siddhivinayak has been built in the campus where religious activities such as bhajan and keertan are conducted. Patients take part in this spiritual healing with full enthusiasm.

Contact

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport is Raipur Airport at a distance of 152 km.

By train: Project is 7 km. from Champa railway station by Taxi.

Ekal Vidyalaya: A single-teacher school for tribal belt

Ekal Vidyalayas are engaged in the noble work of educating the tribal masses that were cut off from the mainstream of development. These schools, running without any government grant, have granted the educational shelter to a large section of society that was deprived of even the basic facilities.

In 1980's, late Dr Rakesh Pophali and Rama Pophali laid the foundation for ekal vidyalayas (single teacher schools) in some of the villages situated in the forests of Jharkhand. They designed a perfect educational system for tribal children.

The school that runs under a tree or at any villager's house has a flexible timing according to the convenience of the children. Trees, leaves, stones and even animals around the school become the study material! Here children are trained in the company of Mother Nature. A basic training is provided to local youths for teaching.

These schools, established under the guidance of Dr Pophali started yielding remarkable results. Prant sanghchhalak late Madanlal Agrawal started ekal vidyalayas in 60 more villages through his own fund. Ekal vidyalayas also greatly contributed to village development and inculcating national values among children along with education. Village organization of these ekal vidyalayas gave a befitting reply to people who demanded for sovereign Jharkhand state.

This experiment of ekal vidyalaya that is specifically carried out in tribal belts has proved very successful. Ekal vidyalayas also run in slum areas of some major cities and at some remote places. At such places, it becomes difficult to get a trained teacher. Sewa Bharati overcomes this problem in its own way. Any person from the village who has studied at least up to class 8 is chosen as a teacher. Such selection is made with the consent of the villagers. The selected person after receiving primary training starts teaching the students. Classes

are conducted for 3 hours. and this teacher teaches some 250-300 pupils of his locality. A special attention is given for educating the dropouts, so that these children can continue their education.

The routine activities comprise of classroom lectures, prayer, cultural studies, sports, physical exercise, etc. Various festivals are celebrated with enthusiasm round-the-year. Generally, one supervisor is appointed for 10 schools and an experienced observer for 30 schools. 90 units comprises one 'sankul'. This 'sankul' looks after quality up gradation, organising resources and evaluation.

The organizations such as Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, Rashtriya Sewa Bharati, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, etc extended this project in every nook and corner of the country. It is to be mention that, ekal vidyalayas greatly contributed to Government of India's Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan ('Education For All' project).

Ekal vidyalayas laid more focus on complimentary education instead of primary one. Ekal vidyalayas vowed to empower the primary schools that were opened under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan. Now ekal vidyalayas have reached even at remote places like fishermen's village in Tamil Nadu, Wayanad forest in Kerala and tea farms in Assam. Organisations such as Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, Vanbandhu Parishad, etc have initiated effective steps for bringing the tribal masses back to the mainstream. Now these organizations are engaged in raising sufficient fund for these thousands of vidyalayas and are taking efforts to connect emotionally the elite society of India with these tribals.

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'Abalashrama' for destitute, orphan women

A woman is the backbone of any society. If this backbone is not strong, within no time, the social structure collapses. With this view in mind, in order to strengthen women power of the country, Abalashrama is engaged in the holy work of rehabilitating destitute and orphan women so as to catalyze the process of empowering the social structure.

The foundation for Abalashrama was laid by late Chakravarthy Venkata Varada Iyengar. He was a man of principles and believed in setting practical examples. Therefore he married a child widow, Krishnamma, for which he faced social disgrace. Krishnamma also worked with him for orphans and destitute.

At first, the couple set up an ashram at their residential premises. The couple's generosity drew countless destitute girls and finally, the couple was forced to look around for more space. In 1907, the municipal authorities made available the land where the ashram stands now and the Iyengars, with donations from like-minded people, constructed the building in 1911. Today, Abalashrama is a registered institution run by an elected body and follows the ideal set by its founder i.e. rehabilitation of young girls and women in the age group of 15 to 25 years, who are orphans and destitute.

Abalashrama has an elaborate rehabilitation programme which is implemented through interaction with various organizations. Though individuals can approach it for help on their own, most of them are sent by various institutions engaged in similar tasks. An institution like Balakiyara Bala Mandira, a government organization that provides shelter and education to abandoned girls, prefers to send them to places like Abalashrama as rules bar it from keeping girls above 16 years. Orphan girls who work in various plantations and estates in Karnataka and who are sent away by their employers once they reach puberty are also taken in. The girls at Abalashrama are either students or

apprentices in companies and factories. They are encouraged to be economically independent. Today, there are graduates in biotechnology, law, and commerce. School dropouts and those not keen regarding formal education are given vocational training like tailoring, screen printing, book binding, typeset composing, nursing, and computer operations, depending upon their aptitude. The ashram has a marketing outlet that sells products made by the inmates. Abalashrama strictly enforces the criteria for admitting a new resident. The institution works at making girls' stay happy and fruitful, trying to instill confidence in them and making them see themselves as dignified members of society.

The ashram pays greater attention towards sports, yoga and personality development and the girls are motivated to concentrate on healthy living and high goals. In cases where a girl has suffered trauma, counselling and medical care are arranged. The ashram has on its panel leading gynaecologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers and so on. Once a girl gets a permanent job, she is helped either to get married or move out into a women's hostel. The choice is hers. If she wants to opt for marriage, the ashram goes about the procedures as any parent would do. However, it is the groom that comes here in search of a bride! Thanks to modern, progressive outlook, many youths are eager to set an example by marrying an orphan.

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Vandemataram Foundation, in the field of girls' higher education

Vandemataram Foundation, launched on the eve of the centenary year (2005) of Vandemataram Movement, is working for child rights through schools for the betterment of India. This Foundation has been at the forefront of child rights and school empowerment with grassroots level interaction and right to information campaigns with 600 volunteers toiling day in and day out selflessly. The foundation is working for the betterment of children and their education. A new freedom struggle, this time against poverty and illiteracy, is making things better in 120 schools in 10 interior mandals of Warangal and seven mandals of Mahabubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. The dropout rate has fallen steeply and the attendance of teachers is increasing. The performance of school as a unit is improving.

Focusing on government schools in backward areas, the foundation works with twin principles of extending academic and emotional support to children and strengthening the infrastructural facilities in schools. Making a village school the nodal point, the foundation builds a team consisting of village elders, youths and alumni of the school. These teams working with the parents and teachers of the school actively involve the students in various constructive and creative activities.

Kishori Vidya Vikasam

The percentage of girl students going for higher education after class 10 is only 12% in villages. Main reason is the non-availability of junior college at village level. Students are forced to travel to nearest mandal headquarters for higher studies. Because of financial limitations of the families, parents do not see any benefit of educating their daughter further and orthodox thinking does not allow them to send their daughters to go out of the village for education. An old tradition of early marriages

is also a hurdle in their higher education.

The foundation identified 667 students from various villages of Warangal and Mahabubnagar who are willing to continue studies and convinced their families to send them to junior college. A commitment was obtained from parents not to marry off their daughters before completing higher education. Girls were provided bus pass, text books, tuition and examination fees. Sessions on career guidance, personality development, counselling and other workshops were conducted to motivate the students on a bi-monthly basis. The foundation is always in touch with their colleges, regarding their performance and care.

The efforts soon started yielding fruits. Inspired by this example, more number of girl students are now opting for higher education. Over 1600 girls have been given financial benefit so far. An important factor of this programme is that these girls, after their college hours, run study centers for the students of government schools as a result of which over 18,000 girls have been provided free education.

Rakshabandhan

During Rakshabandhan festival, students tie rakhis to all the residents of the village and request them to commit themselves to eradicate child labour and send their children to the school. This activity was performed in 450 villages in Warangal & Mahabubnagar. 5 lakh villagers were contacted in the programme and were requested to eradicate child labour. More than 36,000 students participated in this drive.

Counselling of students and parents

In villages, there is no mechanism to bridge the gap between parents and school unlike private schools. Parents don't know the performance of their children and school in general. Hence there is a need to develop a mechanism to interact with parents on a regular basis and bridge the gap between parents, teachers and students. The foundation conducts parents-teachers counselling sessions. Quarterly sessions are conducted to review the performance of their children. As a result, parents and teachers opened up in expressing their concerns and collectively understood their responsibilities and sharing expectations. The awareness level of parents was also increased, thus encouraging them to send their children to school.

Examination preparation

The foundation has been organizing residential study camps with all the facilities for focused study. Residential study camps have been very successful. Over 138 students have been selected for IITs and over 150 have got admission on free seats in corporate colleges.

Personality Development

The foundation has been conducting personality development programmes involving experts in the area with the objective of sharpening the intellectual ability of the students and making them effective and successful. 85000 students have been trained in these camps so far.

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Dharamitra: towards cause of sustainable rural development

Maharashtra's Vidarbha region that is totally dependent upon rain water for irrigation is now becoming self-sufficient in agriculture due to the innovative and eco-friendly methods adopted by 'Dharamitra'. By employing such methods, Dharamitra has not only initiated agricultural revolution in Vidarbha but also has contributed towards the conservation of environment.

Predominantly a technology resource centre, Dharamitra is a non-governmental organization founded by a group of scientists, technologists and social activists devoted to the cause of sustainable rural development through the application of appropriate science and eco-friendly technology alternatives. Dharamitra has a dedicated team of young scientists working on various projects sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi; CAPART, New Delhi; Govt of Maharashtra, Mumbai ; Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, etc.

Identification of the problems faced by rural people requiring science and technology intervention; generation of eco-friendly technologies for solving these problems; dissemination of optimized technologies to rural masses through grass root level NGOs; awareness creation among rural masses about the importance of conservation and judicious use of natural resources for meeting the livelihood needs of the poor people and networking of NGOs for rural development through appropriate science and technology inputs are some of the objectives of the organization.

Dharamitra has developed a close linkage with selected grass root level NGOs in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state and formed an informal network called Vidarbha Science Forum for Rural Development (VISFORD). It is a group of about 20 NGOs located in different parts of Vidarbha. Dharamitra is helping these small groups, which have

developed a good rapport with the rural people to identify the local problems requiring science and technology interventions and providing proper technical support for solving these problems. Dharamitra has also been rendering a technical support to grass root level NGOs in the adjoining states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. With the help of like-minded NGOs and individuals, Dharamitra has initiated a Sustainable Agriculture Movement in Vidarbha. It has developed a close liaison with practicing organic farmers and it inspires them to switch over to this system of agriculture. It is also trying to develop Producer-Consumer Linkages to arrange for the sale of surplus organic food. It has undertaken a task of educating rural and urban consumers about the health hazards associated with chemical farming and chemically grown food while making them aware of the attributes of organically grown food.

Organic recycling

Using a special microbial consortium, a technique has been developed for early decomposition of hardy biomass like cotton stalks, pigeon pea stalks, Lantana stalks and the like, which are otherwise difficult for decomposition due to the presence of high levels of lignin.

The vermin composting technique is being optimized for locally available agro-waste and urban solid waste. Special trials are being made to study the efficacy of 'vermiwash', the body fluid of earthworms as a growth promoting substance, over the growth and yields of commonly grown crops in the region. Enrichment of compost has been tried with the help of biofertilizers like Azetobactor and Phosphorus solubilizing microbes (PSM). The NADEP method of composting has also been made more efficient and lower in cost.

Sustainable Agriculture

A package comprising non-chemical agricultural practices and based on the use of local resources evolved by Dharamitra has been disseminated to about 400 small and marginal farmers of 22 villages in four districts of Western Vidarbha. These are mostly poor tribal holding partially degraded land, which is being cultivated under rain-fed condition. The farmers in each of these villages have been organised into a farmers' study group which is monitored by a motivator who is a young practicing farmer from the same village and trained in alternative

agriculture practices. These farmers have also been organized to form their own agricultural credit system in the form of village agricultural fund, which is being used to meet the monetary input required for agricultural operations.

Attempts are being made to popularize a need based bio-diversified agriculture system among women farmers which ensure ample supply of vegetables, grains & herbal medicines for poor families. About 95 women farmers have been involved in the programme which not only helps in improving nutritional & health status of these families but also account for additional income generation from the sale of surplus produce.

Rock Bee Management

A novel and eco-friendly technique of management of rock bees, the ferocious wild bees and safe honey harvesting from their colonies has been disseminated to more than 350 traditional honey hunters in selected tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha with the help of local NGOs. A special arrangement has been made for the direct procurement of honey at a higher price to avoid their exploitation at the hands of middlemen. These honey hunters, who have very well adopted the new technique introduced to them, have been organised into self help groups. A concept of decentralised neighbourhood marketing is being tried wherein the honey is being sold in sub-urban centres in this region by household women through home selling. A special brand for the processed honey has been developed in the name of 'NATURO', which has also received the Agmark license.

Banana Board & Paper Technology

A production-cum-training centre in banana paper and board technology has been established in Kalamb, a small town in the Yavatmal district of Vidarbha. This centre offers training to youths sponsored by NGOs and other agencies. Dharamitra has developed the technology for production of hard boards and medium density fibre boards from banana stem waste.

Watershed Management

Government of Maharashtra has recognized Dharamitra as a 'Mother NGO in Watershed Management' by entrusting it a

responsibility of training the staff of participatory watershed agencies, monitoring the programme being implemented by them and evaluation of the programme executed. Dharamitra has been assigned such task for three districts in Maharashtra, namely Akola, Amravati and Washim.

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How to reach

By air: The nearest airport is located at Nagpur which is around 74 km from the city of Wardha.

Sheti Pariwar Kalyan Sanstha, Sangli

As the traditional ways of goat and sheep rearing are not much liked by new generation, the capable village youths are opting for occupation other than agriculture and migrating to other places in search of sustainable livelihood. A great visionary Narayanrao Deshpande from Sangli region decided to find an effective solution to the problem and laid the foundation for Sheti Pariwar Kalyan Sanstha in 1975. Now Sheti Pariwar Kalyan Sanstha has entirely changed the definition of livestock rearing in Sangli district.

Atpadi village in Sangli district is a drought prone area of Maharashtra. Agriculture is mainly rainfed. Due to all these challenges, goat and sheep rearing is quite popular because of its economical support to the farmers. Goat is mainly reared for meat and sheep is preferred for wool; for weaving blankets and other articles that are traditionally popular in these regions. As goat rearing was a traditional occupation, the methods followed were also traditional. The traditional way of goat rearing required much time and efforts.

Narayanrao Deshpande from the same region was quite familiar with these challenges. Though he was not much qualified academically but was filled with innovative ideas and courage to do something new which would help society at large. He established Sheti Pariwar Kalyan Sanstha for agricultural development and other allied activities to address the livelihood challenges. Initially, the sanstha started some experiments with stall-fed goat farming. This experiment was a big time hit, as till then nobody had ever thought of stall fed goat farming. Along with this, Deshpande also started developing the breed, wherein Osmanabadi breed of goat was maintained and by selection method, its breed development activity was started.

The systematic innovation in the traditional methodology has helped developing a commercially and environmentally viable option, which is

also acceptable to masses. In the year 1985, Deshpande also tried some experiments of cultivating some trees which would be specifically used as fodder for the goats. These varieties of plants were easily grown on dry and waste land. Sheti Pariwar is now known for imparting training in stall fed goat rearing and breed development. It is also offering a variety of training programmes in new agricultural methodologies and agro allied activities.

Khillar Cow is an Indigenous breed found in drought prone areas of Maharashtra. These bulls are good for farm use. Maintaining pure line breed and conservation of breed through selection method to develop a DNA through traditional Knowledge are the tasks undertaken.

Fodder development

Plantation of trees like Anjan, Babool, Neem, Shivan, Pimpran, Ber (bor) is done on waste land that is purely rain fed. Grass of specific varieties like Marwel, Pavana, Stylo are cultivated below the trees that are used as a fodder for goat. Community-based fodder development programme is one of the unique activity initiated by Sheti Pariwar in which along with people's participation, a common plantation is done on the waste land. The fodder from common area is used by the village.

Sheti Pariwar has also explored options that can provide easy nutrition to the cattle from the available resources. A single bhakri which is made from maze, jowar, soybean, mineral mixture and common salt can meet the nutritional needs of the goat, at a very affordable cost and that too from locally available resources.

Krishi Narayani Diary

Krishi Narayani Dayanandini is a diary which helps the farmer to keep the record of each and every item that is used for cultivation e.g. what crop has been selected in which farm, manures that have been used and their cost, labour charges, growth of the crop, observation, treatment done for any pest attack, etc.

Training

Sheti Pariwar believes in implementation of appropriate technology at the grass root level. Hence a systematic and scientific module of training has been developed which not only trains the farmer, but also makes them knowledgeable enough to make best out of the available

resources. Sheti Pariwar provides training in goat rearing, cow rearing, fodder development, agro processing, agro allied training, milk processing, vermi compost, grading of grains and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).

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How to reach

By air: The nearest major international airport is located at Mumbai and it is situated at a distance of 390 km from Sangli. Pune airport is located around 237 km from the city of Sangli.

Go-Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Deolapar

Cow has been allotted status of mother in Indian culture. As the mother takes care of her children without any expectations from them, so is the cow. Cow not only gives milk for our nourishment but the urine and dung of cow is also very useful. In order to conserve the cattle and to carry out the scientific research in medicinal, agricultural, pharmaceutical, nutritional, environmental and technological areas of Godhan (cow and its progeny), Go-Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra was established in 1996.

The laboratories of the institute are situated at Sevadham, Deolapar, taluka Ramtek, district Nagpur.

Panchagavya is a term used to describe five major substances obtained from cow viz urine, dung, milk, ghee and curd. These substances form a major part of the Ayurvedic treatment for several diseases such as leucoderma, hyperlipidemia, arthritis, renal disorders, acidity, etc. The centre has carried out extensive research on these substances and has obtained promising results on the above disorders from the formulations based on panchagavya. The Ayurvedic literature such as Charak Samhita, Sushrut Samhita, etc suggests a number of pharmacological applications of panchagavya. Recently, monocalprin contained in milk and milk products is reported to possess excellent medicinal properties.

A manufacturing unit of 'Panchagavya Ayurvedic Medicines' is commissioned at Sevadham, Deolapar. The license for manufacturing the medicines has been obtained from FDA, Maharashtra. The manufacturing is carried out under the supervision of qualified Vaidyas. The cows are regularly examined by veterinary doctors.

The organization provides information and literature on the utility of products obtained from panchagavya by publishing and distributing books and periodicals. It also aims to establish diagnostic and clinical

centres across India. Efforts are in full swing to establish the branches at regional, national and international levels.

A healthcare centre for vanavasis (tribals) and under-privileged villagers is also established at Sevadham. Two dispensaries are also functioning in Nagpur where over 10,000 patients have been effectively treated. These centres have brought relief to those suffering from prolonged illness. Since 1996, clinical trials on some kidney patients and cancer patients have shown a remarkable progress. Medical advice is also given by correspondence and many mails are responded regularly.

US patent has been granted to Indian scientists on the use of cow urine distillate on bio-enhancer. The scientists have made a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibiotic and cow urine distillate in an amount effective to enhance the antimicrobial effect of the antibiotic.

Cows of original Indian breed are conserved and nurtured here. Panchagavya obtained from these cows is utilized for research by a team of efficient scientists in a well equipped laboratory. The technique developed by these experts is called Kamdhenu Krishi Tantra. Four varieties of composts are manufactured viz Vermi compost, Nadep compost, Anu compost and Samadhi compost. These composts are available for household use as well as for farming in a pack of 1 kg and 25 kg respectively. Compared to chemical fertilizers, these are quite cheap, productive and safe also.

Similarly, Kamdhenu Pest Repellent has been effectively developed which is quite safe and effective as compared to chemical fertilizers that pose a threat to the environment. The cost of these fertilizers have been kept low so as to reduce the financial burden on the farmers. The demand for such eco-friendly pesticides is increasing and extensive research is being carried out in the entire world in this direction. Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra also provides technical assistance to the organizations that work for research, production and selling of these products.

Also, gobar gas is manufactured from cow dung. This gas is used for cooking and lighting. In addition to this utility, in Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra, research is being carried out regarding the production of electricity from cow dung and cow urine (gomutra). Success has been tasted to a great extent. Batteries are also manufactured using of cow dung and cow urine. These batteries are

found to be useful in running watches and calculators. More research is being carried out in this direction and the centre has full confidence to achieve 100 per cent success.

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How to reach

Deolapar village is situated at a distance of 65 km from Nagpur on Nagpur-Seoni highway.

Innovative paddy farming method by 'Janseva'

Paddy farming is the major source of livelihood for tribal farmers and it is their staple food also. Because of traditional methods employed for paddy farming, these tribal farmers always used to bear loss. To impart information regarding new techniques in paddy farming, Janaseva Foundation vowed to provide them a four-fold training. Farmers who opted for four-fold method had an exponential rise in their paddy yield. The method yielded marvellous results everywhere. Till date, the foundation has trained over 5000 tribal farmers in this four-fold technique.

Janseva Foundation chose Maharashtra and Gujarat as its work area. Along with seven districts of Maharashtra and four districts of Gujarat, the tribal farmers from Dadra and Nagar Haveli were chosen for training. Eight agricultural scientists along with karyakartas laid the foundation for this project. Among them, Dr Y Daftardar started working as a full time karyakarta. Dr N K Sawant, founder of the four-fold method also used to accompany the farmers during training.

Four-fold method

1) Utilizing the filth obtained in paddy production as manure (Silica is obtained from the ash).

2) Planting of glyricidia around dams and using its leaves as manure.

3) Planting saplings at some specific distance from each other.

4) Dumping urea-DAP tablets to a greater depth in the field.

Janaseva Foundation karyakartas propagated this four-fold method in many villages of Maharashtra. They also designed a bricket manufacturing machine. Local fabricators were also given training for manufacturing such machines. Bricket manufacturing training was also given to women and youths of self help groups. Thus the brickets were readily available to the farmers and self-help groups also got the source

of employment.

The foundation kept in constant touch with Maharashtra Government. The government also realized the importance of this method. Government made the propagation of this four-fold method as its own programme and implemented it in all the paddy growing districts of Maharashtra. Thus the technique reached up to the lakhs of tribals as well as villagers. Bricket machines were given to a lot of self-help groups along with subsidy. Through Janaseva Foundation, the technique reached up to 5000 villagers and with the government's scheme, the circumference of propagation still widened.

Contact

Janaseva Foundation

Naroli Road

Silvassa

(Dadra and Nagar Haveli Union Territory, India)

How to reach

By air: The nearest airport is at Diu, located at a distance of 25 km from Silvassa. Gandhinagar airport, Nasik is 95 km and that of Mumbai is 132 km away.

By train: Silvassa does not have railway station. Vapi is the nearby train station connected to Mumbai and 15 km away from Sivassa.

Dhagevadi sets an example of self-employment

The village, where not even the yearly requirement of the food grains was fulfilled, has now become self-sufficient because of the herculean efforts of a youth named Bhaskar Pardhi. Bhaskar is a karyakarta of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram.

Dhagevadi, a small village situated in Akole tehsil of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district. Like other backward villages, this village was also deprived of the approach road. Farming activity was carried out only in 148 hectares out of the 371 acres of total cultivable land. Rain water used to drain away because of the lack of conservation methods. Crops such as groundnut, paddy etc were taken but the yield was very less. Even the yearly requirement of the food grains was not getting fulfilled. People used to wander in search of work due to lack of jobs in the villages.

The face of the village has now entirely changed due to the herculean efforts of the youth called Bhaskar Pardhi. Bhaskar used to study at Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram's hostel. The education at Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram gave him a new vision. After completing the education, he used to think day and night about the development of the village. One day, he got an opportunity to attend a camp in Pune. At the camp, he got information about agriculture and the agro-based industries. He decided to set up a tomato farm at Dhagevadi. In 1992, along with three people, Bhaskar set up tomato farm in the village for the first time. He tasted success. The experiment turned fruitful for Dhagevadi. Ten people now came forward for the same job. Embankments were built to fulfill water requirement. Because of the water availability, the number of people interested in tomato farming started growing. The land that was once regarded as barren is now yielding two to three crops per year. Tomato has become a major crop of this village. A road was also needed so as to take the crop to the market. Villagers didn't

wait for government assistance but themselves constructed the road by mutual co-operation.

After this achievement, villagers now decided to move a step ahead. 'Ambe-mata Abhinav Tomato Sauce Manufacturing Co-operative Society' was established. About 20 to 25 tonnes of tomato sauce is manufactured every year. The sauce is sold in Mumbai and Pune. The cost is about 30 per cent less as compared to top brands. It is to be noted that 35 tribals are the members of this project which is the first of its kind in the region.

Other activities

1) Green peas (mutter) is cultivated on large scale. Earlier, a trader used to come for purchasing green peas (mutter) but now, two youths from the village go in the market for selling the mutter.

2) Another two youths collect the milk, produced in the village and take it to Pimpalgaon on a motorcycle. Milkmen give them certain commission for this job.

3) Grazing and chopping in forest is totally banned in the village. Firewood is obtained from trees located in the outskirts of the village. Cattle fodder is auctioned. Rs 30,000 have been generated by auctioning fodder and firewood since last two years.

4) 1,500 saplings of cashew (kaju) and Amla have been planted on the barren land under Haritgad Project. 5,000 saplings of Nilgari have also been planted in the surrounding region.

5) Villagers sit together for taking public decisions. Personal quarrels are also settled in village itself. The village is totally addiction-free. Earlier, the literacy was quite less but now many youths study in the colleges.

Contact

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Sevabharathi, Kanhangad dedicated towards devpt of backwards

Sevabharathi, Kanhangad, working in the remote regions of Kerala's Kasaragod District since last seven years, has initiated a number of welfare projects for the upliftment of the deprived sections of the society. This noble work is being carried out with the intention of doing service for the people who are in distress irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

The organization, established in the year 2004, is involved in a number of activities that promote social and cultural welfare of the public in general. At present, the team consists of 60 karyakartas whereas the day to day affairs are controlled by a 15-member executive body and an advisory board.

Annadanam (food distribution)

Free food is distributed among poor patients and bystanders at the district hospital. About 300 people are being given food regularly who cannot afford to visit hotels for lunch and dinner. This provides a great relief to the people as they do not have to leave the patient alone while going for meals because their food requirement is satisfied at the hospital itself by Sevabharathi karyakartas. Donation is collected from the service minded people who contribute for this cause during the occasions such as marriage, birthday, house warming, death ceremonies, anniversaries, etc.

Blood donation

A blood donors' forum has been established that consists of a number of young blood donors who donate the blood whenever required so as to fulfill the urgent blood requirement. In connection with blood donors' forum, Red Ribbon Club is formed affiliated to the central government project Nehru Yuva Kendra. A 24x7 ambulance service is

also provided by Sevabharathi so that the patient can be immediately shifted to the hospital in case of casualty.

Gangothri

Drinking water is the prime factor during any celebration or social gathering. Keeping this view in mind, a drinking water service named Gangothri has been launched that provides pure drinking water at the center of the town during occasions such as big festivals, ceremonies, natural calamities, etc.

Sponsorship

Most of the talent of our nation goes waste because of the financial problem encountered by students belonging to economically backward sections of the society. They cannot pursue higher studies due to lack of money. Hence, poor students are provided financial aid, study material, uniforms and scholarships so as to continue their studies.

Sevabharathi also plans set up Balanikethan and Balikanikethan to look after the children, orphans, who are thrown to the wilderness of the streets. A study reveals that the number of such street dwellers may outnumber the general community and become a threat to the social tranquility. Sevabharathi has decided to take up this challenge, bring up these children in good cultural and social order and making them responsible citizens of the nation.

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Dull, backward 'Kollampally' changes its face

Kollampally village situated in Mahbubnagar (Palamoor) district of Andhra Pradesh, that was once regarded as dull and backward like other villages, has now completely transformed into a rapidly developing one due to the efforts of Grammena Vikasa Parishad. The literacy rate has exponentially increased and people have started many self employment projects.

The speciality of this village is that it has a temple in every locality. Because of this, the village has over 30 temples. In addition to this, the temple of Banjara community's deity is situated on the hill adjacent to the village.

In 1990, Grameen Vikasa Parishad initiated the work by establishing Keshav Shishu Mandir in the village. Economically backward students and children belonging to SC/ST category were mostly benefited by the move. Hundreds of backward class students study in this school at present. Many saplings have been planted and flowering plants have been cultivated in the school premises.

A saving scheme 'Sri Vivekananda Grameena Podupu Sangham' was initiated under which small amounts such as Rs 25, Rs 50 and Rs 100 were collected from the villagers. From this collected amount, economic assistance was provided to the villagers for setting up small self employment projects. Many people availed the benefit of this scheme and started earning their own bread. Nearly 90 per cent people also cleared the debt.

Aditya Village Development Committee was established for all round development of the village in the year 2000. A community building called 'Aditya Village Service Bhavan' has been built in which a night study centre is run along with free coaching classes for students who are weak in studies. A self employment training centre for girls and tailoring training centre also functions in the building. Various training

courses are conducted at Hanuman temple located in the backward area of the village. A weekly meeting of women is also organized.

Village temples and roads are regularly cleaned. Karyakartas working in various fields share their experiences at the monthly meeting that is organized at Keshav Shishu Mandir. Various development works that are carried out in the village are reviewed in this meeting.

All these activities are now showing positive results. There has been a drastic change in the behavior of village youths, literacy rate has crossed the mark of 75 per cent, social harmony has increased, youths are always engaged in some creative work, many people have opened kumkum and incense sticks shops, many people have initiated shampoo manufacturing units and women have also entered into the field of self employment by establishing self help groups. This village, once regarded as undeveloped, is now making a remarkable progress in different sectors.

Contact

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How to reach

Kollampally village is located at a distance of 74 km from Mahboobnagar (Palamoor) and is situated on Mahboobnagar-Narayanpet road, Mehboob Nagar is at a distance of 84 k.m. from Hyderabad airport.

Jashoda Sadan; 'Gokul' for cyclone-hit children

Man is helpless in front of the nature's fury. However, the ability to recover every time from the extreme situations distinguishes a human being from other animals. It is therefore said that being human is more important than a human being. Jashoda Sadan has stood true to this fact by rehabilitating children hit by the devastating cyclone of 2009 that destroyed a number of lives in Orissa. Located in the city of Cuttack, Jashoda Sadan has a three storied building equipped with modern facilities, houses 65 cyclone-hit children who earlier were left helpless to starve under a pitiless sky, without a roof over their heads and scanty clothes to cover their bodies.

Emphasis is laid on physical, emotional and spiritual development of children. All the children attend the public schools nearby. Two study sessions are held daily, each lasting for two hours, in which the full time teachers appointed by the institution help children with their school work. There are also volunteers who work with the children regularly. The children are provided with textbooks, notebooks and all other necessary items required at school. Monthly practice tests are held in the institution to prepare the children. Extra coaching sessions are held during finals. Satsang in Jashoda Sadan is the time to regroup at the end of the day. After the evening prayer session, children hear about cultural, moral and spiritual lessons through stories and fables.

Festivals and holidays celebrated at Jashoda Sadan help the children learn about the history and culture of India. Children are encouraged to take part in different cultural events held locally. The children of Jashoda Sadan have gained recognition for their stage performances.

Qualified doctors regular conduct check-up and precautionary measures are taken as per doctors' advice. The children are encouraged to maintain a hygienic atmosphere in the premises. There is a fully furnished sick room at Jashoda Sadan.

The hardships of life have brought these children closer to together and they have formed a unique bond with each other. They have become a part of the big Jashoda Family.

Extra curricular activities

Children are encouraged to take initiative in creative activities like art, music and dance. Education is required for the development of mind and physical activities like yoga and sports are important for the body, but art feeds the soul. It helps express the feelings of the heart.

Annual study tours and picnics are arranged twice a year so that the children can visit different places in Orissa. The study tours give them opportunity to get acquainted with the history and culture of the state. National holidays like Independence Day, Republic Day and different festivals like Saraswati Puja, Ganesh Puja, Holi, Raja Sankranti, Khudurukuni, Rakhi, Janmastami, Durga Puja, Kartik Poornima, Makara Sankranti are celebrated with great pomp at Jashoda Sadan.

Vocational training

Along with the regular curriculum, vocational training is also provided so as to boost their earning confidence. During summer and winter camps, children are trained in tailoring and chalk manufacturing. Effort are also being made to get the children acquainted with computers.

Contact

Jashoda Sadan

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