



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

Social & Economic Justice for All

(NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

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1-877-MAYTRIN Empowerment Through Dialogue

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

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(Late) Mr. Yashwant Kanitkar

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Hello friends,

Wish you all a Happy New Year!

Just week before the Sandy we had a successful fund raising event in October 2012. Maneesha Kelkar moved the audience with her informative and appealing keynote speech. Also the audience appreciated the play "Tryst With Destiny". And then came Sandy causing a storm surge of up to 13 feet waves in some parts of New York City and New Jersey and causing almost 200,00 people homeless. Maharashtra Foundation contributed \$5000 to Governor' Sandy Relief Fund. Then in November we voted Obama for the second term president. And the year ended with X'mas in a sad tone.

During my trip to India in January 2013, I had 3 important agenda items – Maharashtra Foundation Literature and Social Service award ceremony, Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini-Harali and visit to Khedkar Hospital project in Anjanvel. Maharashtra Foundation "Social Service and Literature Award ceremony" took place in Pune on 5th January 2013 in Sane Guruji Hall and it was an enriching event. Shri. Thakurdas Bang was awarded "Lifetime Achievement Award" for social service and renowned scientist Dr. Jayant Naralikar was awarded "Lifetime Achievement Award" for literature. Dilip Chitre presided over the function. A detailed report is published in this issue.

The Youth Wellness camp in partnership with Share and Care Foundation took place at Jnana Prabodhini Harali from 15th January till 18th January. This was the third such camp. Dr. Jyotsna Deshmukh, Dr. Pramila Sarva, Dr. Bharati Mullick and dentist Dr. Sudha Sanganee volunteered their time as medical doctors while Vasumati Deshpande, Anand Sharangpani, Sunanda Oka and I assisted the doctors. About 400 students of Jnana Prabodhini school got complete medical and dental check-up.

Visit to Khedkar hospital project in Anjanvel was critical. This project is by far the most important project for Maharashtra Foundation. It is in partnership with Yusuf Meherally Center. The hospital building is taking shape and the plan is to complete the project sometime in second half of the year. A detailed report on this project appears in this issue.

Also during this trip, Vasumati Deshpande and I had the opportunity to meet with Usha Rane of Pratham organization. Usha is responsible for Pratham's work in five states and she heads Pratham's Content and Curriculum Unit We discussed potential for some joint projects. Board members of Maharashtra Foundation have started visits to the NGOs and projects donors support and such social audits assert that the donation money is properly utilized.

During 2012, we enrolled 6 life members, 2 patron members and 2 benefactor members. I thank these members for their membership. These memberships strengthen the organization. One fact is that the donations generally come from North Eastern part of the country. I would like to see Foundation generating more membership and donations in year 2013 from other parts of the U.S.

- Shaila Vidwans

(President, Maharashtra Foundation)

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Maharashtra Foundation's Annual Fund Raising Event, 2012

Generally it is very busy for Indian communities in last few months of the year. Navaratri festival, family Diwali celebrations, the American tradition of "Thanks Giving" and then Christmas to end the year keep us socially busy. Maharashtra Foundation (MF) also holds its annual fund raising event around the same time. Last year the event was held on 27th October 2012. It was a pleasant evening at WW-Plainsboro High School SOUTH, New Jersey. Manisha Kelkar, a dedicated social worker from the U.S was the key note speaker and Kumar Ketkar, a reputed journalist from Maharashtra was present as chief guest.



Approx. 200 well-wishers and supporters of Foundation attended the evening. The program started with Maharashtra Foundation Geet. On behalf of board of directors of Maharashtra Foundation, Vinata Kulkarni, the Emcee for the evening, welcomed the audience, guests and key note speaker. MF President Shaila Vidwans introduced MF's work. After introduction of the key note speaker and chief guest, Shaila Vidwans felicitated these dignitaries. Plaques were presented to outgoing members of the board Anirudha Kinare and Anjali Limaye. Mr. Ramesh Sarva, who has been associated with the Foundation since its inception and who assisted in MF's financial and accounting work for more than 25 years was also felicitated. In appreciation of his work for the MF, Vishwas Sahasrabhojani who is MF's volunteer/liason person in Nagpur and who has been coordinating MF's work in India for past several years also was presented a plaque which his friend accepted on his behalf.



Kumar Ketkar is a vice president of South Asian Free Media Association with offices in Lahore and Delhi. He is involved in women's movement in South Asian countries. He shared his thoughts with his insightful speech.

He said that there are 2 billion people in South Asia, almost one third of the global population, of which 1 billion are women. Many of these women are missing from birth or later. The threat to women is not only from the economic sanctions but also from social and cultural sanctions that the fundamentalists impose on women. He mentioned case of attack on Malala by Taliban and said that thankfully despite the fundamentalist atmosphere, 1000's of women gathered to protest against Taliban. He commented on how the abortion issue was affecting the election pattern in U.S. also and that "global human cause/global women cause" needs to be addressed.

Manisha Kelkar has been Executive Director of Manavi, a women's rights

organization based in NJ, USA that works to end violence against women. She has been involved in social justice and social change work. She shared her valuable work experience. Six women working on violence against South Asian women came together to form



Manavi in 1985. When people are hurt, they need help "right now" and that is how "Safe House" or Asiana came into existence. She also talked about Legislation "VAWA" – Violence Against Women Act which provides special assistance in domestic violence cases.

After Manisha Kelkar's speech, there was a presentation of MF's journey through a short- 10 minutes DVD film. The Youth Team, Sharmilee Vaidya, Shreya Marathe, Shruti Marathe and Sanjeevanee Vidwans, presented information about foundation's various projects.

Shirsh Gupte, Ankush Karnik, and Hemant Marathe explained the various ways to the audience, for how they could help in Maharashtra foundation's projects.



The audience was generous and sum of \$181,000 was collected in donations and pledges during a short span of 30 minutes.

After a short break for soft drinks and snacks, the program resumed with one of the attractions of this fund raising event, an English Play “Tryst with Destiny”, written and directed by Amita Deepak Jha. It was presented by Washington DC area artists. The play started with scenes from Gujrat of early 20th century. It was a great experience to watch a real brilliant play. Director Amita Jha’s research and visual backdrops were very creative.

The rendering by all artists was magnificent. Gandhiji and Jinha were stunning. Nehru also was superb and displayed the emotional exhaustion very well. Maulana was perfect to express the Congress Muslim mindset. Director took a rational and balanced perspective of the dilemmas and frustrations of the leaders at that time.

However, there was no reference, direct or indirect - to Subhashchandra Bose and Sardar Patel. In spite of its serious nature, the play was very well received by the audience, taking them through the time machine experience.

Ankush Karnik, Maharashtra foundation's board member, expressed vote of thanks to all, without whom, this event would have been impossible.

MF fund-raising event has been the tradition for many years. It is possible to hold such events only because of all donors and supporters of the Foundation. Also the volunteers put in tremendous efforts to bring about such events and the board of directors of Maharashtra Foundation takes special note of the support of these volunteers. The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner.

- Shaila Vidwans

Below are few moments captured from the Play: Tryst with Destiny”



Maharashtra Foundation- Awards in Literature and Social work

Report of Award ceremony, 2013 -

(महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन साहित्य व समाजकार्य पुरस्कार समारंभ (२०१३) वृत्तांत)

"विज्ञान - तंत्रज्ञानाचा मानवी जीवनावर वाढता प्रभाव पाहता समाज आणि विज्ञान यांच्यातील दरी कमी करायची गरज आहे. म्हणून विविध माध्यमातून समाजाला विज्ञानाभिमुख करणे आवश्यक आहे. त्यासाठी पत्रकार, लेखक, शिक्षक, सिने-दिग्दर्शक आदींच्या बरोबर वैज्ञानिकांनी पुढे सरसावले पाहिजे" असे मत महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन पुरस्कृत साहित्य-जीवनगौरव पुरस्कार विजेते खगोलभौतिकी शास्त्रज्ञ (astrophysicist) डॉ. जयंत नारळीकर यांनी ५ जानेवारी २०१३ रोजी, पुण्यातील साने गुरुजी स्मारक येथे झालेल्या समारंभात व्यक्त केले. प्रसिद्ध पत्रकार दिलीप पाडगावकर यांच्या हस्ते हा पुरस्कार सुमारे ५०० लोकांच्या उपस्थितीत डॉ. नारळीकरांना प्रदान करण्यात आला.



समाजकार्य
-जीवनगौरव
पुरस्कार
ठाकूरदास बंग
यांना प्रदान
करण्यात आला
आणि
त्यांच्यावतीने

डॉ. अभय बंग यांनी तो स्वीकारला. "माझ्या घडण्यावर एकीकडे महात्मा गांधी व विनोबा भावे या दोन विभूतींच्या विचारांचा जेवढा परिणाम आहे तेवढाच माझ्या आई व वडिलांच्या प्रत्यक्ष जगण्याचा व संस्कारांचा आहे. माझ्या लहानपणापासून पिताजी माझे आदर्श, माझे 'हिरो' राहिले आहेत.." डॉ. अभय बंग यांनी ठाकूरदास बंग यांचे जीवन अतिशय परिणामकारक-रित्या लोकांसमोर मांडले.



या समारंभात करुणा गोखले, लीला आवटे, आनंद विंगकर, नीरजा यांना साहित्य; तर माधव बावगे, शिवाजी कागणीकर, बाळकृष्ण रेणके यांना समाजकार्याबद्दल पुरस्कार प्रदान करण्यात आले. जयंत पवार यांना अशोक आणि पुरस्कृत रजनी शेंदुरे पुरस्कृत नाट्यपुरस्कार देण्यात आला.

सुनील देशमुख यांनी प्रास्ताविक केले. डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकरांनी स्वागत केले. समारंभामधे सामाजिक भान असणारा अभिनेता अतुल कुलकर्णी, पत्रकार दिलीप पाडगावकर, दिलीप चित्रे इत्यादी मान्यवरांची भाषणे झाली. साधना ट्रस्टचे श्री. मोहन धारिया,



महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनच्या अध्यक्षा शैला विद्वांस आणि संचालक मंडळातील वसुमती देशपांडे व वैभव साठे या समारंभाला उपस्थित होते.

दिलीप पाडगावकर यांनी भारताच्या सध्याच्या राजकीय, सामाजिक, शैक्षणिक, आर्थिक आणि सांस्कृतिक प्रगतीबद्दल समाधान व्यक्त केले. याचे कारण भारतात सध्या होत असलेले सत्तेचे विकेंद्रीकरण आणि इंटरनेट, टी.व्ही. व प्रसार साधनांमुळे झालेली प्रगती होय. भारतातील तरुण वर्ग चांगल्या आणि वाईट गोष्टींचा सुवर्णमध्य काढू शकेल असा आशावाद त्यांनी वर्तविला.

१९९४ साली श्री. सुनील देशमुखांनी महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनला रु. १ कोटींची देणगी देऊन मराठी साहित्य पुरस्कार योजना सुरू केली. तसेच समाज परिवर्तनाचा वसा घेतलेल्या व्यक्ती व संस्था यांच्या कार्याबद्दल कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करण्यासाठी १९९६ सालापासून श्री. सुनील देशमुख यांच्या पुढाकाराने समाजकार्य पुरस्कार योजना सुरू केली. या पुरस्कारांची निवड आणि कार्यवाही साधना ट्रस्ट आणि अमेरिकेतील निवड समितीमार्फत झाली. डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकर हे भारतातील चार निवड समित्यांचे निमंत्रक होते आणि अमेरिकेच्या निवड समितीमधे सुनील देशमुख, शैला विद्वांस, अरुंधती विनोद, सुनिता धुमाळे, दिलीप चित्रे, विद्युल्लेखा अकलूजकर, शोभा चित्रे आणि रजनी शेंदुरे

यांचा समावेश होता.

"पुरस्कार हे गाडीच्या accessories सारखे असतात. गाडी चालण्यासाठी ते लागत नाहीत पण गाडी पुढे नेण्याचा आत्मविश्वास त्यामुळे वाढतो" हे अतुल कुलकर्णी यांनी दिलेले उदाहरण चपखल आहे. महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन ही अमेरिकेतील मराठी माणसांची संस्था मुख्यतः सामाजिक आणि आर्थिक सहाय्यासाठी काम करीत असली तरी प्रत्यक्ष महाराष्ट्रात काम करणाऱ्या समाजसेवकांना आणि जनसामान्यांना सामाजिक कार्यासाठी उद्युक्त करणाऱ्या साहित्यिकांना या पुरस्कारांनी सत्कार्य करत राहण्यास धैर्य मिळते हे हा समारंभ पाहून जाणवले.

आर्थिक मदत तर आपण करतच आहोत पण आपण सर्वांनी आणि आपल्या मुलांनी भारतात सुट्टीसाठी गेल्यावर, आपले तेथील काही दिवस हे गरजू लोकांसाठी द्यावेत. त्यांना बाहेरून कोणी आपल्याला भेटायला आले आहे हेच चेतना देणारे आहे.

- वैभव साठे (अटलांटा),

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Prakash Velankar,
ChFC

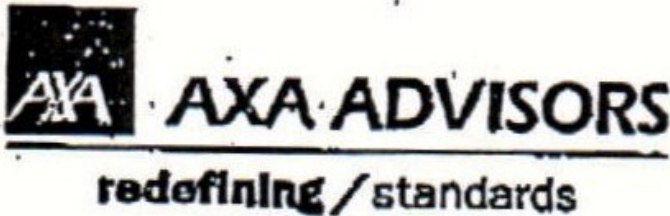
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3rd 'Youth Wellness Camp' at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali, Jan. 15-18, 2013

The 1993 earthquake of South Marathwada was so intense that it shook the whole of Maharashtra. Hundreds of villages were ruined and people killed in large numbers. Harali, a village located about 30 kms from the Solapur was the victim of the quake. It is a drought prone area. With the fallen stone houses and a high death toll, all basic needs of the people were wiped out. But the people of Harali did not lose hope. And Jnana Prabodhini came to their timely aid. Jnana Prabodhini, a non-political organization in Solapur, aims at an overall development of physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual qualities of all people. It was the September of 1993 when Anna Tamhankar of Jnana Prabodhini met with the local people and decided to adopt the village. Restoring faith and strength in the minds of the broken 1200 houses in the village was challenging. But Jnana Prabodhini took this up nonetheless, and decided to help build a residential school giving basic education, which would indirectly uplift the entire village. Anna Tamhankar, Dr Swarnalata Bhishikar and other workers of Jnana Prabodhini stay in Harali and look after the management and administration of the school. Approx., 400 boys and girls are attending the regular school.



Shaila with Annasaheb and Latatai

Like previous two years, this year also Maharashtra Foundation (MF) conducted a Youth Wellness Camp for Jnana Prabodhini (Harali) students in partnership with Share and Care Foundation (SCF). After successful completion of the camp for past 2 years, it was decided to continue the project.

This year, the team of doctors included pediatricians Dr. Bharati Mullick, Dr. Jyotsna Deshmukh, Dr. Pramila Sarva, and dentist Dr. Sudha Sanganee. Vasumati Deshpande, Sunanda Oka, Anand Sharangpani and myself, we formed the team of volunteers and worked as assistants to the doctors. Some dentists from Solapur also had come for a day to work with Dr. Sanganee. Dermatologist Dr. Bindoomadhav Galgali examined the children for skin problems.

We arrived in Solapur in early morning of 15th January and went to Harali. Like last year, our team received very warm welcome. The staff and students community are quite dedicated and disciplined group of individuals! The initial planning for the camp had started in the USA, a few months before the camp. This year Vasumati Deshpande went a few days ahead to help in preparation of the camp. She helped the volunteer to compile the records from the previous years.



Vasumati taking family history

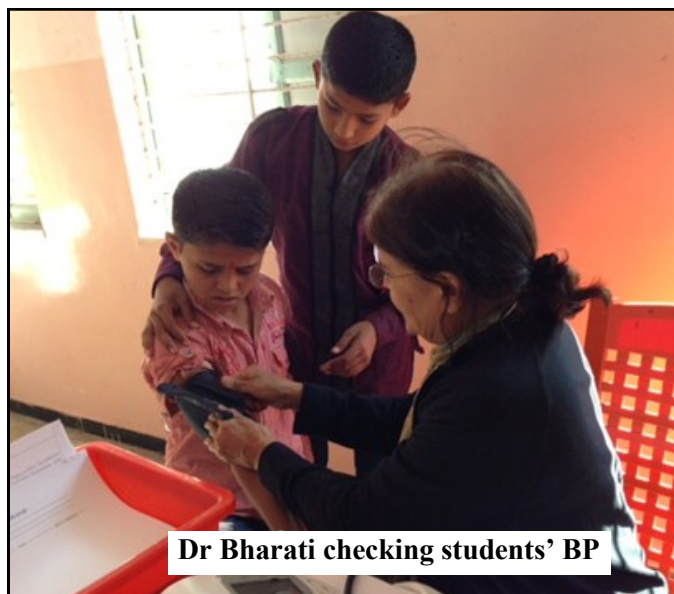
There was a recommendation from previous year to create medical forms containing details of the child's immunizations etc., and keep records of the children which should have all the information. The Jnana Prabodhini head nurse Mrs. Suhastai Sathe has maintained such information. All logistics, procurement of medicines, supplies etc. was already done. Medicines and supplies for common ailments were shipped from LOCOST pharmacy through another NGO called "ARCH" beforehand. During the 4-day camp, the doctors examined about 400 students. The volunteers filled out the patient history form in details. This helped the pediatricians while examining the students.



Sunanda taking family history history



Anand taking family history



Dr Bharati checking students' BP

The pediatricians did thorough examinations, identifying acute illness and special conditions. Some students had acute illness/conditions for which they were either treated or referred to the doctors in Solapur.

Overall, the students' personal cleanliness habits were satisfactory. More than 25% of the students were noted to have very dry scaly skin and lips, along with markedly cracked heels and toes, some complained of bleeding from heels at times.

These findings in addition to the complaint of constant tearing of eyes (xerophthalmia) by few students can be due to Vitamin A deficiency. There were few cases of Gastronomic intestinal problem, Orthopedic and Cardiac (heart murmurs), Upper respiratory infections, Juvenile diabetes and Urinary infection.

Many students were found to suffer from Anemia. The cause of anemia as iron deficiency was suspected in general, however the possibility of thalassemia and sickle cell needs to be ruled out.

33 students were identified for tooth extraction or filling, 62 students were found having some trouble with vision and 1 with night blindness. The head nurse, Mrs. Sathe will be following up on cases where further treatment is necessary.



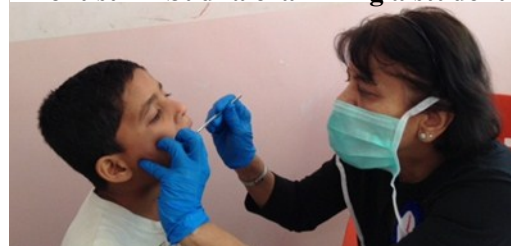
Dr. Jyotsna examining the students

Later on 3rd February 2013, there was an eye-examination camp conducted by Dr Uma Pradhan, a leading ophthalmologist from Solapur and her team. The students needing glasses will be provided the necessary assistance. Seven cataract operation on Harali village students will be performed in next month or two.

One remarkable observation surfaced at the end of the first day and confirmed the outcome at the end of the camp. The percentage of residential students with low Hg count ($Hg < 10$) dropped from 74.55% to 26.67%.

This showed a significant improvement in the general health of the residential children. In fact, while we were filling out the

Dentist Dr Sudha examining a student



patient history forms and also when the doctors were

examining the children, the awareness among the children of keeping healthy by eating green vegetables was obvious. The children had started comparing their Hg numbers and there seemed a sense of competitive spirit of who has a better Hg



Dr. Pramila examining the students

count.

The experience in attending the Youth Wellness Camp is very rewarding and life enriching. The students who volunteer with the doctors develop a bond, love and affection and they express it when the camp is over. They look forward to the doctors' visit next year. This is a project that Maharashtra Foundation should continue for few more years to study the impact on the well-being of the children of Harali village.

Prince Chitresh Khedkar Hospital - Visit's Report

MF board members Anand Sharangpani, Vasumati Deshpande and I visited the Khedkar project site on Jan 20, 2013 at Anjanwel, near Guhagar. We had a meeting on site with Yusuf Meherally Center (YMC) members Dr. G.G. Parikh, Mr. Harish Shah. Architect Ms. Chogale, consulting engineer Mr. Mhatre, Dr. and Mrs. Mahajan (OPD), onsite project manager Mr. Rajan Abraham, Ms. Shah and Ms. Kulkarni from Global Engineering Company responsible for the civil work were present. Also 3 members of Gram-panchayat attended the meeting.

The following photo shows Dr. G. G. Parikh (seated) and the YMC team, Global Engineering team and MF board members.



Currently, construction is continuing on hospital and A type quarters only. The construction on the remaining quarters is at the foundation level and is on hold for now. The priority is on completing the hospital first. The remaining quarters will be built once the hospital and A type quarters are built and the necessary equipment for operation of the facility including necessary utilities are installed. Plumbing and construction plans have been sent to by Ms. Chogale. Electrical plans and application will be submitted to MSEB based on certain estimates of power requirement for hospital equipment and living quarters. Rajan Abraham, the project manager onsite is overseeing the construction and other details.

Grampanchayat leaders from Anjanwel are very supportive of the project. The project manager of the construction company Global Engineering made progress presentation. The construction is behind schedule by about four months due to shortage of building materials. The contractor has assured to complete the civil construction by end of March, 2013, and plans to have CM to inaugurate the hospital in June, 2013. The information about the hospital being commissioned in June, 2013 has been spread. Student nurses and medical technicians expected to apply.

YMC submitted patient analysis as of Jan., 2013. As on Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, MF board members had another meeting with YMC team in their office at Bajaj Bhavan in Mumbai. YMC reported on some financials. The billing and paid amount were verified by YMC as per Global Engineering statements sent to us. YMC informed us that 90% of the building work can be completed with the available money.



YMC has assured to cover the shortfall in funds for satisfactory completion of the project.



They are working on other sources like MP's funds, leasing company or soft loans from banks and Sector Government money available for the villages. They have reduced the TARA unit (YMC facility that is run for past several years) expenses which they plan to use for Khedkar hospital.

Anand Sharangpani emphasized on the need of making a detailed list of hospital equipment. The equipment will affect the electrical needs to specify transformers and inverters.

MF board was informed that recently Government of India has cancelled FCRA of several thousand NGOs. Unfortunately YMC is one of such NGOs. However, YMC personnel is working on getting FCRA reinstated and the matter is being addressed in Delhi.

NGO - Visit's Report

Maharashtra Foundation (MF) sponsors and gives grants to various NGO's engaged in the social and educational activities primarily in the poor and economically depressed areas. Recently Sharayu Tulpule, Vasumati Deshpande and Anand Sharangpani visited a number of NGOs, supported by Maharashtra Foundation. The idea was to review the work conducted on location and also discuss with the field workers and office bearers of these organizations, the progress of activities supported by MF grants. Following is a summary of three noteworthy organizations among the many we visited.

Investment in the MAN (IIM) Trust:

IIM Trust runs a facility in Phulgaon about 30 Kms. from Pune. The organization is actively engaged in multiple activities with a focus ranging from education of pre-primary children in surrounding villages to training of handicapped and economically deprived women for economic independence. IIM Trust also has a unique training program for 'Anganwadi' social workers and trainers. 'Anganwadi' is a Government of India initiative with a focus on education, maternal and child health, and prevention of maternal and infant mortality primarily in the rural area. IIM is involved in many other educational and training activities on this location. Dr. Vidya Bal and Mrs. Meenakshi Apte also accompanied us, for this visit. Mrs. Apte, who is a founding member of the organization has worked tirelessly for over 30 years and continues with an amazing level of energy, enthusiasm and dedication.

Sadhana Village:

Sadhana Village operates a facility about 40 Kms from Pune near Pirangut. Sadhana village runs an innovative Centre for residential care of adults with mental disabilities, referred as special friends.



There are over 30 such adults living in four independent houses. These houses are managed by a trained live-in house leaders and visiting volunteers.



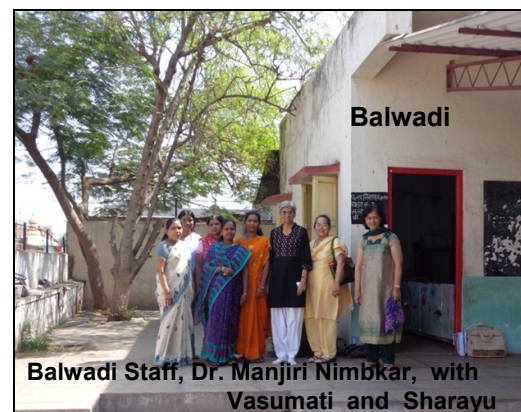
Perhaps the most striking feature of this initiative is that it provides a good quality of life with freedom, dignity, and affection to perhaps most the neglected class of our society. We noted that these adults for a small monthly cost to the responsible families have an opportunity to live a structured life at the Centre with creative occupations in a peaceful and safe setting. Sharayu and Anand were accompanied by Ranjana Baji of Sadhana village who toured and explained the details of this program.

The Pragat Shikshan Sanstha (PSS) of Phaltan

Sharayu, Vasumati and Anand visited Pragat Shikshan Sanstha (PSS) of Phaltan in Satara District about 110 Kms from Pune.

PSS is a well known organization involved primarily in educational programs from pre-primary (Balwadi) through 10th grade of high school in Phaltan.

The small innovative institution founded jointly by Dr. Maxine Berntsen with a friend in 1978 has grown into a reputed school operated by Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar. The elementary and high school enjoys wide support by the local and surrounding area due to its high quality education, smaller size of class and dedicated teachers. PSS has just started a comprehensive educational and health training program named "Potli Project" for the target population of mothers and parents of infants and children less than 3 years old in the economically depressed area in and around Phaltan. PSS with a grant from MF will train the social workers and run the "Potli" initiative.



- Anand Sharangpani

Some Charitable Institutes with Maharashtra Foundation's Support

Shreevatsa Project

Some of the Maharashtra Foundation donors have donated to a project called Shreevatsa. Shreevatsa, a special child care center is run by SOFOSH. (Society of Friends of the Sassoon General Hospitals), Pune. Since its inception, it has been catering to the needs of the abandoned, orphaned little ones from our society. Shreevatsa offers a loving home and hope to family deprived children from the age of new born to 6 years. Children are well looked after. They are provided with healthy and nutritious food. The medical need of each and every child is also the responsibility of the institution and this is shouldered by the able team of doctors and nurses. Therapy also forms an integral part of child care and so they at SOFOSH impart speech therapy, massage therapy, play therapy etc. to the children as and when required. A long term rehabilitation program for each child is worked out according to their individual needs. Most of these children are rehabilitated by placing them into adoption. The main aim of SOFOSH has always been to find a home for these children as institutional care cannot substitute a family care.

Laxmi Charitable Trust – Laxmi Eye Institute

During my last visit to India, I visited Laxmi Eye Institute in Panvel. Laxmi Eye Hospital is run by Laxmi Charitable Trust. The eye institute is a state-of-the-art hospital that offers diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical solutions. It is one of the few of its kind in India that offers the complete range of eye care facilities under one roof.

The institute, its founder, Dr. Suhas Haldipurkar and his colleague Dr.

Rita Dhamankar have a high reputation as a "go to" destination for complicated and difficult ophthalmic cases. It is a centre of excellence that delivers high quality clinical

procedures at the hospital as well as through its outreach programs. They conduct eye camps in the surrounding villages. The patients come to the eye institute for post-operative care.

Over the last 12 years, the institute has catered to the vision and eye care requirements of over 1,50,000 patients. The institute also has a full-fledged training wing called the Laxmi School of Optometry that conducts Degree courses in Optometry. This Optometry school trains optometrists and paramedical assistants and to help the country achieve the goal of "Vision 2020."



Pathak Vishwasth Nidhi – Pathak Trust

Humanity is only real religion of the world and serving on humanitarian ground is service of God! Saint Ramdas quotes in his "Manaache Shlok" that one should live a life that you will be remembered for ever after demise. Late Dr. N. R. Pathak was one such holy soul who lived true to the meaning of this quote. He got his medical education from "Wanless Hospital" in Miraj and was impressed by the work of the missionaries. He started his practice in 1945. During his practice he observed the problems of widows and unmarried mothers. Orphans were left on road side or at remote places. He always felt that there should be some arrangement for these children and no child should die without food, care and shelter. It was in 1947, a new born male orphan was brought to him which was left on the road side. He brought the child home. Gradually the number of children grew and in 1969 he established Public Charitable Trust "Pathak Trust, Miraj". Pathak Trust runs Orphanage (new born admission, shelter, education, medical examination, treatment, support, care and adoption), Women's Shelter Home (shelter, lodging, education and medical treatment), Dai training course and Nursing college and Elders' Hermitage which is the need of the society (admission to elders above 60 years of age, food, residence, protection and care, medical treatment, eye and organ donation facility).

- Shaila Vidwans

Variation within Indian Food Court

Per Euromonitor and RNCOS, leading industry research and consultancy firm, India's \$13 billion fast-food market is already growing 25-30 percent a year. Global players like Domino's, McDonald's, Pizza Hut are pushing into second- and third-tier cities in India. On the contrary, in the same nation, approximately, 20 percent of the Indian population, which is about 212 million people, suffer from malnourishment. Per reports of the latest estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 50 percent of the children in rural areas of India suffer from malnutrition, while 21 percent of the affected children suffer from "severe malnutrition."

Though the United Nation has set some 'Millennium Development Goals', for India to achieve these goals, first step would be to provide water and food security to everybody in the country.

- Vinata Kulkarni

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