



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

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

PO Box 2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

<http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org>

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

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Lead- Founder Member:
(Late) Mr. Yashwant Kanitkar

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Hello friends

The year 2014 has set in with a severe cold spell over the entire country, especially the North Eastern states. The temperatures are not very comforting. However, the MF activities continue.

We all mourned the death of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar who was shot dead on 20th August 2013 in Pune. He was the founder of Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti. He was keynote speaker at Foundation's fund raising event in 2006. Hemant Naiknavare, a close friend and associate of Dr. Dabholkar paid tribute to him at the fund raising event on October 26th. Foundation's Annual Fund Raising Event took place on 26th October 2013. The Consul General of India in New York Mr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay was the chief guest and keynote speaker. Also Ms. Chandrakala Bhargaw, president of Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog, Latur in her own style touched the hearts of the attendees. Theatrical group presented an English play "Taconic Parkway". We generated \$95,000 that day as earmarked donations and donations to support Maharashtra Foundation projects. During my trip to India in January 2014, I had three important agenda items – Maharashtra Foundation Literature and Social Service award ceremony, Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini-Harali and meeting with Yusuf Meherally Center team to take stock of the situation for the Khedkar Project. Maharashtra Foundation Social Service and Literature Awards ceremony took place in Pune on 11th January 2014. Kumar Ketkar was awarded "Lifetime Achievement Award" and "Rayat Education Society" was awarded "Lifetime award for Social service". At this function nine other awardees were also felicitated with plaques and cash awards.

The 4th Youth Wellness camp took place at Jnana Prabodhini – Harali from 12th January till 15th January. Maharashtra Foundation started this camp in partnership with Share and Care Foundation. Over past 4 years, participation of medical doctors and volunteers from Maharashtra Foundation has increased and this year we had 6 doctors and 4 volunteers. Dr. Anant Bhogaonkar(MI), Dr. Shrikrishna Mate(NJ), Dr Prabhakar Pendse(NC), Dr Sheela Laungani(NY), Dr. Pramila Sarva(NY) and dentist Dr Sudha Sangane(NJ) were in the team of doctors. Sudha Mate(NJ), Vasumati Deshpande(TX), Kamalakar Pendse(NJ) and I assisted the doctors. About 350 students of Jnana Prabodhini school got complete medical and dental check-up.

Shirish Gupte made a surprise visit to Khedkar hospital project in Anjanvel. This is in partnership with Yusuf Meher ally Center (YMC). The hospital building is completed and the other work is in progress. Shirish and I also met with Dr G. G. Parikh, Harishbhai, Gaurang Puthli and Architect Sucheta from YMC team to go over the funding and other aspects of the project.

During this trip to India, Vasumati Deshpande and I had the opportunity to meet Mrs Madhuri Abhyankar of SOFOSH (Society Of Friends of Sassoon Hospitals). A number of donors from Maharashtra Foundation support ShreeVatsa project of SOFOSH and it is heartening to see the work that is going on and the care that is provided to these children (1 day to 6-year old) at SOFOSH. We also had a meeting with Sunanda Tiloo of SWADHAR and other volunteers.

During 2013 we collected over \$473,000 and, Florida Fund raiser May 19, 2013 generated \$10,000, and enrolled 12 life members, 1 patron member. These memberships show your support to the organization and help us do more projects from Foundation's funds.

Thank you.

- **Shaila Vidwans** (President, Maharashtra Foundation)

Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali (Jan 12-15, 2014)

Fourth "Youth Wellness Camp" at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali, near Solapur, was held this year between Jan 12 and Jan 15th.

In keeping with the spirit of dedication and commitment from every member of Jnana Prabodhini at Harali, this year's camp was a great success. It is amazing to see the progress made with tireless work done by this organization's team under a very industrious and enthusiastic leadership of Dr. V.S. Tamhankar (known as Anna) and Dr. Swarnalata Bhishikar (known as Latatai). One has to see it to believe that at the site of a natural disaster that devastated this village in 1993, now stands a campus full of activities throughout the day. The atmosphere of the entire campus is conducive to team work, camaraderie and sincerity.

This year's wellness camp for students enrolled in Jnana Prabodhini School was conducted by Maharashtra Foundation. A total of 350 students were examined over 4 days.

This year's team included four pediatricians – Dr. Pramila Sarva, Dr. Shrikrishna Mate, Dr. Anant Bhogaonkar and Dr. Sheela Laungani, pediatric surgeon- Dr. Prabhakar Pendse, dentist – Dr. Sudha Sanganee, microbiologist - Dr. Sudha Mate who conducted vision screening and retired general surgeon from Solapur and a trustee, Dr. Sushilatai Patil. Vasumati Deshpande, Kamalakar Pendse and Shaila Vidwans provided volunteer services, taking personal, family, social and general history for students, thus assisting pediatricians getting each student ready for examination.

Based on recommendations made at two previous camps 2012/2013, medical records for each student – old and new – giving details of immunizations, nutrition, significant family history, history of past medical problems and pertinent interim history were provided to pediatricians. This format established continuity of each individual student's health records, which included results of vision screening, dental screening, screening for anemia by Hemoglobin measurements from previous annual check-ups with recommended treatment options, such as iron supplementations and dietary changes, as well as any other problems detected for which students were referred to specialists in the region.



Dr. Pramila Sarva with staff



From left: Dr. Mate, Kamalakar Pendse, Dr Sudha Sanganee, Dr. Pramila Sarva, Dr. Sheela Laungani, Dr. Anant Bhogaonkar, Mrs. Sathe (Nurse from Jnana Prabodhini,), Dr. Prabhakar Pendse, Shaila Vidwans, Sudha Mate, Vasumati Deshpande.

This information is being kept in an orderly fashion by Jnana Prabodhini's head nurse, Mrs. Suhastai Sathe who knows each student's history and background remarkably well. All necessary equipment, medicines, referral forms and special vision screening charts as well as tabular format for dental records were available for health care providers.

Just as in the past, follow-up recommendations were made for certain conditions and problems identified at this camp. Each student's computerized record is being developed, which will make record keeping easy with timely entries of assessments, recommendations made,

treatments given, and about progress on each student's general health.



It appears that this wellness camp going into its fourth year has helped establish a great sense of health awareness amongst students especially about eating healthier foods, dental care, general sense of cleanli-

ness and willingness to share information with team members because of some familiarity and a sense of comfort and trust.

In summary, this year's team left Harali very satisfied with the overall progress as well as an assurance that follow-up recommendations will be reviewed and implemented for continued progress in maintenance of good health among its students.



On the evening prior to last day of the camp, students presented a beautiful musical on the life of Mahatma Jotirao Phule and his wife Savitribai – written and directed by Latatai Bhishikar – a great treat for all those who attended. Each member of the medical and volunteer team was also awarded with a beautiful candle holder as a token of appreciation for services provided.

Team departed with a grand farewell from Harali staff and students, looking forward to 2015 camp and another opportunity to make a difference.

- Sheela Laungani, MD

Khedkar Memorial hospital in Anjanwel, Maharashtra



Maharashtra Foundation (MF) officials Shaila Vidwans and Shirish Gupte met with officials from Yusuf Meherali Center (YMC) (Dr. G. G. Parikh, Gaurang Puthil, Harish Shah and the architect) on 1/25/13 at Mumbai, India. The meeting was held to discuss the progress of the Construction and commissioning of the Khedkar Memorial hospital in Anjanwel Maharashtra. This 20 bed hospital is funded by MF through a grant received from the US Attorney general for the state of New York from the estate of Prince Khedkar.

The major topic of discussion was the funding required to complete the project. MF has disbursed approximately \$712,000 towards the construction of the hospital. According to estimates by YMC official this amount will not be sufficient to complete the hospital. Various potential solutions were discussed.

1. Both MF and YMC will appeal to its donor base for additional donations.

2. YMC will seek grants from Government as well as NGO's.

3. Surplus equipment from hospital operated by YMC in Tara Maharashtra will be brought to Ajanwel to reduce the cost.

4. YMC is partnering with the local Medical Board to identify medical services not offered by existing hospitals in the area. The Khedkar memorial hospital will be opened in phases by offering medical services not offered by existing hospitals as a priority.

Other topics discussed during the meeting were zoning, power supply, land required for widening of access road and rain water harvesting. YMC officials assured MF officials that all the items have been resolved satisfactorily and documentation in these regards will be forwarded to MF shortly.

I also paid a surprise visit to Anjanwel. Here discussions took place with Dr. Mahajan the resident doctor at this time. He currently operates a small temporary clinic at the facility. Most of the buildings (Main hospital and Doctors quarters) are structurally complete and most of the work being done is in the interior of the facilities.

- Shirish Gupte (Vice President, Maharashtra Foundation)

Visit to Shree Vatsa Project of SOFOSH

Sassoon Hospital is a landmark in the city of Pune. The Sassoon General Hospitals established more than a Century ago by Philanthropist David Sassoon is a vast teaching hospital providing medical care to Pune District. Patients from all walks of life, especially patients living 'Below Poverty Line' from the city of Pune and adjacent rural areas come to seek treatment at this medical center. In 1964, a group of kind hearted citizens of Pune wishing to help the society came together to form a voluntary charitable trust. It was named the "Society of Friends of Sassoon Hospitals", or "SOFOSH". It aimed to supplement the medical services provided by the hospital through a range of humanitarian services for patients and their families.



Shreevatsa" is a special child care center run by SOFOSH. It was established in 1973. Since its inception, it has been catering to the needs of the abandoned, orphaned little ones from the society. Babies relinquished by their birth mothers are also offered shelter under this roof. Thus Shreevatsa offers a loving

home and hope to family deprived children from the age of new born to 6 years. Vasumati and I had an opportunity to visit SOFOSH and meet with Mrs Madhuri Abhaynkar who heads SOFOSH. Children here are well looked after and provided with healthy and nutritious food. The medical need of each is also the responsibility of the institution. They have a team of doctors and nurses. Therapy also forms an integral part of child care and they also impart speech therapy, massage therapy, play therapy etc. to the children as and when required. They also have HIV/AIDS program, T.B. project, a program to support cancer and diabetes patients. The entire facility is absolutely clean and the staff is cordial. A long term rehabilitation program for each child is worked out according to their individual needs. The main aim of SOFOSH has always been to find a home for these children and most of these children are rehabilitated by placing them through adoption.



Thus today SOFOSH is one of the pioneering adoption agencies in Pune. They also run "Tara" – a home for mentally challenged children.

- Shaila Vidwans (MF President)

Report of MF Fund Raiser Event, Oct. 26, 2013, in New Jersey

The Maharashtra Foundation annual fund raising event took place on October 27, 2013 at Grover Middle School in West Windsor, New Jersey.

Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Consul General of India, New York, a career diplomat of the Indian Foreign



Service and nationally and internationally known prominent leader was the chief guest. Ms. Chandrakala Bhargaw of Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog, Latur was the keynote speaker. She has been involved in social service and social work for over 30 years. Her work has covered such diverse fields

as women empowerment through social, educational, legal, and financial means, elimination of atrocities against women, gender sensitization. She provides guidance to adolescents. She currently continues her work through various organizations in India mainly as the president of Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog, Latur. Theatrix presented an English Play "Taconic Parkway". The play is written by Sudipta Bhawmik and directed by Ashok Vanjari. Theatrix is a not-for-profit cultural organization committed to nurture and enrich the heritage of performing arts from India in USA. The function started at 3 PM with Maharashtra Foundation song and was followed by



homage to Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. Hemant Naiknavare who has worked with Dr. Dabholkar spoke about Dr Dabholkar and his life and work in 'Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti'. Ambassador Mulay spoke in fluent Marathi and shared his experiences about his various diplomatic positions, his charitable activities in his native village and in Maharashtra. Mrs. Bhargaw shared some touching stories about women in underdeveloped areas in Maharashtra and their fight to reach a respectable position in life.

Vaibhav Sathe, member of MF Board of Directors' (BOD) was the emcee of the event and Shirish Gupte, MF Vice President along with the project committee led the fundraiser. Thanks to all the donors who helped MF committee to raise about \$95,000 during this event. We will continue to partner with all the generous donors to spread the message of giving and help us to outreach all over the USA.

- Vaibhav Sathe (MF BOD Member)

Report of MF Fund Raiser event, March 1, 2014, in Atlanta (GA)



The first fundraiser for Maharashtra Foundation (MF) in association with Maharashtra Mandal of Atlanta took place in Atlanta on March 1st 2014 at Berkmar High School. This event was attended by an audience of about 325. This event was different than the standard MF fundraiser format where there are speeches from guest speakers from India or USA. The main attraction was a unique Marathi play, "Yaksha Prashna" that was a completely in-house production of Atlanta.

The play is written by Chandan Gokhale and directed by Rajesh Joshi. Dr. Anand Date, Sonal Mirajkar, Medha Patkar, Chandan Gokhale, Ashish Choudhari and Meenal Gadre were the actors who spent almost 6 months of their time to make this play a grand success. Vaibhav Sathe, Director-Public Relations, of MF



was the host/emcee of the event and Shirish Gupte, Vice President of MF shared his experiences of almost 25 years with MF with the Atlanta Marathi community. The audio-visual presentation of MF projects were very well received by the audience and within 45 minutes, almost \$30,000 of pledges were received.

Maharashtra Foundation got one benefactor, two patron members and eleven life members in this fundraiser event and the goal of outreach was achieved successfully.



The team of Yaksha Prashna needs to get a significant credit for this event as they donated their time for this fundraiser without expecting any honorarium. The team is willing to make similar fundraiser shows in other cities and helping a great cause. Interested parties should contact **Vaibhav Sathe** at vasathe@me.com

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Maharashtra Foundation's Social Service & Literature Award Ceremony, Jan., 2014

Sadhana Trust sponsored Maharashtra Foundation Social Service and Literature Award function took place on 11th January 2014 in Balgandharv Hall in Pune. There were 2 segments of the event – all awardees expressed their thoughts 2-4PM and the awards were presented to the awardees in second segment from 5-8 PM. The hall was “house full” and overflowing with invitees and the people were standing in the side aisles. The special issue of “Sadhana” was presented to all guests. I and Jayashree were enthralled by the Award Function.

Secondly, one of the issues which could be brought to the MF forum is the relationship between Hindu and Muslim Maharashtrians. The historical perspective of Hindu-Muslim relationship could be explored and recommendations made by Marathi thinkers of either religious affiliation for improving the relationship (The first name of Dr. Dabholkar's son, Hamid is symbolic of reaching out to the Maharashtrian community) . I did listen to all the presentations carefully and one point



The “manogat” of each awardee was informative, enlightening and thought-provoking. Congratulations and thanks to Maharashtra Foundation for organizing and funding the whole project from year to year. I hope Marathis in Pune, Maharashtra and India realize and recognize the value of the personal contributions of Maharashtra Foundation of USA and Sadhana Trust. The speeches revealed to us the dedication, hard work, sacrifices of the social workers and the penetrating insights of the Marathi authors. But we also realized that in the background in the society there is still darkness of ignorance, superstition, exploitation and misconception about benefits of modernity, the latter particularly even in the minds of the social workers and the writers. It seems to me that while purogamee ideas are essential for progress, leaning too far towards the left can be damaging to the economy and counterproductive for developing a consensus. (Some of the views expressed by Shree Dhanajee Gurav about globalization and capitalism lacked, in my opinion, balanced judgments). Another point I would like to make is that the social workers discussed superstition and exploitative practices in rural Maharashtra -- I suspect that there must be similar examples among the “educated” class in urban Maharashtra. Can Maharashtra Foundation and Sadhana Trust find a thinker who throws light on (exposes) such practices in cities?

made by Justice Hemant Gokhale struck me as crucial -- he said that most of these awardees are 'Ekande



Shiledar'. I think Maharashtra Foundation renders the vital service of bringing them all together in public view on a single platform at the same time. But that 'public' is limited to a few hundred attending the samarambh and a few readers of local newspapers who publish a very short report buried in other news on page 5 or so. Perhaps MF and Sadhana Trust could arrange for a detailed wider coverage in print and broadcast media to reach a far bigger audience. Marathis will have increasing awareness of social issues with such coverage. I also wish

these 'Ekande Shiledars' find a way of working together as a team in an ongoing state-wide manner by creating an appropriate forum to bring about a systemic social change backed by law and modern psyche of most of the society.

- Dr. Vijay Joshi, New Jersey

Maharashtra Foundation's Social Service & Literature Awards, Jan., 2014



Maharashtra Foundation's (MF) 19th Annual Awards (2013) Ceremony for literature and social work took place on 11th January 2014, at Balgandharva Rangmandir, Pune.

Under the leadership of **Mr. Sunil Deshmukh**, (FL), MF has been recognizing the significant work of individuals in the field of literature (since 1994) and social-work (since 1996) in Maharashtra, by way of annual awards and Memento .

This year, awards' ceremony included four awards for literature, four for social work, two for theatre and one in memory of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar.

Sahitya Jeevangaurav award, was given to renowned Senior Journalist, **Kumar Ketkar** , and Samaj karya Jeevangaurav award was presented to '**Rayat Shikshan Sanstha**'. Each of these awards comprise Rs. 2,00,000 and a memento.

'Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Smruti puraskar' of Rs.

1,00,000 was given to **Vivek Sawant**.

Writer **Sandhya Nare-Pawar** was felicitated for her thought- provoking book 'डाकीण', **Amita Naidu** for her book on unconventional topic 'प्लॅटफॉर्म नंबर झिरो', and **Ashok Pawar** for his lalita sahitya- oriented novel 'पडझड'; respectively. All these awards comprise Rs. 25,000.

Gajanan Khatu, **Dr Ashok Belkhode** and **Dhanaji Gurav** were felicitated , with award of Rs. 50,000,each, for their efforts in the field of social welfare.

Under Drama Section, awards in memory of R. S. Datar, given to:

Rajkumar Tangade for his drama "शिवाजी अंडरगाऊंड इन भीमनगर मोहल्ला" (Rs 25,000), and

Makarand Sathe for his Three-series-Books "मराठी रंगभूमीच्या तीस रात्री" (Rs 50,000).

The focus, while giving such MF awards is on the unique, inspirational work of the individual and organization in the respective categories, declared for these awards. The various committees have been formed for selection process of these awards. (No application is required for these awards.) The committee members request information, and recommendations of subject experts about the current literature and social work; and finalize names for awards in each category. Another committee of subject experts, from North America, review these recommendations, and awards in each category are finalized with consensus.

- Vinata Kulkarni

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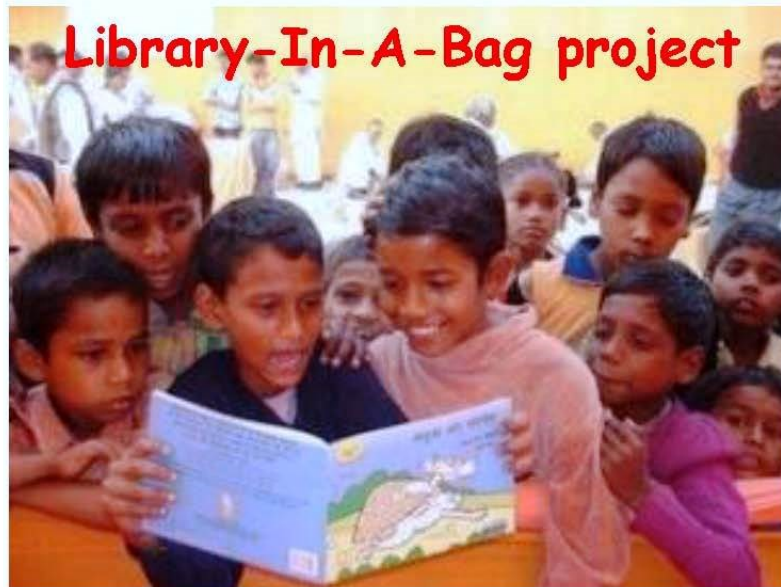


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