



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>

September 2015

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

Year of Establishment: 1978

Lead- Founder Member:

(Late) Mr. Yeshwant Kanitkar

Tax Exemption ID

Under IRS Section

50 (c)(3) 22-2213611

United Way NY, NJ, CT

Agency Code 011675

Board Of Directors:

President: Shirish Gupte

Tel: 908-578-5047

Vice President:

Ankush karnik

Secretary: Snehal Vaze

Treasurer: Avinash Patil

Board Members:

Anjani Gharpure

Maneesha Kelkar

Vaibhav Sathe

Pallavee Patwardhan

Rajiv Bhalerao

Volunteers:

Anand Deshpande

Sunil Dev

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Namaskar

By the time you get this newsletter summer of 2015 will have gone and leaves will begin to change color. Maharashtra Foundation held its Annual General Body Meeting in July. The meeting was held in NJ, but many members joined in via "Join Me" video conferencing. The meeting was attended by four former Presidents, Board members and General Body members.

At this meeting, we said farewell to two members of the BoD (Vinata Kulkarni and Anand Sharangpani). We also said our goodbye to Shaila Vidwans – President of Maharashtra Foundation, at the end of her term. We will miss Shaila's enthusiasm and tireless work.

We welcomed two new Board members, Maneesha Kelkar and Rajiv Bhalerao, both of whom are active members of the community and have been involved in social services previously. Maneesha was the keynote speaker at our annual fundraiser couple of years ago. We also welcomed Harsha Purandare as Advisor to the Board of Directors. Harsha is a ASHOKA fellow and a social worker. We also welcomed Anand Deshpande from IL. to join the Project Committee of the Board.

Going forward, we have a fund raising event planned in Danbury, CT on September 20th. This event is sponsored by the Mayor of Danbury to raise funds for the Nepal Earthquake Relief. We are teaming with NGO's like "GirPremi" from Pune and "Adhikar" in New York. GirPremi has taken on their social responsibility of re-building a 800 student school in Tripureshwar Village in Dhadhing district of Nepal. Work on this monumental task is already on the way.

Back home, Maharashtra Foundation is moved by the drought situation in Marathwada and Vidharba areas of Maharashtra. The plight of farmers is devastating. The number of farmer suicides is astonishing to say the least. We are taking a leadership role in organizing local and international NGO's to bring awareness to the distressed farmers and to find a long term and permanent solution to this problem. To initiate our efforts we joined hands with local NGOs to conduct a "Shibir/Camp" in the village of Manvat, District Prabhani on August 25th & 26th. The Shibir was attended by over a 100 village volunteers and local Government officials. The next step is to conduct a "Dushkal Samwaad and "KrutiPadyatra" in conjunction with "Dushkal Nivaran Jan Dnyaan Kendra" in 10 to 35 of the affected villages.

Here in the US, MF will hold its annual fund raising event on October 24th in Carteret NJ. We will be returning to our banquet style (Guest speaker, Entertainment, Cocktails and Dinner). event. This years Guest speaker will be Dr. Mohan Agashe and entertainment will be provided by Ravi Datar and Samidha Joglekar from Toronto. We will also have a panel discussion with our loyal donors moderated by Dr. Agashe. We certainly hope to see you there.

Thank You
ShirishGupte

Report on Annual General Body Meeting July 26, 2015

Maharashtra Foundation's Annual General Body Meeting 2015 was held in Whitehouse Station, NJ on Sunday, July 26, 2015. Almost all the members of the board of directors were in attendance in person or on audio call. There were four former Presidents of MF who joined the meeting.

AGM started at 2:10 p.m. with the approval of minutes of General Body Meeting 2014. Snehal Vaze facilitated the meeting.

Shaila Vidwans, President, presented her report giving members an overview of the year (2014-2015). She informed that MF raised **\$125,000** in support of various NGOs and MF 2015 projects.

MF held a first ever fund raiser in North Carolina along with the support of local supporters of MF and "Stree Mukti Sangathna" and mandal in the area. A presentation of the play "Mulgi Jhali Ho" written by Jyoti Mhapsekar was enacted by local female artist. We collected over \$10,000 for Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS)

MF annual Fund Raising event was held in November 2014 in New Jersey. About 200 members, patrons and donors attended this event. Panel discussion on "Social Impact Redefined: How next generation is bringing the change" was one of the highlights of this event.

In December 2014, Theatrix Inc. production "Ji Jaisi Aapki Marzi" - a Hindi one-act play depicting women's issues was held as an MF outreach events in Boston and Connecticut. This was a collaborative effort with Sneha Inc. and Connecticut Marathi Mandal in Connecticut.

MF participated in "Giving Tuesday", a global day dedicated to giving back and collected \$10,000.

Further, Shaila Vidwans shared the activities fund-raisers held by MF in 2015.

Jan. 2015: Maharashtra Foundation's Literature and Social Service award took place at Bal Gandharva auditorium in Pune.

Youth Wellness Camp started in 2011 in partnership with Share and Care Foundation at Jnana Prabodhini Harali was conducted where volunteer

doctors from US examined over 350 students of the various schools and the Agricultural Vocational College at Jnana Prabodhini.

March 2015: MF held Harish Sadani's (founder of MAVA) talk in Princeton University in cooperation with SAAG (South Asian Affinity Group) of Princeton University. MF held an event in Marathi Vishwa Community Center in New Jersey to promote the work of MAVA.

April 2015: Vaibhav Sathe, Anand and Dipti Sharangpani and Dr. Talathi coordinated a very successful fund raising event with the local with local Marathi Mandal. Updates were obtained from Chandrakala Bhargaw of Adarsha Mahila Griha Udyog (AMGU) about the progress of the project supported by Maharashtra Foundation.

For 2016, MF received over 25 project proposals requesting funds. These projects are reviewed by our Projects Committee and selected projects will be funded in 2016. Projects will cover fields like children's education, women empowerment, reaching out to Adivasi communities, environment etc.

Treasurer's report was presented by Avinash Patil. He presented the income and expense items for 2014 tax year. He presented membership and donation data. Newly elected board members Maneesha Kelkar and Rajiv Bhalerao introduced themselves to AGM attendees and were approved as Maharashtra Foundation's Board of Directors for 3 year term. Harsha Purandare was approved as advisor to the Board.

Report on On-going Projects of Maharashtra Foundation and New Projects was presented by Ankush Karnik. As of now 26 project proposals have been received for 2016. 9 projects were selected in 2015. Khedkar project is expected to be completed by late 2015.

The BoD team discussed about 2015 Annual NJ Fundraiser. Questions such as What is MF doing for our youth? BMM started giving scholarship for youth. Does MF's constitution or by laws permit scholarship to youth? What programs are offered

Report on Annual General Body Meeting July 26, 2015

Shaila thanked outgoing members Vinata Kul-karni and Anand Sharangpani for their contribution to MF. At the end of the meeting she thanked everyone for their help and support.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm with a vote of thanks to the host and the attendees.

Pallavee Patwardhan

List of NGO's supported by MF during January—August, 2015

NGO ID	NGO Name	NGO ID	NGO Name
2	Abalashram, Bangalore	285	Apne Aap Women's Collective
30	Community Aid & Sponsorship Program (CASP)	287	Janvikas Pratishthan
43	Halo Medical Foundation	290	Lions Comprehensive Eyecare Foundation
46	Helpers of the Handicapped	294	Adarsh Mahila Gruha Udyog, Latur
50	Sakal India Foundation	297	Aseema Charitable Trust
54	Jagruti Seva Sanstha	317	The Society for Door Step School
59	Jnana Prabodhini, Pune	324	Indian Cancer Society, Solapur
77	Maharogi Sewa Samiti- Warora	350	Vikas Sadhak Vahini
80	Mahila Adhyayan Kendra	354	Ushatai Lokhande Charitable Trust
88	Mata Balak Uttarkasha Pratishthan	355	Saraswati Anath Shikshan Ashram (SASA)
95	Muktangan Mitra	358	Think Maharashtra
108	Parivartan	363	Janvikas Project
110	Pathak Vishwastha Nidhi (Trust)	367	Dr Dabholkar Award
130	Rayat Sikshan Sanstha	369	Wildlife Research and Conservation Society
132	"Swa"-Roop Wardhinee	371	Shree Amrutvahini Gram Vikas
134	Central Society of Education for Blind	379	Ramkrishna Mission
145	SEARCH	389	Gender Sensitization - MAVA
147	Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Pune	390	Family Counseling center project - AMGU
150	Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon	391	Potli Project -PSS
154	SOFOSH	392	Purush Samvad Kendra - NSM
156	Stree Mukti Sanghatana	393	Rehabilitation of Mentally ill - Amrutvahini
157	Students Welfare Association, Pune	394	KHEL project
158	Suhrud Mandal	395	Cancer prevention - PRAYAS
160	Swadhar IDWC	396	Gender based violence - HALO
167	Vasundhara Public Charitable Trust	402	Maharogi Sewa Samiti - BMM collection
168	Vatsalya Trust	404	BJ MC - PATH Project
169	Vidnyan Vahini Project	405	Nepal Earthquake Relief fund
174	Vivekanand Kendra Kanyakumari	406	SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARENESS ASSOCIATION
179	Janseva Foundation (Mahad Flood Relief)	407	Aavishkar Society for Development of Mentally Handicapped
264	Khedkar Project		

Maharashtra Foundation Fund Raising Event Details



Maharashtra Foundation Presents

Annual Fundraising Banquet Event

Saturday, October 24th, 2015

An evening of thought provoking conversations,
entertainment, fundraising, and dinner

Keynote speech by: Dr. Mohan Agashe
"Social Change - Need & the Process"
"समाज परिवर्तन - गरज आणि प्रक्रिया"



Panel discussion with long time donors: "Why Philanthropy and
why Maharashtra Foundation?"

Presentation of MF initiatives and fundraising

Entertainment program: Natya Sangeet, Bhav Geet
स्वर गंध : एक संध्याकाळ...
स्वर गंध दरवळणारी , भाव गंधांनी बहरलेली, फुललेली संध्याकाळ!
Melodious songs by young artists
Ravi Datar and Samidha Joglekar from Toronto

"Cocktails, Appetizers and Sumptuous Dinner"

Admission \$70 per Person or Sponsor a table for Ten - \$650

St. Demetrius Ukrainian Community Center Banquet Facility
691 Roosevelt Ave Carteret NJ 07008

Directions - From the NJ Turnpike: Exit 12 for Carteret/Rahway

For Tickets and information contact:

President@maharashtrafoundation.org, secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org
For more information - call Shirish: 908-578-5047 or Snehal: 723-591-2357
Anjani 609-750-1705, Ankush 732-266-5439

MF LIST OF DONORS who donated funds during January– August, 2015

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Ratnakar & Nalini	Adhav	Anil & Chitra	Deshpande	Mohini C	Joshi
Geeta	Arurkar	Archana	Deshpande	Nachiket	Joshi
Ravi	Bamne	Vijay & Lalita	Deshpande	Shreyas & Manisha	Joshi
Ashok-Shaila	Bapat	Manoj and Beena	Deshpande	Suresh & Kundbala	Joshi
Vikas & Aruna	Bapat	Sunil	Dev	Suvarnalata	Joshi
Sudeep	Bhabad	Sushil & Doria	Devare	Vijay & Jayashree	Joshi
Rajiv and Arti	Bhalerao	Vasudeo & Rajni	Diwan	Yogesh	Joshi
Amit	Bhave	Balwant N. & Vidya B.	Dixit	K.C.	Shekhar
Anil & Rekha	Bhave	Prakah & Neela	Donde	Dhananjay	Kale
Lalita	Bhave	Arun & Mangala	Dongre	Milind and Shaila	Kale
Chandrashekhar	Bhise	Shirish	Gadkari	Vasudha, Sharatku-mar	Kale
Amol	Bhome	Sandya & Anand	Gadre	Mangesh	Karandikar
Squibb	Bristol-Myers	Nishith M , Tejal	Gajarawala	Rohini & Ina	Katkar
Amit	Chaudhary	Lalita & Sharad	Gandhbhir	Jyoti	Kelkar
Mrinalini	Chavan	Bageshri S.	Ghate	Maneesha	Kelkar
Amit & Mona	Chitre	Madhav, Sheela	Ghate	Pramod	Khanna
Rohit	Chitre	Neeta	Ginde	Pramod	Khargonekar
Shubha	Chungi	Madhu & Sunita	Godsay	Vasudeo & Arundhati	Kshirsagar
Columbus Maharashtra Mandal		Uday S.	Gogate	Chittaranjan & Daisy	Kuchinad
Mandar	Dasture	Vaidehi	Govande	Kishor & Meena	Kudalkar
Rajiv V.& Neelam	Deodhar	Jayesh and Ritu	Goyal	Prakash & Pallavi	Kulkarni
Subash & Rekha	Deodhar	Shailesh	Gupte	Saagar	Kulkarni
Shaishikant	Deokar	Sulabha and Vasant	Hardikar	Shashikant & Sujata	Kulkarni
Nisha	Deshmukh	Amol	Herekar	Sujata	Kulkarni
Aneel	Deshmukh	Prakash & Sucheta	Herekar	Vijay & Chhaya	Kulkarni
Ashish	Deshmukh	Sumesh & Kanta	Hirway	Kumon of Lewis Center	
Ashok & Marion	Deshmukh	Kedar & Nitya	Inamdar	Arti	Kunte-Lotlikar
Kiran M and Neeta	Deshmukh	Nitin & Manisha	Ingale	Ninad	Labhe
Kishore	Deshmukh	Jyotsna & Sudhir	Jambhekar	Anand Shreeram & Sandhya Deendayalan	Lagoo
Madhuri	Deshmukh	Chetan & Neena	Joglekar	Prabodh & Vinaya	Lele
Nicholai S.	Deshmukh	Abhijit	Joshi	Rahul	Lele
Sanjay	Deshmukh	Ashish	Joshi	Hemlata	Limaye
Amit & Pallavi	Deshpande	Dr Sandhya	Joshi	Pradeep, Anjali	Limaye

Note: If your name does not appear on the list above, please send your donation.

MF LIST OF DONORS who donated funds during January— August, 2015

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Prakash, Alka	Lothe	Gopal,Kavita	Pardasani	Arjun	Sharma
Antoinette	Maclachlan	Savita	Pardhy	Dhruv	Sharma
Madhav, Shilpa Sawale	Manjrekar	Santosh and Radhika	Parmanand	Rajani	Sharma
Jai & Kedar	Ma-hadeshwar	Vinayak & Girija	Parvate	Sunil	Sharma
Vishnu & Shweta	Ma-hadeshwar	Sangita & Prashant	Patankar	Ashok & Rajnee	Shendure
Prachi	Mahajan	Sunil & Shanta	Patil	Gautam & Eshani	Shringarpure
Maharashtra Mandal of Detroit inc, detroit		Bipin	Patil	Sheela & Dr. Ramesh	Sogal
L.K. & Usha	Mahisekar	Shailesh & Medha	Patkar	Adwaita	Subhedar
Siddharth & Girija	Manohar	Puneet & Deepali Phatak	Patni	Adwait	Talathi
Hemant & Punit	Marathe	Jagdish	Prabhu	Suresh & Snehita	Talathi
Jaydeep	Marathe	Sachin	Prabhudesai	Rohini	Talwalkar
Rajendra	Marathe	Milind	Pradhan	Shrirang	Talwalkar
Vasant & Savita	Marathe	Harsha & Sheetal Nachaare	Purandare	Satish & Snehal	Tamhankar
Marathi Association of Minnesota		Subhash & Vasanti	Puranik	Vijay & Sudha	Tendulkar
Nitin & Sangeeta	Mayur	Pallavi	Raje	Milind	Thakre
Pushkar & Shalaja	Medhekar	Vinayak & Meghana	Ranade	Theatrix	
Seema	Mhaske	Samir & Sheena	Ranade	Vishnu & Prabha	Vaidya
Alka	Mokadam	Arvind & Sunanda	Ranadive	Vinay	Vaishampayan
Arvind & Rajani	Nadkarni	Kirti	Rege	Prashant & Reena	Vankudre
Prakash & Vinita	Navare	Riswadkar family Giving account (Fidelity Charitable gift fund)		Pradeep & Snehal	Vaze
Laxmikant	Nigalye	Abhijit	Sahasrabudhe	Sunita	Vaze
Sudhir & Mansi	Oak	Sandeep	Salgaonkar	Krishkant & Meera	Vernekar
Jayant & Sampada	Ogale	Suresh & Vidya	Sane	Ashok G. & Shaila V.	Vidwans
Amod & Varada	Ogale	Vaibhav & Pallavi	Sathe	Dilip & Nandini	Vishwasrao
Sharad & Alka	Palekar	Mukund & Jayashree	Satwalekar	Jayashree	Wadkar
Sudhakar & Maneesha	Pandit	Sharad & Suhasami	Sawakar	Wagle-Chipalkatty foundation	
Ajay	Pandya	Amita	Sharma	Upendra	Watwe
Prasad & Arati	Paranjape	Anil	Sharma		

Note: If your name does not appear on the list above, please send your donation.

What Donors Can Do?

The simple answer is: Be the ambassador of Maharashtra Foundation's mission, not just a member! You ARE Maharashtra Foundation!

Maharashtra Foundation's membership is a true privilege. By being a member you become a part of the community that drives change. To date, we have championed several high visibility and high impact initiatives, which have been possible due to your presence and participation, both strategic and monetary.

We thank all our members for their support, and make an appeal to you, to continue being part of this community, and help us continue to drive change. We strongly believe, that you, as a member, help decide our journey and destiny.

The Foundation Brand:

Since its establishment, Maharashtra Foundation has come a long way, and is regarded, recognized and respected brand amongst hundreds of NGOs. This has been accomplished by our differentiation in the NGO space, progressive thinking, dedication, donations, and ultimately by our membership.

Our mission and motto remains: "Investment in the future of those with no future, so they can reinvest".

The key component of our mission is to "reinvest". This means that we drive and champion initiatives that not only have instant short-term impact, but also provide a sound platform for long-term self-sustainability. Instead of handouts, we engage in thoughtful investing in the future of the disadvantaged to break the viscous cycle of poverty, lack of education and opportunity, relegated social status, especially of women, and entrenched social injustice, and replace it with a virtuous cycle of education, opportunity and social justice.

This really differentiates MF from hundreds of other organizations that mainly do welfare type work, distributing money and clothes—noble causes, but not enough to change the society. As the old proverb goes, 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day;

show him how to catch fish and you feed him for a lifetime.'

Your Participation:

You as the front line representative of MF amongst friends and family circles, can help us communicate this unique mission of Foundation to them. Help us connect with your community. Many of our members have hosted outreach meetings where MF Executive Committee members explain the MF mission and connect with them.

Such outreach meetings serve as a good platform and sounding board to launch new long-term sustainable initiatives.

Getting involved in MF projects is of course, a wonderful way to contribute your talents -intellectual, creative, analytical and of course, people skills. We will be a lot more effective and your hard earned donation dollars will go a long way with your participation. In fact, your talents are a lot more valuable than the money. It's like the Mahabharata story when the Pandavas valued Krishna's advice a lot more than his army!

Charity begins at home, and therefore we want to get our children — the Next Generation — involved. You can help by talking to your children about getting involved in MF work, volunteering and even going to India to work on our specific projects. Our children are probably a lot smarter, more sensitive, and responsible than we were at that age. Let's celebrate that by getting them involved and giving them a sense giving, belonging and doing good for society.

Finally, be the ambassador for our mission — Social Justice and Women's Empowerment. Our focus on these has made MF the most recognized NRI charity in Maharashtra. You can explain our mission and work in your community, so when it comes to donating, people will think of Maharashtra Foundation as THEIR organization for charity!

Feel free to reach out to any of the Executive Com-

Maharashtra Foundation Projects To Be Funded In Year 2016

Apart from the ear marked donations that Maharashtra Foundation disburses, Foundation also receives numerous proposals from the NGOs for funds for their projects. The members of the project committee review these projects and make recommendations. The members of the board of directors discussed the recommended projects and made final selection. Following projects are selected by MF in the year 2016-17.

1. **CHAITANYA: Promote Healthcare Jankar**

(Healthcare) - Aim is to provide access to quality healthcare and absorbing health shocks financially. The operational areas will focus on rural and semi-urban villages, where there is a significant population living below the poverty line. The primary occupation of the households is agriculture. **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** 1. Chaitanya is launching a comprehensive community-based micro-health insurance model that enables members to share their risks of illness as a community. 2. To decrease the burden of health illnesses, those who purchase the product receive discounted out-patient (OPDs) and inpatient services, medicines, and diagnostic tests at network facilities. 3. To increase the quality of care received. 4. The product promotes preventative care measures. Chaitanya will appoint one doctor for every 500 self-help groups to visit remote underserved regions where medical facilities are not as available. The doctor will be assisted by Jankar (Jaankaar). Jankars are members of the local community. They will be trained in preventative health care through the certificate program offered by the state open university. The Jankars will focus on increasing awareness through relevant health camps, encouraging proper health care usage, promoting preventative measures, providing referrals to network hospitals, and assisting with minor health problems.

2. WRCS - Wildlife Research Conservation Society: Prevent Deforestation (Environment Protection) - Vision and Mission Statement of Organization is to bring about a society that respects nature, upholds these principles in its policies and laws, and uses natural resources judiciously so that wildlife and forests are conserved. Goal of the Organization is to ensure that India's wildlife and forests are well protected and safe for posterity. Objectives: 1. to carry out research studies that will generate scientific information that will help to guide

management actions for wildlife conservation. 2. To implement projects with participation of local community and government agencies for wildlife and forest conservation. 3. To carry out advocacy to bring about policy changes that will be beneficial for conservation of wildlife and forests. 4. To create awareness about wildlife and forest conservation in the public, the government executives and the policy makers. Major area of work is conservation of private forests; WRCS has carried out studies that help to further information on conservation of private forests in Western Ghats of Maharashtra. WRCS is carrying out a project for conservation of private forests at Koyana with participation of local community.

3. JVK - JAMKHED VIKAS KENDRA: Support for orphans and vulnerable groups (Underprivileged) - Support for Orphans & Vulnerable. Gramin Vikas Kendra, Jamkhed was founded in 1995 as non-profit organization in Ahmednagar of Maharashtra. It was started by a team of dedicated persons with the aim of helping the children from paradh community and orphans children and also children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. Gramin Vikas Kendra, Jamkhed (GVK) would like to secure funding to provide a small orphanage which will provide children with a safe and stable home, education and support throughout their childhood. JVK is seeking funds to provide shelter home for 50 children & remaining 50 children with substitute parents near the shelter home; mostly from Pardhi community. There are about 300 more such children but there is lack of funds. MF funding will be a catalyst for the future activity & sustainability of this program.

4. Save Indian Farmers (SIF): Adopt-a-widow (Empowerment) - Save Indian Farmers (SIF) is a registered non-profit organization [501 C (3) status] here in United States. SIF's main objective is to promote awareness regarding the issue of farmer suicides, help the families of the victims and fund projects that will help the farmers and their families in long term. The goal is to create rural entrepreneurs with sustainable monthly income and independent, self-reliant contributors to Indian society. Adopt-a-widow project details: Through small businesses such as clothing store, goat keeping, flour mill, tailoring, grocery, stationary store and milk dairy, ladies from 7 talukas of the Yavatmal district will earn daily income to sustain and support their families.

Maharashtra Foundation Projects To Be Funded In Year 2016

5. **Quest: Train-the-trainer, Math education (Education)**

One of the major factors which largely influence the developmental process of children is 'Elementary Education'. The most influencing factor affecting the quality of 'Elementary Education' is teachers' professional development. In-service teacher education has emerged as a critical area for intervention in the Indian education system. Results of various surveys persistently show poor levels of achievements in basic mathematics and literacy among the students of elementary schools. Intervention is needed at various levels for effective change and desired results. To address this need QUEST has taken an initiative for capacity building of in-service teachers. Goal is to address pedagogical issues faced by practicing teachers at a scale through blended learning programs. Objectives are: 1 - To enhance teachers' subject matter knowledge and pedagogical understanding through focused theoretical and practical input and to design and 2 - develop a system for teachers' professional development which could be further scaled up to reach to the teachers working in the remote areas, using appropriate technology.

6. **Suhrud Mandal: Education development for Hearing and Speech impaired (Disabled)**

Suhrud Mandal is a registered NGO, working for Educational & Vocational training rehabilitation of children with hearing impairment. Schools have been using regular schools' Balbharati textbooks for years together. There are no special textbooks available for the children with hearing impairment. In year 2011-12 teachers worked to develop partial adaptation of textbooks. The encouraging results of the project made Suhrud Mandal to decide on rewriting entire text books for all school subjects for grade I to IV. And also to prepare formal text books which can be provided to all the special schools for children with hearing impairment in Maharashtra State. Nearly 20,000 children from special schools and from inclusive education program of Maharashtra state will benefit from this work. Books on environmental Sciences and History (4 Books) will be ready by October 2015. Suhrud Mandal would like to expand this project up to 8th grade in next three years. Children have been deprived of appropriate educational learning material. Hence they lagged behind scholastically for years together. This newly developed material will enhance children's reading and writing

skills in the formative years, and they will be ready for inclusive education at the early stage, which is the main objective of Suhrud Mandal.

7. **Punyabhushan Foundation/ Samkaleen Prakashan: Inspirational books for rural schools (Education)**

- With roughly 94,000+ schools spread across 35 districts within Maharashtra, 20+ districts have limited-to-no access to libraries neither have any good reading books. In addition, news about corruption, rape & atrocities that shape the daily media coverage is making responsible people uncomfortable. There is a dire need to provide equally un-biased view of good things happening around & inspire the young generation to keep them motivated to lead well-cultured & satisfying life. Samkaleen Prakashan along with Unique Features has taken up this challenge & developed a set of 14- such inspirational books covering various fields from technology to governance to social work to history with each set worth Rs. 2,500/ & have distributed them to roughly 3,500 schools so far. First phase is to distribute these sets to 10,000 additional schools within next 10+ years. This specific project will help distribute this set to 100 schools.

8. **MAVA: Men against violence and abuse (Anti violence against women)**

Gender Sensitization and Mentoring of young men - Men Against Violence & Abuse (MAVA) (3-year project, \$12K for second year) MAVA is the first men's organization in India directly intervening against gender-based violence on women. Established in 1993, MAVA is working towards building a movement that explores the role of men as 'partners' and 'stakeholders' – addressing gender issues (including women's empowerment) through cultural advocacy, direct intervention and youth education initiatives. In this project, young adult trainers will conduct gender sensitization workshops largely focused on youth between 18-25 years of age. Workshops include interactive sessions, experimental learning and personal dialog, leveraging youth-friendly media e.g. film-screenings, skits, youth "melavas", awareness songs etc. Expected outcomes include - youth talking comfortably about gender and masculinity issues. Project will develop action plans to address issues of gender based violence through networking and tie ups.

Parbhani Dushkal Strategy camp

Brainstorming and Strategy camp for Maharashtra Drought situation was conducted at Manvat -Dist Parbhani on 25th and 26th August. In 2 days over total 100 participants from around 10 Gram Panchayats participated in the camp. It was titled “Shetkati Wachawa Yuvak Ran-neeti Shibir”. These participants included young village volunteer leaders, gram panchayat members, village government officers (Gram Sevaks and NREGA workers), local media persons and distressed farmers. The objective of the camp was to initiate the dialog on drought situation, get the participants thinking about how to address the crisis and kick start the campaign for saving farmers.



The camp was addressed and lead by Harshavardhan Purandare (Maharashtra Foundation US), Babarao Kapse Krishna Dake and Bapusaheb Kadam (Samajik Unnati Dnyaan Mandal, Parbhani), Anil Shaligram (Halant- information technology initiative), Devdas Purandare (Asha Parivar). First session was introductory session, Anil Shaligram inaugurated the camp, Bapusaheb Kadam welcomed the participants and Harshavardhan Purandare explained the purpose of the camp. Then, Shraddhanjali was offered to all farmers in the region who committed suicides. In this session each participant talked about their own and social situation in villages in short. The stories they told were reflection of the depth of the crisis and drought situation. No crops, no rains, debts accumulated over last 3-4 years



and social-governmental apathy to reach deep down to their villages to help were common feature of all stories that came from participants. However, the hope and resolve to struggle were also seen among the villagers who traveled distances to attend.

Second session was conducted by Ramdeep Dake, with great expertise in articulating agriculture and local water conservation needs. He not only talked about the immediate need of the hour, but short-term and long term course correction that is needed in agricultural practices. He dwelled upon current socio-political scenario about drought and need to manage farmer's relationships with government administration and all social-political stakeholders of situation. Harshavardhan Purandare joined in later half of the session.

Third session was about tracking the Debt and suicide situations –and create a voice for the farmers using 3 modern tools like internet, mobile, social networking sites like whatsapp and facebook. Anil Shaligram oriented the participants that it is important that they take up the tasks to create contents –write ups, pictures, audios and videos on various aspects. He also offered them services to polish these contents and put it on the web over the course of next few months. He gave the demonstration on e-book publishing software. Young participants welcomes the idea.

Parbhani Dushkal Strategy camp



The group discussion was conducted at the end of the day and camp participants came up with their own set of ideas and presented them before everyone. On second day, the camp organizing team interacted with each village group and asked them to come up with action plan over next one month. The villagers expressed that we should catch the momentum of the camp and conduct further meetings / Dushkal Padyatra (Drought Padyatra) in villages where we will take the discussion further and start executing action plan. The mismatch and gaps between functioning of various agencies who are supposed to help/empower them with programs and resources was striking. The villagers requested camp organizers to work on removing these gaps and they were seen keen to get enterprising and action oriented. Also, three individual case stories were created, which will be published soon.

Devdas and Harshavardhan Purandare oriented camp participants on NREGA-employment guarantee scheme of the government and Right to Information. It is seen by many that NREGA will be tool of immediate rescue for workers at lower strata of farming community as well as means of creating water programs in villages. Many NREGA govt officers at village level were present. They talked about strength and weakness of how NREGA is implemented. Krishna Dake and Bapusaheb Kadam insisted on importance of knowledge that leads to so-

lutions on ground.

On second day, there was important visit by young Zilha Parishad President Rajesh Vitekar, who presides over drought issues at the level of district. In objective discussion he had with camp organizers and participants, he said you have to let me know exactly what you need me to do for the success of the program. He was keen on ground results, but was taken up by the idea of using whatsapp, internet and social networking to fight drought.

Harshavardhan and he held the joint discussion in which it was pointed out that some villages in Maharashtra like Hivare Bazaar and Ralegan Siddhi are internationally famous for the work they have done on water and we also need to develop the model which can be showcased and replicated. ZP President Vitekar assured the support to Shetkari Wach-



va campaign. The camp was concluded with felicitation of all those volunteered [cooked, cleaned and worked] for two days in tireless manner, the food provided in the camp was appreciated by everyone. In conclusion ceremony, the proceedings of two days of the camp were summarized and communication lists were created.

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Harali Medical Camp

Maharashtra Foundation would like to hold a medical camp in Harali for the 6th year in a row. This will be held in the 2nd week of January. If any Doctors are interested in joining please contact Shaila Vidwans email: Shaila@vidwans.com.

Maharashtra Foundation Pledge card -2016

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