

# INTERNATIONAL



# **Activity Report** 2010 - 2011



# **SEWA INTERNATIONAL**

#### "Sewa hi Paramo Dharmah"

("Sewa is the supreme Dharma")

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#### Sewa International

#### Activity Report 2010 - 2011

The movement "SEWA INTERNATIONAL" was started in 1991 in the UK by some philanthropists initially to help the earthquake victims of Latur, Maharashtra. Since then, the movement has spread out to USA, Canada, Australia and other European countries. It is also setting foot in some African countries like Kenya and South Africa and a few Caribbean countries. Sewa International aims at not only arousing the curiosity of scores of voluntary organizations and volunteers to grasp the strength and weaknesses of the society better but also prepares them for new challenges, makes changes happen, promotes opportunities and improves the way people do things to make this world better.

**Mission Statement:** "Sewa International is a 'not-for-profit' organization inspired by the noble Hindu tradition of service before self; working for promoting voluntarism internationally especially among children, youth, women and energetic senior citizens; building an international network of not-for-profit organizations; promoting philanthropy from the grassroots level to corporate sector; providing relief to the affected during calamities, natural and or-man-made, and rehabilitating them; building capacity of the non-profit organizations towards achieving results, empowering communities and individuals through sustained support; funding committed, grassroots organizations that rely strongly on volunteer effort; supporting effort that promote cultural and moral value systems in the society; and aiming to see happiness and well-being in everyone, everywhere and at all times".

#### Sewa International's Activity Domain:

- 1. To relieve poverty and disease and help the sick, needy, the weak and those affected by natural calamities, disasters and other suffering.
- 2. To help in the education and training of the poor, sick, disabled and socially backward students and assist them financially.
- 3. To facilitate long term development projects.
- 4. To enable and empower communities become self reliant and earn a dignified living.
- 5. To strengthen voluntary organization by training their personnel in effective implementation of projects with modern management techniques and encourage cooperation between its overseas chapters.

- 6. To support and aid village development programs, to achieves self sustenance through total integrated development.
- 7. To arrange visits of donors/contributors from abroad to various project sites in Bharat to have the first hand experience of various ongoing activities.
- 8. To provide services to allied voluntary organizations: on management of funds materials, technical and human resources for social development, which are tough terrain faced by the voluntary and social development organization.
- 9. To publish a monthly e-newsletter "Sewa Sandesh" and disseminate Sewa News to well wishers, donors and supporters.
- 10. To maintain a blog with information on 'Sewa Activities.'
- 11. To organize International Sewa Meets at various places once every three years for interaction and better understanding of the needs and decide on future course of action to be taken.
- 12. To make 'short documentaries' on various projects/programs that have been supported / funded.
- 13. To maintain the website (<u>www.sewainternational.org</u>) with information on various Sewa Activities.
- 14. To publish Activity Reports Annual & decadal on the monumental Sewa Activities that are being run in Bharat by SI in collaboration with numerous other sister organizations.
- 15. To maintain a well equipped library of over 5000 books on subjects like History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, Culture & Theology apart from prominent periodicals on various topics.

# Summary of SI Activities for the year April 2010 to March 2011

#### I. Sewa International Kutch – Bhuj Project, Gujarat

Through various planned activities, **Sewa International** and **Kutch Kala Sewa Trust** have motivated the artisans, so that they can establish their own micro-enterprise and provide marketing support to the artisans by organizing Trade Exhibitions and participating into State & National Meals. "Empowering Women Self Help Group to Organize and Manage Sustainable Entrepreneurship Program" has helped the women artisans to understand the behavior and character of markets and to respond appropriately to the challenges of competition. This project is being aided by **India Development & Relief Fund (IDRF) USA.** 

#### (a) Entrepreneurship Development Training Program



In order to increase the sale of handicraft products and to enhance the skills and techniques of target beneficiaries with respect to production, design development, marketing, quality control and management, a six month entrepreneurship development training program was organized from June to November 2010 at Jiapar village of Nakhatrana Taluka. Shri.Heerjee Bhai facilitated the training program. The major focus area of this training program was to teach the women artisans how they should be aware of production, quality and marketing of handicrafts products and the types of skills they should possess in order to become successful entrepreneurs. They were also made understand the backward and forward linkages of micro enterprise development. 18 women artisans participated in this training program for the tenure of six months. The training was organized 6 days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM.

All the participants showed enthusiasm throughout the training program and attended the sessions seriously. Some of the participants took initiative to develop their own proto type without taking help from others. The facilitator guided them that how further they can improve the product to make it more demanding and saleable in the market.

#### (b) Exhibition

To ensure that craftswomen in the informal sector have socio-economic security and



achieve full employment through sustained, profitable, and efficient coordination of design, production and marketing of their products and services Sewa International arranged their exposure and participation in Trade Exhibition. The main objective of these Exhibitions was to promote Kutchhi handicraft manufactured by BPL artisans of Kutch, Gujarat to alleviate poverty, to provide the artisans with information on current trend and likely changes in the future trends to compete in the current market. The focus was also to eliminate middlemen and to help the artisans reach mainstream markets.

In the month of October 2010, (From 22 October – 25 October) Kalpana Ben, Monika Ben and Ajay Bhai participated in Trade Exhibition organized by Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in Mumbai. These participants experienced various new things while participating in Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Exhibition like market trend, demand, taste and preference of buyers. They also developed new contacts which would help them in future to excel in their business. They got to know the taste of different sections of urban population which would help them in future production.



#### (c) Technical Training Program

In order to enhance the skills and techniques of target beneficiaries, a 15 days technical training was facilitated by Shri. Purshottam Bhai at Navawas Village of Nakhatrana Taluka from 12 January – 26 January 2011. 25 Rabari women artisans participated in this technical training program and they fully utilized the opportunity and tried to learn as much as they could. During the course of 15 days it was demonstrated why their current sales of the handicraft products are limited and how they could improve the





same. Several constraints and ways and means to overcome those constraints with given resources were discussed. Some the major constraints that were identified were lack of market linkages, minimal design and product development innovations, poor marketing materials, little access to finance, inadequate contact with the products' target market and overall weak business management skills.

Shri. Purshottam Bhai, with his past experiences, exposures and interactions with handicraft artisans

tried to co-relate the issues and concerns and gave his solutions and suggestions to overcome those constraints.

#### (d) Exposure Visits by Kutch Kala Sewa Trust

**5 February 2011** A group of 16 target beneficiaries (13 women artisans, Heerjee



Bhai. Purshottam Bhai and Mukesh Bhai) from Kutch visited Varanasi. They went to see the handloom work at Chhai Gaon. interacted with the handloom weavers and tried to understand the entire process of weaving.



**6 February 2011** The group visited Surabhi Shodh Sansthan, Mirzapur city in Uttar Pradesh. Sh. Harish Bhai (Coordinator) accompanied the group and showed them Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Silai Parikshan Kendra. The group interacted with the staff and were informed about the activities there.



Finally, the group visited PEARL PARIYOJANA run by Human Welfare Association and supported by IGSSS. The group from Kutch visited Bhedi and Kusmi and inter-



acted with the Self Help Groups of Pearl Pariyojana. Artisans from Kutch told them about the trainings and capacity building workshop they have attended and how they have implemented them in their daily production work. They also mentioned that they are having better marketing linkages for their products which



help them to earn more. Post lunch session, the group visited the pottery cluster in Chunar. Shri. Vinod Ji accompanied the group and helped them to interact with pottery artisans and to understand the process of making pottery.

#### Visit to SI-KKST Operational Area

#### "Empowering Women Self Help Group to Organize and Manage Sustainable

**Entrepreneurship Program"** – an initiative of Sewa International & Kutch Kala Sewa Trust and supported by India Development Relief Fund has completed tenure of three years. In this course of time organization has directly reached 350 target beneficiaries. In the span of three years the project has increased the socio-economic status of artisans in its operational areas by developing the habit of regular savings and supporting them in getting regular work orders and has also enhanced the capacity of artisans by providing vocational and need based trainings in tailoring, color combination selection and value addition.



On 26-27 March 2011, Shri. Haribhai Halai, Chairman, Kutch Kala Sewa Trust and Shri. Ramesh Bhai Mehta, Trustee, Sewa International visited the operational area of Sewa International.

# II Akshar Bharati

Sewa International has financially aided and facilitated the activities of Akshar Bharati in the year 2010 - 11. Akshar Bharati has been active in the field of mass literacy since its inception.

#### Highlights of activities of Akshar Bharati in 2010 - 2011

#### (A) Monthly Get Together in 2011

- @ Hadapsar, Pune, 28 volunteers
- @ Pasali, Velh 41 volunteers
- **Bhandardara** 36 volunteers
- @ Jamgaon, Mulashi 29 volunteers
- @ Pokhari, Bhimashankar 23 volunteers

#### (B) Road Shows:

#### **Atos Origin:-**

- Volunteer participation: 5 volunteers at each company.
- 99 new volunteers are registered with it in Atos Origin.

#### PSPL:-

• Volunteer participation: 4 volunteers at each company.

#### **Bitwise:-**

• Volunteer participation: 5 volunteers at each company.

#### BMC:-

- Volunteer participation: 3 volunteers at each company.
- 32 new volunteers are registered with it in BMC.

#### VIT college:-

- Volunteer participation: 3 volunteers at each company.
- 31 new volunteers are registered with it in VIT.

#### GS lab:-

• Volunteer participation: 3 volunteers at each company





Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 (C) Project Dhruva:

In Hadapsar, Dhruva Project is experimented in 15 Libraries and every week at least 6 volunteers go to conduct the activities there.

**Project Dhruva** involves various activities at library locations to ensure and measure the appropriate impact of libraries on the kids through volunteer – children engagement and in turn effective influence on overall personality development of kids.

This is the platform for children to demonstrate their experience with the books and AB volunteers to share their expertise & experience with next generation. Some of the examples of activities under *Project Dhruva* are – Essay writing, book reviews, storytelling, group reading, skits, spoken English, basics of computers, presentation skills, Vedic mathematics, sports, performing arts, etc.



#### (D) Quiz Competition:

#### Inter Schools Quiz Competition (Tal-Purandar, Pune):

- Organized at selected schools running AB libraries
- School Participation: 10
- Student participation: 1000
- 4 rounds
  - Written Multiple Choice
  - Group Discussion
  - Oral competition
  - On-stage

- Prizes
  - 5 teams of total 20 students were given certificates
  - 1 team was awarded winner's trophy..

#### State Level Quiz Competition (Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa):

- Organized at selected schools running AB libraries
- School Participation: 80
- Student participation: 12,000
- 3 rounds
  - Written Multiple Choice
  - Written Multiple Choice
  - On-stage
- Prizes
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: up to Rs.10,000 Books (for Library) and certificate for student.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: up to Rs.6,000 Books (for Library) and certificate for student.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: up to Rs.3,000 Books (for Library) and certificate for student.
  - Trophy to winning team.



#### III Sewa Bharati, Purbanchal

**Sewa International** has been assisting the activities of Sewa Bharati, Purbanchal since a long time. In 2010 – 11 too, Sewa International financially supported the following projects / activities run by Sewa Bharati Purbanchal.

#### DHANVATARI SEVA YATRA - 8, 2011

Dhanvantari Sewa Yatra is organized by Sewa Bharati, Purbanchal & National Medicos

Organization (N.M.O.) jointly to help the poor and Panajati Villagers of N.E. region. Periodical free healthcare camps are conducted in the remotest and Janajati villagers by



the Doctors and Paramedical Voluntary Workers. So far, eight Dhanvantari Sewa Yatras have been organized. The 8<sup>th</sup> Dhanvantari Sewa Yatra was organized from April 17, 2011 to April 28, 2011. 37 Doctors participated in this novel venture, out of which 22 Doctors were from BHU, 6 from Rajasthan, 5 from Gujarat, 3 from Madhya Pradesh & 1 from Delhi.

S.No	District	No. of villages covered	Camps	Total No.of Patients	Male	Female	Children below 12 Years
01	South NC Hills (Assam)	11	05	386	144	242	82
02	NorthNC Hills (Assan)	08	04	348	158	190	65
Œ	East. Karbi Along (Assam)	39	05	726	314	412	287
04	Wast. Karbi Along (Assam)	36	05	712	298	414	232
05	Sibsagar (Assam)	29	05	1897	717	1120	624
06	Majuli (Assam)	11	04	803	355	448	217
07	Kokrajhar (Assam)	07	07	921	397	524	222
08	South Kannup (Assam)	24	05	482	197	285	127
09	Lakhimpur (Assam)	30	05	1750	895	855	246
10	Dinapur (Assam)	12	03	625	223	402	248
11	Garo Hills (Assam)	05	05	349	155	194	90
12	Mzoram	02	02	447	202	245	93
	Total	214	55	9446	4115	5331	2533

(b) Eye Camp at Lakhimpur Total Patients : 950

#### IV. Sewa International's Potable Water Project, Andhra Pradesh

In the rural areas of Nalagonda district in Andhra Pradesh, Bharat, a village known as Mandanpally has received water filtration system that is matching to the mineral water plants in the country. These water filtration systems have greatly changed the lives of the villagers in this rural area, which lies in the mandal of Aleru. The population of Mandanpally is 1500 people, with 300 families. These water systems were generously donated by an NRI residing in the United States. The cost of each system is approximately 1.5 lakh rupees.

The water filtration systems are located in 2 water tanks around the village. They can each produce around 500 liters of water per hour. These have made a gigantic impact on the people of Mandanpally.

In general, Nalagonda district has high fluorine content in its water. The groundwater below the village has excessive fluorine in it. This has been the main can cause for the disease fluorosis. This disease causes the teeth to become damaged during ages 3 to 8. The high fluorine content can also cause paralysis. Till now the villagers had no option but to use the available highly fluorinated water for their use. Now the filtered water is so better than the unfiltered water that the villagers now don't prefer to drink the unfiltered water again. All in all, Sewa International has made a tremendous impact on this village.

#### V. Udayan Care

Udayan Care, founded on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1994, is a registered Trust focused on providing quality care to disadvantaged children and women. It is committed to long-term care, protection and education to orphaned and abandoned children since 1994. 107 girls and 58 boys are being nurtured in its twelve Homes in Delhi, Kurukshetra and Jaipur by its skilled volunteer mentor mothers and professionals. Besides gaining formal education in some of the best English medium schools, these children learn basic computer literacy,

sewing, embroidery, body grooming techniques, etc to develop their skills.

**Sewa International** extended its helping hand to the Udayan Care in the form of financial support for 2 girl children (Gurmeet Udayan and Preeti Udayan) residents of Mehrauli Udayan Ghar.

**Mehrauli Udayan Home:** This home for girls is located off the main Mehrauli Road, near Delhi. This Ghar is housed in a two-bedroom flat and has an additional large extra space. The kids have been provided a Ping Pong table and area in the basement



in addition to living, sleeping, eating and study spaces in the flat above. Everything in flat gleams and there's a brisk, efficient air about the rooms and corridors. 13 girls and a caregiver share two bedrooms and a nice sitting cum eating area. The bedrooms have recently got smart bunk beds to save leg space. Additionally, there are neatly laid out cupboards as well as shoe racks.

Maximum activities are concentrated in the spacious basement which has computers, well-stocked library, board games and musical instruments. The basement is divided with a partition for play areas and study areas. The study area also chips in as group therapy room as well as for individual counselors. This home has 5 **mentor mothers**, who work according to their roster and keep things and children very, very orderly. All the girls are very friendly; love to have visitors; participate in household chores; study hard and actively take part in all the co-curricular activities.

Girls attend schools like Sanskriti and CSKM; with complete fee waiver in Sanskriti and subsidized fee in CSKM. One special child goes to a special school. Another child received admission in an internationally renowned Sagar School, Rajasthan. We are grateful to the school management for partnering with us in the education of the children and shaping the future of our children. One of the elder girls has completed her vocational training in Travel & Tourism and is working with a well-known travel company.

#### VI. Youth for Seva, Hyderabad

There is a growing desire among the youth in Bharat to be the part of change they wish to see, by devoting their time and talent for community development. Most of them are not currently involved in volunteering work because of three major reasons:

- a. Not knowing where to start.
- b. The fear that it may be too much of responsibility.
- c. Concern that it cannot be done with their limited time availability.

Youth for Seva (YFS), Hyderabad is a project of **Sewa International** which was launched in February 2010 to fill this gap, so that youth with an intention to volunteer and with different time commitments can easily find opportunities to serve the community meaningfully. The mission of YFS is to inspire youth to volunteer, connect them to the grass roots projects and provide ongoing support and training to the volunteers and other NGOs.

#### YFS Activities during the year 2010 – 11

# (a) VANAYATRA - FIELD TRIPS OF YFS

#### APRIL 2010 - VANAVASI KALYAN ASHRAM, ACHAMPET

This was first outdoor event of YFS. 15 YFS volunteers visited a tribal hostel in

Achampet, Mahbubnagar District run by Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad (VKP), to be a part of their Annual Day celebrations. The hostel has 40 primary school and 16 higher secondary school children who are all provided free accommodation, food and education. These children belong to the Chenchu tribe. Life expectancy of the Chenchu tribe is just 23 years. It is no surprise that this tribe's population has



dropped from 25 lakhs to 25,000. The visit also included a Darshan at the holy shrine of Srisailam. The dedication of the VKP volunteers, working in extreme circumstances with minimal resources, strengthened the resolve of all YFS volunteers to work harder.

#### AUG 2010 - VANAYATRA TO BHADRACHALAM

YFS truly demonstrated a new way to celebrate Indian Independence by arranging a Vana Yatra to Bhadrachalam during Independence Day 2010. 33 Youth for Seva volunteers from Hyderabad set out on a Vana Yatra to the remote villages in Khammam district. The goal was to celebrate the day with tribal children in these villages, meet the local volunteers and understand the local network of Seva projects. A total of 150 school kits were distributed at 3 locations and a new library was set up in one hostel for tribal children as part of the 'Akshara Bharati' initiative. A breathtaking boat ride on the Godavari River through Papi Hills was an added bonus to the trip.

#### OCT 2010 – ORACLE VANAYATRA TO KURNOOL

Oracle Volunteers tied up with Youth for Seva for their Global Volunteers Day celebrations. They visited the flood hit areas of Kurnool District and participated in rehabilitation work. The trip included a visit to an orphanage for boys, an abhyasika (tuition center) and visit to the flood hit villages in Kurnool and Mahbubnagar



District. Volunteers also participated in tree plantation and interacted with the children and the villagers. The volunteers were pained to see kids whose parents had been washed away in floods and many were not even aware of the havoc that has struck them. They were happy with their 'Anna', the one who looks after their hostel. The volunteers were requested to visit with some educational CDs and also provide help in conducting science experiments.

#### NOV 2010 - VANA YATRA TO ARAKU VALLEY

26 YFS Hyderabad Volunteers from 15 different companies went on a VanaYatra to villages in the Araku Valley. The special feature of this particular Vana Yatra was that volunteers stayed with the Vanavasis in their villages. Families hosted two volunteers each and it was an experience of a lifetime to be a part of their family and lead their life, though only for a day. YFS has decided to raise funds for four projects including Bhajan Kendra + Sports Center + Single Teacher School + Adult Night School in 3 such villages that would be able to sustain them for at least 3-4 more years.

#### (b) SCHOOL KIT DRIVE

YFS volunteers visited a few financially limited schools, where the students lack the infrastructure to study. As per the survey conducted, most of the students could not afford the basic things needed for their education. The reasons were many; parents being away from the children, absence of caretakers for the children, single parents with a financial crisis, parents no more, family below poverty line etc.



YFS through its strong tie-ups with NGOs and good sponsors made a concrete plan to initiate the School Kit Program and aid these schools. YFS volunteers, in consultation with the school staff, decided on the basic items that will be part of the kit - 1 School Bag, 6 long books, a label sheet, 2 pens and 1 geometry box. Over 150 volunteers gave their valuable time and campaigned in 23 companies collecting about 2500 school kits. The volunteers then came together to pack the school kits which was a fun-filled activity with games, songs and food. The school kits were distributed in 16 Government Schools in the city's slum and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. Volunteers also distributed the school kits in tribal hamlets of Khammam district which were hit by the floods in the Godavari River in August 2010.

A session on Super brain Yoga by one of the volunteers followed the distribution event in the schools, which taught kids to practice simple physical exercises periodically to improve their brain functioning and concentration.

#### c) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES

YFS volunteers conduct regular weekend activities in various schools and orphanages across the city. Since the volunteer involvement is on weekends, YFS has chosen this activity to supplement the teachers and care- takers. These activities include Spoken English, Fun Math, Science Experiments, Computer Training, Drawing, Elocution, Games, and Treasure from Trash craft classes. Cultural activities like Gita chanting, yoga and folk dance are also taken up.

#### (d) YFS BLOOD DONORS REGISTRY

Voluntary blood donors form the back-bone of the blood banks, which in turn are the foundation of a safe, adequate and sustainable national blood transfusion system. Blood donation is safe, simple and it saves lives. Bharat requires 4 crore units of blood annually but only 5 lakh units are donated. Keeping this shortage in view, YFS Hyderabad Health Team encourages its volunteers to be potential blood donors. The team maintains a registry of over 100 donors, who would be contacted for help on demand for a particular blood group. Many people have signed up for blood donation at the Seva Melas held across various companies

#### (e) AKSHARA BHARATI LIBRARIES

YFS Volunteers strongly believe that quality reading develops the wisdom to make appropriate choices as one grows which ultimately enhances the quality of life by making them better citizens. This is YFS's way of contributing to the Bharat's Vision 2020 of being a developed and self sufficient nation. YFS has so far inaugurated 2 libraries, one at Vatsalya Sindhu – a destitute home for boys in Secunderabad and the other at Bharati Bhavan – a Hostel for Tribal boys in Bhadrachalam. Children here are explained about the values of life, how to hone their different skills and then how to achieve higher goals in their life. Volunteers also read to them, stories of eminent and great personalities of Bharat.

#### (f) BASIC HEALTH AND EYE CAMPS

During the visits to various Govt Schools, Orphanages and Slums, YFS volunteers identified that several children suffer from ailments and malnutrition which go unnoticed. To help such children, volunteers tied up with several doctors, medical students and institutions to assist them in their efforts. YFS is today a proud partner of LV Prasad Eye Institute and conducts regular eye checkup camps with their kind co-operation. Reports from couple of such camps are given below.



#### Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 FREE BASIC HEALTH CAMPAT KARMIKA NAGAR



YFS Health team conducted a Free Health Camp on 29-Aug-2010 in Vinayak Nagar Community Hall at Karmika Nagar. Three doctors were invited - 2 children specialists and 1 general physician to this camp. General health check up, BP check up, Diabetes test were part of the camp. Around 15 YFS volunteers initiated this camp and helped the doctors in conducting the camp. Efficient door to door campaigning ensured that many people turned up. Volunteers monitored the patients well so that none of the patients missed out on the checkups done.

Doctors appreciated the work that YFS has been doing and thanked the volunteers as they got a chance to do their bit for the society.

#### NOV 2010 - EYE CAMP AT VATSALYA SINDHU

YFS volunteers conducted a basic eye screening camp at Vatsalya Sindhu (destitute center for boys) to identify students who need eye treatment. All the 30 students ranging from age 5 to 14 staying there were screened. Volunteers identified that most of the students suffer from headache and watering in their eyes. All the students who need further treatment were referred to LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).

#### (g) ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

As a part of promoting green and eco-friendly practices in schools, YFS came up with a three-fold program in Govt. High School Balamrai.

#### The program includes:

- Green Commandos
- Treasure from Trash
- > Plant a Sapling; Make it a tree

**Green Commandos:** This is a 'Clean-and-Green' initiative designed for Schools in which 2-3 students from each class will be selected and are known as 'Green Commandos' on a rotation basis. They are responsible for ensuring that the classes and the school as a whole are maintained clean. The class which abides by all of them and the best Green Commando are suitably rewarded.

**Treasure from Trash :** In order to help the students inculcate the importance and value of waste management, craft classes are conducted to teach children to make greeting cards and other items using waste materials like dried leaves, used paper, pencil shavings etc.

**Plant a Sapling; Make it a tree** – The main idea of this program is to make the children realize that it's not only important to plant a sapling, but to take good care of it and help it grow well.

#### (h) SEVA MELAS – PROMOTING RURAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

Seva Mela is an initiative of YFS to bring to market the handicrafts made by rural people. It enables the artisans get a better price for their products and increases awareness about them in the urban population. It helps preserve their unique family traditions and nurture their age-old talents.

This year, YFS Hyderabad selected products from Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Bhuj (Gujarat) and those made by tribals of Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. The products were 100% hand made and of very high quality. Stalls were put up in many companies including Computer Associates, Infosys, Persistent, Avaya Technologies and Wipro. The staffs of these companies were extremely happy with the wide range of items on display and there was demand for more numbers than the volunteers had managed to offer.

#### (i) VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAMS

YFS believes in continual improvement and in making volunteering easy and effective. To ensure a steady pace and prevent drop-outs, training programs are conducted, where experts from several areas and people who have been trained already and are volunteering for a while now, present all that they have learnt and share their experiences with the other volunteers. Monthly training programs are conducted by YFS. Among them, there were 2 intensive training programs conducted in 2010. One was focused on 'Spirit of Volunteerism' while the other on the entire spectrum of YFS activities.



#### 1. OCT 2<sup>ND</sup> TRAINING CAMP

About 90 volunteers attended the day long camp and actively participated in all the sessions. Shri. Venkatesh Murthy, who started YFS in Bengaluru, graced the occasion. The sessions included workshops simulating various situations volunteers face on the

field, how to publicize YFS work in various forums and an inspiring lecture by Shri Venkatesh on the 'Spirit of Volunteerism'.

#### 2. OCT 23<sup>RD</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING CAMP

A wide range of topics were covered, including Teaching Spoken English in slums and schools, Managing and Engaging Children in Classrooms, Basic Health Check-up and Eye testing in schools and slums, Waste Management Programs in schools, Computer training for beginner and intermediate level, Health Care for Girls, Fun Math's and Science Experiments in Schools, thus enabling the volunteers to give their best in all the focus areas of YFS.

#### (j) CORPORATE VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Several companies have officially tied up with YFS to conduct their volunteer activities. These CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities have turned out to be very successful. Below are two such events that YFS conducted.

#### 1. OCT 2010 - SPORTS DAY FOR SLUM GIRLS WITH ORACLE CORP.

35 YFS volunteers from Oracle conducted a sports day and story telling event for 400 slum girls taken care under 'Kishori Vikas Yojana' from across the city. It was conducted as a part of Oracle Global Volunteers Day. The organizing capability of YFS volunteers was put to test, and they did extremely well. This is the largest single day event YFS had conducted so far,

#### 2. NOV 2010 - CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT PATNI COMPUTERS

In co-ordination with YFS, Children's Day 2010 was celebrated at Patni Campus, Hitech City. 45 children from Vidya Bharati, which included 26 Tribal Girls, took part in cultural programs and games with children of Patni Employees. Lots of fun, games and delicious food made it a memorable day for everyone.

#### (k) SEVA FELLOWSHIPS

Several volunteers feel that they want to spend more time volunteering or want to work in rural and remote areas. To canalize this desire, YFS started the fellowship program.

#### THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE SEVA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- Choose any location within the country and a project area of your choice (education, health, environment, rural development etc.)
- > Selections are based on 2 rounds of personal interviews and fitness tests.

- Duration of fellowship is decided on basis of the project chosen. Minimum is 10 days and may vary with the project chosen.
- > Projects are also available in Hyderabad.
- YFS's first Seva Fellow, Ashwin Bhusare from Wipro, took time off during Diwali and spent 10 days in the Tribal forests of Odisha.

YFS's second Seva Fellow Ravikanth, is all set to embark on his journey to Chitrakoot on the 17th of December and spend time in the Seva projects there till the 2nd of January 2011. He will study the unique Self Reliance Campaign for villages developed by of Deen Dayal Research Institute.

#### (I) SPONSOR A CHILD

YFS volunteers worked hard for about 4 months to collect information from 150 students from rural Bharat and 100 students from the urban slums, belonging to the poorest of the poor families for the YFS scholarship program.

**PROFILE OF RURAL STUDENTS:** The focus was on students belonging to the primitive tribal groups. The tribals are the most backward in our country and are struggling for survival. They are in need of education the most. Students from families whose annual family income does not exceed Rs 20,000 and in some cases, as low as Rs 5,000 have been chosen for the sponsorship. These students are the first generation to be educated in their families. YFS closely worked with Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad and Vidya Bharati both having nationwide reach and high reputation for collecting this information. YFS will also collaborate with them for funds disbursement.

**PROFILE OF URBAN STUDENTS:** YFS has selected children from slums of Hyderabad, who are of very poor background. Volunteers worked closely with Sewa Bharati for this purpose.

#### Salient features of the 'Sponsor a Child' program:

- Sponsorship of Rs. 300 per month per child.
- Each child can be sponsored by one or more donors.
- Donor can support one or more students.
- Sponsorship covers education expenses including tuition during school days and vocational training during holidays.
- Each donor can also volunteer to be a mentor of a child.
- Donor gets status reports of the student twice in a year.
- Donor can be in direct touch with teacher/warden of the student to check progress.

#### CURRENT LIST OF REGULAR WEEKEND PROJECTS

- Government High School, Gajularamaram (near Jedimetla)
  Activity: Teaching Maths, Science Experiments and Spoken English
- Zilla Parishad High School, Rickshaw Pullers Colony, Jagadgirigutta Activity: Teaching Maths, Science Experiments and Spoken English
- Government High School, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad Activity: Computer Training
- Government High School, Balamrai, Rasoolpura, Secunderabad Activity: Waste Management, Bhagawad Gita Classes, Yoga Training and Computer Training
- Vatsalya Sindhu (destitute shelter for boys), Moula Ali, Secunderabad Activity: Storytelling, Spoken English, Computers and Maths tutorials
- Vaidehi Ashram (destitute shelter for girls), Saidabad, Hyderabad Activity: Computer training
- Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram for Tribal Boys, Deendayal Nagar, Secunderabad

Activity: Spoken English

- Government Hostel for Blind Students (Boys), Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad Activity: Audio Content Preparation – UPSC exam material
- > Weekly Basic Health and Eye Testing Camps in various Schools.

#### VII. Seva Sahayog

Seva Sahayog is a platform of Sewa international which aims at engaging socially conscious corporate, groups and individuals, with NGOs of matching interests.

The NGOs in Seva Sahayog network are those, who have demonstrated a sound and robust record in grassroots work, but lack resources such as technology, finance and human resources - to take their work to the next level. The SS network aims at effectively channelizing these resources to the NGOs.

The core team of SS is composed of volunteers highly placed in IT and other corporate entities. They have grass roots exposure with various NGOs in various sectors and have worked dedicatedly for development initiatives. Seva Sahayog is thus powered with unique skill set of deep understanding of grass roots realities and a clear vision of the role corporate Bharat can play to support community initiatives. Seva Sahayog is largely

a volunteer-run organization with adequate professional staff backup and well-equipped office set up centrally located in Pune city. Seva Sahayog has over 5000 registered volunteers.

#### (I) School Kit Drive 2010

For last 3 years, Seva Sahayog has been successfully running School kit donation drive. The school kit is assorted set of materials such as blackboards, science laboratory material, library books, school bags, notebooks, pencil boxes, etc. The School bag contains 10 notebooks, pen, pencil, and a compass box. The kits are distributed to children from slums, schools, and education-support-centers run by NGOs in and around Pune. Some of the NGOs partnering with Seva Sahayog in this initiative are: Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, Kotwalwadi Trust, Surajya Prakalp, Chaitanya Mahila Mandal and Rashtriya Sarvangin Gram Vikas Sanstha. This year 25,000+ children received the school kits. Around 5000+ software professionals from 100 companies like Infosys, KPIT, BMC Software and Eaton are associated with it as volunteers.

#### **Total Participants:**

- 500 volunteers participated in the school kit assembly session.
- 100 Coordinators registered for this event
- 26000 school kits were distributed in 92 NGOs
- 100 companies participated in Donations Drive
- 100 companies participated in Donations Drive

#### **Volunteers Feedback:**

I am really thankful to Seva Sahayog to promote present requirement of children. I have also received request from the school teacher to provide at least two set of good clothing as well Shoes to these children, which will be fulfilled in next year.

#### Pingalikar, (Asst Director ARAI)

I have been with Seva Sahayog School Kit Drive Program from last year; this program has provided immense help to underprivileged children by bringing smiles on their faces. School kit has helped these children to climb the next ladder to success by providing support in form of school kit. I am very thankful to whole seva team and wish them great future ahead by progressing in these kind of initiatives always.

#### Usha Pillai (President IDEA Foundation)

#### Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 School Kit Assembly



#### **School Kit Distribution**



#### (2) Tree Plantation (Nature Conservation)

This year Seva Sahayog organized first tree plantation program during rainy season i.e. from June to September. Seva Sahayog promotes plantation of trees of Indian origin which will help in supporting the bio diversity of Sahyadri forests and the eco system. Seva Sahayog organizes the program with the help of corporate and volunteers at selected institutes or NGOs where the maintenance of these trees (saplings) will be taken care of by these institutes. Tree plantation program were organized at institutes &



NGOs and Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, Ph.D. in Bio diversity guided the event.

#### Seva Sahayog volunteers planted 500 trees in various locations:

1. M.E.S Rani Laxmi Bai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala. Pirungut

- 2. A.R.A.I Hill's, Kothrud.
- 3. Gurukulam, Pimpri.
- 4. Rashtriya Sarvangin Gramvikas Sanstha , Mulshi.(Near Tata Dam)

#### Participating Companies-

- 1. Symantec
- 2. Tiato
- 3. Halliburton
- 4. Sasken
- 5. Sungard
- 6. Tata Consultancy Services
- 7. Vinsys

#### (3) Seva Fair

Seva Fair is an exhibition of work done by Voluntary Organizations, specifically women in Self Help Groups supported by Seva Sahayog. This exhibition brings Voluntary Organizations (NGOs) at the doorstep of people in developed Bharat who wish to do their part to help the community. The Seva Fair not only showcases the products made by various Self Help Groups and Voluntary organizations across Bharat, it also allows one to register them self for 'bite size' volunteering opportunities or donate money to a certain area of community development.

One of the goals of Seva Fair activity of Seva Sahayog is to help Women in SHGs make quality products (handicrafts and other environment friendly items) and keep enhancing their skill sets in this area, whereby they can increase their earning potential, become independent individuals and get a place of respect in their families and the society. They may then contribute to their family income; this makes a positive difference in their lives and that of their children and other family members in many ways. Seva Fair activity deals with marketing goods made by SHGs and creating awareness about such groups in corporate houses and the society at large.

#### **Total Participants:**

- There were around 50 different NGOs which participated in Seva Fair 2010.
- Seva Fair stalls were organized in more than 70 companies where it received tremendous response.

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Women from the SHG's which participated in the Seva Fair got very much benefited with the Seva Fair as it provided market to their products and truly lightened them and their families.

Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 Participating NGOs:

- Swaroopwardhini, Pune
- Purvanchal Vikas, Gauhati
- Seva International Womens Project, Bhuj
- Jyana Prabodhini Gram Vikas, Khed Sivapur
- Bharatiya Stree Shakti, Pune
- SMILE, Pune
- Swayamsiddha Mahila Mandal, Pune
- Arkin Home School, Pune
- Jyana Prabodhini Yuvati Vikas, Pune
- Pragati Pratishthan, Javahar
- Seva Bharti, Purwanchal
- Bhatiya Stree Shakti, Pune
- Vividha, Latur
- Pragati Foundation, Pune
- Saksham Foundation, Pune

#### Products made by NGOs





#### (4) Seva Darshan

Seva Darshan is a program of Seva Sahayog to connect corporate individuals and students from different colleges with the NGOs working in area of their interest. The aim is to spread the work of people working at grass root level to the bigger audience and also get some help like financial, technical or other resources from the corporates. As a part of this initiative Seva Sahayog organizes visits to different NGOs over the weekends. Interested individuals/groups are taken on visits to the location of NGOs. Before the visits, groups are given training to write reports about the working of NGO and resource requirements of the NGOs. Few individuals/groups also took ahead the requirements of NGOs to interested corporates and got the needs of NGO fulfilled. Few of them also wished to continue being associated with visited NGOs in the future too.

#### **Total Participants:**

• 100+ Volunteers visited around 25 NGOs.

#### **Beneficiaries:**

10 NGOs got recognition for their work by bigger audience through the visits of corporate volunteers where the visual effect on volunteers was automatically circulated among others in company.

#### **NGOs Visited:**

- 1. Annapurna
- 2. Balgram
- 3. Krantiveer Vasudev Balavant Phadke Vidyalay
- 4. Idea Foundation
- 5. Aple Ghar
- 6. Astitav Pratisthan
- 7. Path Training Center
- 8. Torna Rajgad Vastigrah
- 9. Usha Tai Lokhande Trust
- 10. Sarthak

#### Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 (5) Youth for Seva (YFS)

YFS is a program for youth (age: 20 to 30) of Indian origin from all over the world as well as for youth in Bharat. YFS partners with local service organizations (or NGOs) to develop 6-months or 12-months Seva internship projects. These projects are based on the needs of NGOs that can be helped by the visit of a volunteer from YFS. The volunteer is expected to focus on a single issue or target to be completed in phased manner within his/her internship period.

The projects involve intensive working with local communities, understanding development problems at grassroots level, and helping NGOs strengthen their initiatives. YFS identifies wide strata of issues and NGOs to work with. A batch of YFS volunteers together gets exposure to a multitude of issues, communities, and situations. The batch shares their experience at periodical review meets.

The YFS projects for the current year are uploaded on its website and applications are invited from around the globe. Applications are scanned and interviews are conducted with short-listed applicants for each project. Local partner NGOs are involved in the selection process. Each YFS batch starts in July with a three week orientation to the new volunteers.

YFS is the outcome of growing desire of young Indians to serve the motherland.

For year 2010, 5 girl students Jane Robinson, Deeba Ziveri, Nia Bhadra, Dhanashree Patil, Pratibha Chauhan and 1 male student Preetam Cholli all from US worked on different projects related to children and women development. NGOs which supported them in their projects are Surajya, Swaroop Wardhinee and Niramay.

Projects worked on were as below:

- a) Analyzing and Combating the Effects of Gender Discrimination on Young Women Jane Robinson worked on this project where she conducted sessions for young girls to understand their issues. NGO which supported this activity was Surajya.
- **b**) Health issues of slum Women Deeba Ziveri worked on this porject to understand the health issues and analyze reasons for those. Arogyadham NGO helped here to work with women in slum.
- c) Study of Surajya Sarvangin Prakalp Dhanashree Patil, Nia Bhadra and Pratibha Chauhan worked on understand the Surajya prakalp and its benefits to children and their mothers i.e. vasti women.
- **d**) Campaigning material for Child Health Preetam Cholli worked on the project where he developed campaigning material for the NGO, Niramay, which works in child health.

#### (6) Samutkarsha

Project Samutkarsha is to plan and execute different activities in slum keeping in mind the overall progress of slum population. This project believes that the aspiration of better living can be satisfied by a different approach. It considers following dimensions of reaching the dream of better living:

- Development of children in academics, physical strength, and good character is one aspect of better living. Access to and success in education-that-can-be-used (i.e. vocational education) is the key for further development of young persons.
- Health and hygiene rather a =state of wellness' is next important aspect. Preventive healthcare, primary referral, vaccination, and good-affordable-nutrition are the components of securing a state of wellness.
- Economic self-reliance is the most crucial element of better living. Micro-credit when effectively linked to market can provide a highway to economic independence. Training of skills that have market demand is another medium towards this goal.

Project Samutkarsha takes an all-encompassing approach. It covers child development, health, and economic self-reliance as explained above. The project is designed to reach over 100 slums of Pune city in the next three years.

#### **Total Participants:**

• Volunteers from 5 different companies and institutes are conducting different activities in 10 localities.

#### (7) Seva Sahayog Internship Program

Seva Sahayog has initiated a Seva Sahayog Internship Program (SSIP) for students to work in the field of Social Work. Seva Sahayog facilitated this opportunities to MBA Students as a part of their winter internship project. To start up with Seva Darshan program was conducted where students were taken on visit to various NGOs to get acquainted about activities and project undertaken by them and also understand about their upcoming project. After the Seva Darshan they were divided into groups and were given option to work with anyone of the NGOs they visited. Thus four groups were formed working on different project.

#### **Beneficiaries:**

33 MBA students from Lotus Business colleges worked with a 5 different NGOs for a month and submitted their reports to Seva Sahayog which was useful for presenting those NGOs to the appropriate audience for getting helping hand.

#### **Total Participants:**

• 33 1<sup>st</sup> year MBA students from Lotus Business School

#### Participating NGOs listed below:

- UshaTai Lokhande Shikshan Mandal, Kamshet
- Surajya, Pune
- Rashtriya Gram Vikas Sanstha
- Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke Vidalaya
- Seva Sahayog



Motivating students



Chit chats with BMCC College Students

The mentors



Shri. Anil Vyas (Secretary RSGVS)

#### VIII. Samskrita Bharati

**Sewa International** has financially assisted several activities / programmes of Samakrita Bharati during the year 2010 - 11. Various programmes run by Samskrita Bharati are as follows-

#### 1. Samaskrita Sambhaashana Shibiram

It is meant for those who wish to learn Samskrit as a spoken language. The aspirants are taught to speak Samskrit with in a period of 10 days, just by regularly attending classes for two hours a day. Modern scientific method employed by well trained language instructors, enable the learners to acquire a basic skill in spoken Samskrit. Persons of any age group, even without any prior knowledge of Samskrit or Devenagari script, participate in these spoken Samskrit classes. These classes are held in any place which can accommodate at least 20 to 25 persons at a time. The classes are run free of cost. However voluntary contributions from the participants are accepted on the concluding day, as Samaja Nidhi.

#### 2. Saaptaahika Melanam

Weekly classes are held in chosen localities, as a follow up measure of the basic conversation skill acquired in the Sambhaashana Shibiram. When it facilitates the participants to spend time in Samskrit environment, it enables them to improve their skill in spoken Samskrit. The participants are encouraged to practice language exercise, learn Samskrit Grammar, practice Samskrit Songs and also read Samskrit Books. It is not surprising that many participants gain confidence within a few months and are able to communicate in fluent Samskrit.

#### 3. Geeta Shikshanakendram

Learning Samskrit through the study of Bhagavad Geeta and Bhagavad Geeta through Samskrit in a span of 18 months is a unique feature of this programme. It comprises of four courses, each of four and half months duration. Here the students are expected to spend about four to six hours of study in the weekly classes. After the completion of the course, the students attain mastery not only in Samskrit but also in Bhagavad Geeta. This enables the students to enjoy Geetopadesha in Samskrit.

#### 4. Samskrita Baalakendram

Children attend Baalakendram in the evening. In Baalakendram they learn Samskrit though 'learn while you play' method. The students are not only taught Samskrit through physical activities, language games and songs but also cultural values through stories and skits. The children pickup spoken Samskrit very fast in Baalakendram and imbibe the cultural ethos of Bharat inductively.

#### 5. Samskrita Griham



A home where Samskrit is spoken by the inmates is called Samskrita Griham. There are a few hundred homes where Samskrit is spoken round the clock and where Samskrit is the mother tongue of the children. Those families who have started using Samskrit with the intension of making Samskrit as their "Home Language" are also considered as belonging to Samskrit Griham. Samskrita Bharati provides language assistance to them in their endeavor to nurture tradition of Samskrit as a vibrant living language.

#### 6. Samskrita Saptaaham

Shraavana Poornimaa is being observed as a Samskrit Day since the Samskrit Year 2000 -2001. Three days before and three days after Shraavana Poornimaa is being observed as Samskrit Week. Varieties of programs are held throughout the country to make people aware of the importance and relevance of Samskrit.

#### 7. Bhaashaa Bodhana Vargah

Special classes are held for those who have achieved a certain level of fluency in spoken Samskrit but lack in correct usage. Simple rules are taught with examples and various language drills are employed according to the needs of the individuals. Special attention is given to correct 'common errors'.

#### 8. Vyaakarana Vargah

Week long classes are held to teach various aspects of the Samskrit Grammar, based on Siddhaanta Kouamudee or Panini's Ashtaadhyayee. Usually, one or two subject like Karakam, Sandhi and Samasa are covered in each class.

#### 9. Shikshaka Prashikshana Shibiram

It is a residential programme of 10 to 15 days, intended to train instructors for conducting spoken Samskrit classes. Sarala Samskritam, the importance of Samskrit conversation, the methodology employed to import the necessary skill in the language, teaching – learning principle, teaching aids, language drills, language games, scientific method and approaches to language teaching various methods by which the language could be



popularized, methods of teaching grammar and attending mastery over the language, identifying common errors and correct usage are the topics covered in such camps. Such camps are held in various states during school / college holidays. From Prayer and Yoga session in the morning till Dinner all activities are held in Samskrit only. The participants in these camps rediscover and get connected to their past and feel elevated culturally and spiritually.

#### 10. Shibira Abhiyaanam

Spoken Samskrit classes called Samsbhaashana Shibirams are held simultaneously (once a year)in various parts of a city or district, with a view to bring about a mass-consciousness on the subject of spoken Samskrit. The number of such classes may vary from 10 to 100 depending upon the area of work in the country. Eminent public personalities are specially invited to attend the valedictory functions.

#### 11. Samskrita Vijnaana Pradarshini

Samskrita Bharati has published a set of 150 posters on the subject of Science in Samskrit. Exhibition of these posters along with similar other posters and exhibits, related to Samskrit are arranged in different places like school, professional colleges, IT offices and other public places.

#### IX. Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society,

Maharaja Agrasen University is being established under the aegis of Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society, Delhi. Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society was founded on July 2, 1998 by a group of distinguished public spirited industrialists, entrepreneurs, social activists, civil servants and professionals.

Among the founder members is Dr. Nand Kishor Garg, a leading political and social figure, who served as an MLA and as parliamentary secretary to the Chief Minister of Delhi during 1994 – 95. Dr. Nand Kishor Garg is currently the Chairman of the society.

The charter of the society is to the establish Institutions of excellence to nurture youth to become high quality professionals and inculcate in them the spirit of service to the country. The society is exempted under Income Tax Act as a philanthropist charitable society. **Sewa International** is assisting, supporting and facilitating the projects and programmes of Maharaja Agrasen University.

#### (a) Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology Delhi,

In pursuance of its charter, the society established Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology in the year 1999. Maharaja Agrasen Institute is affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Inderaprasrha University, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi. The institute is rated by professional journals as among the 25 best self – financing engineering colleges in the country. The institute campus has been established in a 12 acre plot in Rohini, Delhi

allotted by Delhi Development Authority. The campus has teaching blocks, a modern auditorium, sports ground, hostel, administrative block, bank block etc. The Institute currently conducts courses in B. Tech – Computer Sciences, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Automation Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering. There are about 2000 students. The institute has been providing 100% placement with well established companies like HCL, Infosys TCL etc.

#### (b) Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies Delhi.

Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies was established in the year 2000. This institute is also affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi. This institute is rated one of the best management schools in Delhi. The institute runs BBA – General and Banking and MBA courses and has about 750 students.

#### (c) Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Advance Studies

Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Advance Studies was established in 2008. the institute is affiliated to Punjab Technical University. The institute is running the BBA courses in general and has about 350 students.

#### (d) Maharaja Agrasen University (Himachal Pradesh)

Encouraged by the success of the three Institutes mentioned above, the society envisioned to establish Maharaja Agrasen University. The society chose education hub at Atal Nagar, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh for locating the university on account of the ideal location. Educational hub at Atal Nagar has been developed by Govt. of Himachal Pradesh with a view to create a center of quality education as part of Himachal Govt's over all vision to improve the quality of higher education and enhance the enrolment in higher education in the state. The Hub is 10 km away from Kalka railway station, 36 km from Chandigarh, 313 km from Delhi and is well connected by rail, road and air.

#### (e) Development of the University Campus.

The vision is to develop an elegant, green and vibrant campus where all the students and staff will live, study, learn and play in the tradition of an ancient Gurukul, a university where latest courses would be taught by the best faculty, where most modern library, laboratories would be available, where the students will be nurtured to grow into high quality professionals, dedicated citizen and good human beings. To develop the architectural concept of the university campus, a competition was held among reputed architects. The finalized concept envisages a campus of modern buildings in harmony with surrounding hills and will have five schools – school of Technology, school of Management Studies, School of Education Studies, School of Legal Studies and

**School of Journalism,** library, hostels, faculty residences, staff quarters, indoor games, auditorium administrative block, play ground etc.

#### **Community Services**

The established of Maharaja Agrasen University will bring a quality institution of higher education to Himachal Pradesh and enhancement in enrolment of higher education among the youth of the Himachal Pradesh and neighboring areas. The university will also vigorously carry community programmes like adult education, literacy campaign, awareness creation regarding alcoholism and drug addiction, tree planting water harvesting, use of solar power etc. and will have close interface with local community and people of Himachal Pradesh. The University aims to become a catalyst for improvement in education and social and economic life of people of the neighboring areas particularly Himachal Pradesh.

#### X. Kosi Flood Rehabilitation Project

**SEWA INTERNATIONAL** had been in the forefront serving the flood victims of river Kosi in the year 2008.Its volunteers were engaged in the rescue and relief operations and initial rehabilitation from day one in all the five districts of Bihar, namely Madhepura, Saharsa, Purnea, Araria and Supaul. As rehabilitation program, Sewa International tied up with Dihan Sikoha Samiti on organization language.

up with Bihar Siksha Samiti, an organization known for its excellence in the field of education to build up a



school for the children affected by the floods as well as the children belonging to the poorest of the poor community. Such will children be provided free education and residential facility in the newly inaugurated school at Bihariganj in Madhepura district of Bihar.



School building

Hospital building

The newly built school was inaugurated on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011 by P.P. Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Ma. Mohan Rao Bhagwat. Over 5000 people attended the inauguration ceremony. A cultural program was also organized on the



occasion and was performed by children studying in Vidya Bharati Schools of 5 districts affected by floods. The school has been built on a 5-acre piece of land, which will have a football ground and a 400meter track for the athletics.



#### Temple

#### **Main Gate**

The ground floor built up area of the school is 8000 sq. ft. and will have additional floors very soon. The school campus also has a six bedded double storey hospital with a built up area of 6000 sq. ft. and a temple.

Bihariganj is a small town in Madhepura district, which is backward and deprived of development activities. Hence, the local residents are seeing this newly built school, hospital and a temple in the same premises as a ray of hope This integrated project will help them providing quality education, free health care and facility of worship. 250 children have already been admitted to the higher secondary school.

#### XI. Education Aid: Supporting Students' Education

This program was launched in 2005 to support the education of students from the economically weaker sections and the probable dropouts due to poverty. 550 students from 11 states have been covered so for under this scheme. Special emphasis has been laid to the North Eastern states where percentage of drop outs at primary and secondary level is more due to poverty and the difficult terrain which makes the communication demanding. Six of the North Eastern States have been covered under the education aid scheme with the exception of Mizoram. Sewa International aims to give hope to the children and help them discover themselves, compete and contribute to the national development.

Constant monitoring of the sponsored students are done by its grassroots volunteers, who monitor their educational performance, interact with there teachers and the management of the school for the all round improvement in them.

#### Scholarships

- To assist and aid meritorious but poor students pursuing higher studies and technical education, SI provides scholarships too. Some of the beneficiaries during the year 2010 2011 are Ravinder and Milind Thatte who received Rs. 4000 and Rs. 60,630 respectively.
- SI also supported two Institutions namely Shri. Jayendra Saraswati Ayurved College and National Institute of Mass Communication under its scholarship Programme as Rs. 153,500 and Rs. 50,000 respectively.

#### **Salient Features of the Progamme**

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 a function was organized in the premises of Sewa Bharti Ved Mandir Ambphalla to celebrate Krishna Janmashtami and in that festive atmosphere the educational aid was distributed to 17 students in the presence of Shri. R.C. Gupta & Smt. Anusuya ji.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 on the sacred day of Ganesh Chaturthi education aid was distributed to inmates of "Vel ji Vishram Popat Boys Hostel Disha" and 5 local Katra students in the presence of the manager of local branch of State Bank of India.

#### Himachal Pradesh:

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 a function was organized in Mandi in which education aid to 8 students was distributed by Sewa Pramukh Shri Mansa Ram ji.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Shimla educational aid was distributed to 12 students in the presence of Purshotam ji.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 a grand function for Ganesh Chaturthi was organized at Solan, Bilaspur and the education aid from Sewa International was distributed among 16 students in the presence of Shri Purshotam ji and Shri Mansa Ram ji.

Sewa International Activity Report 2010 - 11 **Gujarat** 

- There are 253 students selected from 64 places comprising 8 from Kutch, 16 from Saurashtra Region, 8 from Uttar Gujarat, 11 from Vadodara tribal area & 21 from Surat tribal & slum areas..
- Out of 253 beneficiaries 24 are landless laborers from tribal areas of Junagarh, Padra and other surrounding areas, 30 students belong to fishing community from coastal areas and 25 are slum dwellers of Uttar Gujarat.
- Each beneficiary has been given Rs.1800 for school fees, uniform, books etc.

#### XII. Documentaries

Sewa International has developed a video documentation unit at Bhagyanagar and Delhi to document and report various activities, programs and events. Video reports are sent to its donors and well wishers. During 2010 - 11 two documentaries were made on the projects *Students' Education* and *Sewa Darshan Tour* by the board members of **Sewa Canada**.

#### XIII. Newsletter

12 issues of **'Sewa Sandesh'** were published and circulated by e-mail to over 625 subscribers in 40 countries during the year 2010 - 2011.

## XIV. Other activities supported / undertaken by Sewa International

Sewa international also supported some other organizations in 2010 - 2011 that are involved in running various projects / programs *viz*.

- Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Ashram Deepawali Gifts to Vanvasi Students.
- > Antar Rashtiya Sahyog Parshad. Pravasi Bhawan Project
- Sewa Bharati Bhopal Educational Project.
- Sewa Bharti Delhi Residential School Building Project.
- Shri Saraswathi Vidya Peetham School Building Construction Project.
- > Bhau Rao Deoras Rashtiya Seva Nyas Educational Project.
- Sewa International Leh Relief and Rehabilitation Project.
- > Sewa International Arunachal Pradesh Research Project.
- **Utkal Bipanna Sahayata Samiti -** Educational Project.
- **Sewa International Chennai -** Educational Project.

# **Sewa International** Brief Balance Sheet (2009 - 2010)

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	
Corpus Fund	2,870,001.00	Fixed Assets	7,394,114.47	
Income & Expenditure	21,800,972.42	Investment	7,453,404.49	
Loan Funds	9,436.00	Current Assets	39,327.00	
Advances Received	24,000.00	Loan & Advances	788,000.00	
Expenses Payable	27,763.00	Cash In Hand	41,481.83	
		Balance with Bank	9,015,844.62	
	24,732,172.42		24,732,172.41	