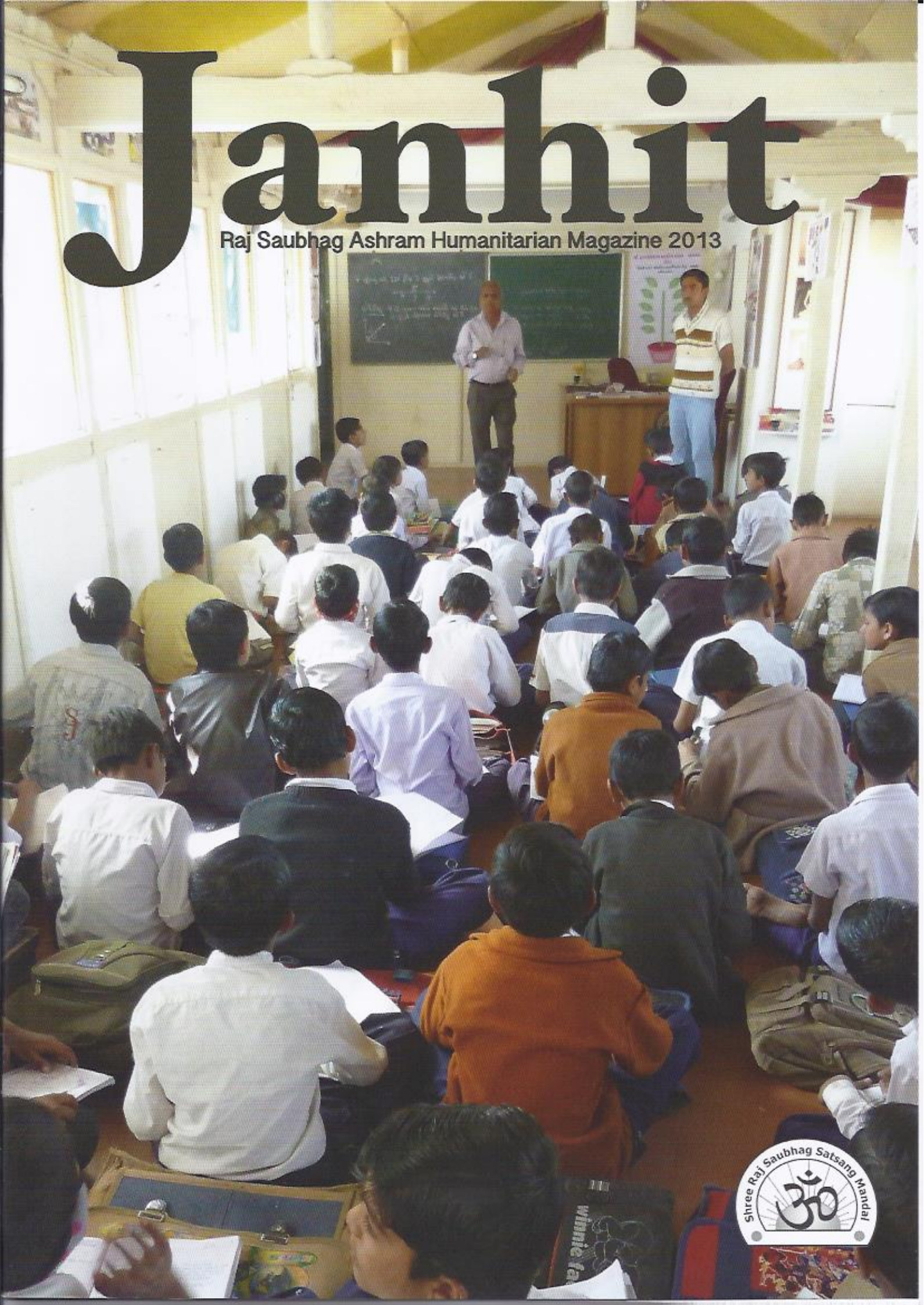


Janhit

Raj Saubhag Ashram Humanitarian Magazine 2013



Welcome



My dear compassionate friends, welcome to this humanitarian magazine from Raj Saubhag Ashram. My regards and respect to all of you who have experienced the joy of giving.

In this world we find God in those who are suffering.

Sharing the glow of your hearts and the smile of your faces, we are reaching out to as many poor, unfortunate and deprived souls as possible, helping them in their pain and suffering.

Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something. Your enthusiasm to help and our determination to reach out has jointly made a tremendous difference in the lives of many.

The greatest good takes place when philanthropy and philosophy walk hand in hand, as one shares the riches, and the other reveals our own inner riches. I thank you all for your support. In partnership we shall continue doing the good work.

Nalin Kothari

Being God's living expression of Kindness.

Humanity has survived by the love, kindness, care, concern and compassion that we share for each other and also towards all living beings that coexist with us.

Born as humans we are the most empowered of souls. Yet despite being so intellectually privileged we are not born free. Like all other living entities we too have to endure the fruition of our past karmas.

Pain, illness, disability, hunger, poverty and death are sufferings related to the body. Grief, hatred, frustration, guilt, humiliation, loneliness and anxiety are a few related to the mind.

In such miserable conditions we find many people getting defeated. We also feel amazed to see a few who endure it with perfect equanimity.

Spirituality plays a significant role in developing our mindset and cultivating an attitude to balance and even wipe out the harsh influence of such afflictions. Pain is inevitable but suffering can be optional. Suffering is only because we are attached to what is passing by and which is sure

to get over. Thus it is essential that philosophy should drive philanthropy.

Being consciously aware and sensitive to the sufferings of all living beings will surely motivate charity and inspire us to live a life for public service. An inner urge to spread love and to secure happiness and well being for all is the religion of humanity that we must all follow.

Under Bhaishree's benevolence and heartfelt concern, we at Shree Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal, Sayla have resolved to do our best in helping the needy, poor and pained.

Bhaishree often says that suffering can lead us to many realisations. It helps us to understand the purpose of this human life and if we work hard it would then open the door to transcendence.

It's your generosity and big heartedness that enables us to make some difference in the lives of so many souls. We welcome you to join our collective efforts in being God's living expression of kindness.

In Humbleness and Gratitude,

Minal Shah
Vikram Shah



Contents

Background

From humble beginnings A brief background	2
Our Inspiration	2
In pictures	3

Education

Bright Sparks An introduction	6
In pictures	9
Jyot: Birth of a new project Raising social awareness	10
Life Science centre	10
Teachers Day at LMV Girls High School	10
Prem ni Parab Annual Bal Kilol Festival 2013	11
Rural School celebrated as Best school 2013	11
On her wedding day	11
Student goes to Dental College	12
Rooted in the environment	12
Putting ethics at the heart of education	12
Vocational training: sewing classes	12
Enduring Happiness Insights with Shree Chandrakant Vyas	14



6



Health

Something to smile about	15
Dental camp Case Study	15
Seeing is believing Eye Hospital	17
Eye camp Case Study	17
Dr Kamal Shah Gives his insights	17
Community health centre	18
Medical camp Case Study	19

Ashirwad Trust

Breaking boundaries	21
World-class Sensory Park	22
Case study	22
In pictures	23
Ashirwad children excel at sports	26
Vocational skills for earning	26
Children go on jatra	26
Case study	26
Rambhai Jadav Gives his insights	27
Mobility camp	29



29

Alleviating hardship

Grain distribution	31
Buttermilk distribution	31
Environmental restoration	31
Emergency relief	31

Join hands with us

Contribute to the causes	32
Find us map	33
Contact us	33

Janhit 2013

In the past few years the humanitarian activities undertaken by the Ashram have grown and flourished under the selfless drive and guidance of Param Pujya Bhaishree, Nalinbhai Kothari.

So many have been inspired to contribute to the work being done and there is so much to celebrate and say thank you for. In this magazine we take you through the journey of our achievements and thank you for your selfless support. As Pujya Bapuji stated 'Jan Seva, te Prabhu Seva', 'Service to humanity is service to God'.

Editor

Vikrambhai Shah
Minalben Shah

Editorial team

Jaysukhbhai Mehta
Ashik Shah
Bhavika Shah
Purvi Boradia
Menka Sanghvi
Ajay Sanghvi

Contact

jaysukh@rajsaubhag.org

Produced by

Raj Saubhag Ashram
Saubhagpara
off Nat. Highway 8A
Sayla, Gujarat,
India 363 430

Background

From humble beginnings

A brief background into the humanitarian activities of Raj Saubhag Ashram

The late Param Pujya Ladakchand Manekchand Vora, fondly known as Bapuji, inspired Shree Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal's ethos of DEVOTION, WISDOM and SELFLESS SERVICE.

Shree Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal is a spiritual organisation with its ashram located in Sayla, a village rich in spiritual history. The ashram was established by Param Pujya Bapuji in 1976.

Having grown up in Sayla, Bapuji was conscious of the suffering of the local population. Sayla district is one of the most deprived areas of Gujarat. It is an arid area with limited rainfall, a rocky topography and limited farming activity. Employment opportunities are very limited and most of the population are classified below the poverty line. Literacy rates (particularly female literacy rates) are amongst the lowest in Gujarat.

Bapuji emphasised cultivating the quality of compassion in all his disciples and inspired Ashram members to look out for the welfare and needs of others whilst pursuing personal spiritual goals.

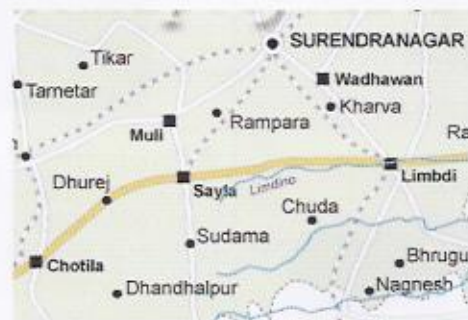
PARAM PUJYA BAPUJI STATED THAT 'JAN SEVA TE PRABHU SEVA', 'SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS SERVICE TO GOD'.

This led to various social welfare programs starting with the distribution of clothes and grains to the needy, and buttermilk centres during the harsh summer periods. In 1987 the first eye camp was held in the Ashram itself. Over the past 35 years the social, welfare and development programmes have grown with projects in education,

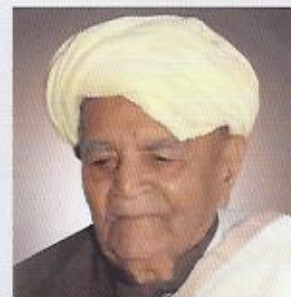
health, rehabilitation of the physically & mentally challenged, vocational training, environmental restoration as well as emergency relief. Param Pujya Bhaishree, Nalinbhai Kothari, is systematically converting Bapuji's vision of a healthy community in Sayla into a reality.

A global network of volunteers contribute their time, energy and skills to support the activities in Sayla which are managed by professional teams that specialise in their fields. Projects have grown organically to meet the needs of the local population.

It is due to this selfless devotion by the volunteers and the sheer professionalism of the project teams that Raj Saubhag can proudly claim the long-term sustainability of the projects in Sayla.



Sayla District:
Population: 101,170
Villages: 75
Literacy rate: 46%
Primary Schools: 118
Secondary schools: 14
Colleges: 1



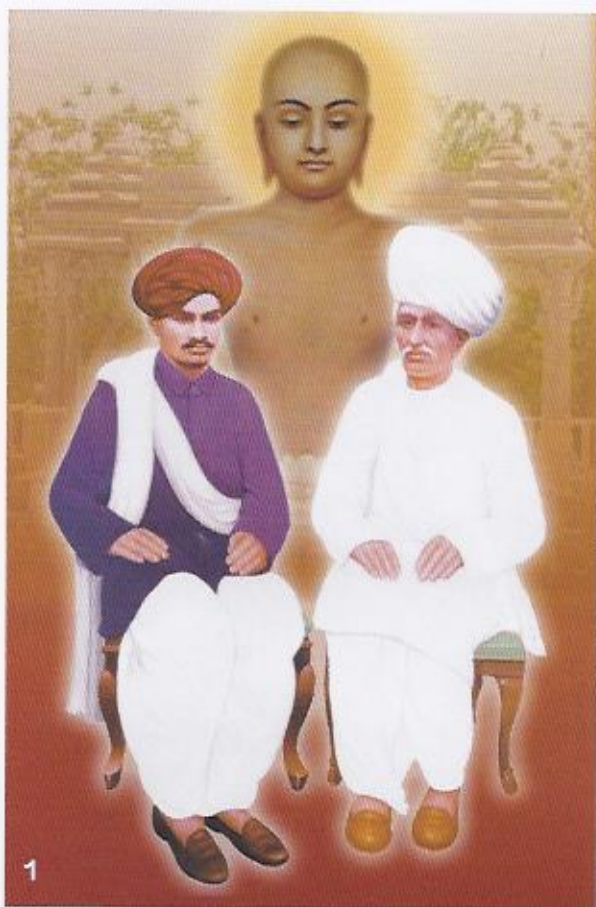
Our Inspiration

Shree Ladakchand Manekchand Vora (1905-1997), affectionately known as Param Pujya Bapuji was the sixth disciple in line from Shree Saubhagbhai. He cast light on Shrimad Rajchandra's spiritual achievements and inspired true love and devotion for him. Bapuji was fully aware of the intimate spiritual relationship between Shrimadji and Saubhagbhai and credited this with many powerful insights which Shrimadji shared in his most touching letters. This provided Bapuji with tremendous insight and impetus on his inner journey.

Bapuji was born in 1905 in Chorvira village. He excelled in his academic studies and won awards for his essays on Jain philosophy. He joined the local government after completing his matriculation. His skillful management style soon led to his promotion rising to the post of Judge and then Deputy Collector. He was a role model for his honesty and moral uprightness.

While he carried out his duties faithfully and competently, he continued his spiritual journey under the guidance of Gurudev Shree Chotalal Desai. He achieved self-realisation at the age of 33 years. He was such a self-contained person that, except for his immediate satsang colleagues, nobody realised his spiritual achievements. For forty years he kept his secret. It is a matter of great fortune that Bapuji was eventually discovered by the late great seeker Shantibhai Ambani.

Bapuji established the 'Raj Saubhag Ashram' in Sayla in December 1976. He passed on his Guru 'seat' to the late Pujya Sadgunnaben C U Shah (Gurumaiyaa) and Pujya Nalinbhai Kothari (Bhaishree) who continues his legacy.



In pictures

Snapshots

Past humanitarian work in Sayla

1. Our inspiration: Bhagwan Mahavir, Shrimad Rajchandra & Shri Saubhagbhai
2. Bapuji and Bhaishree observing cataract surgery
3. Bhaishree in eye camp recovery area
4. Bapuji at eye camp registration queue
5. Bapuji & Bhaishree eye cam
6. Bhaishree distributing buttermilk

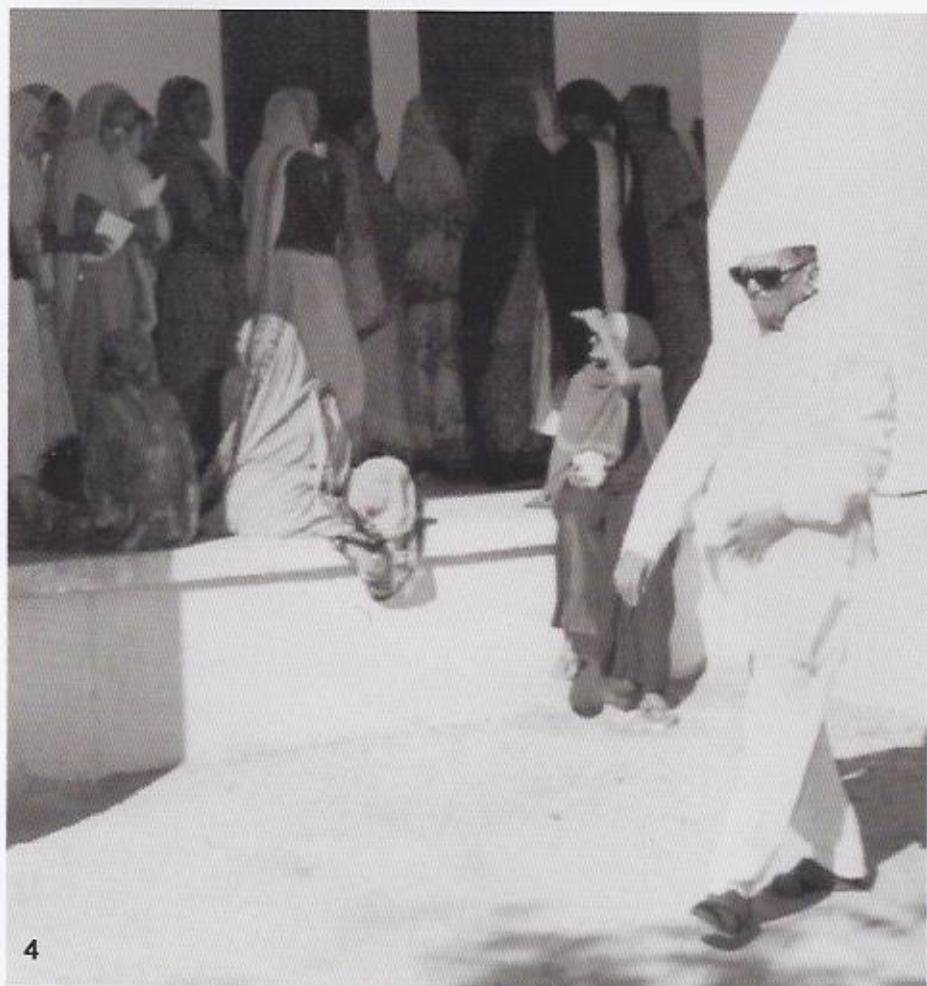
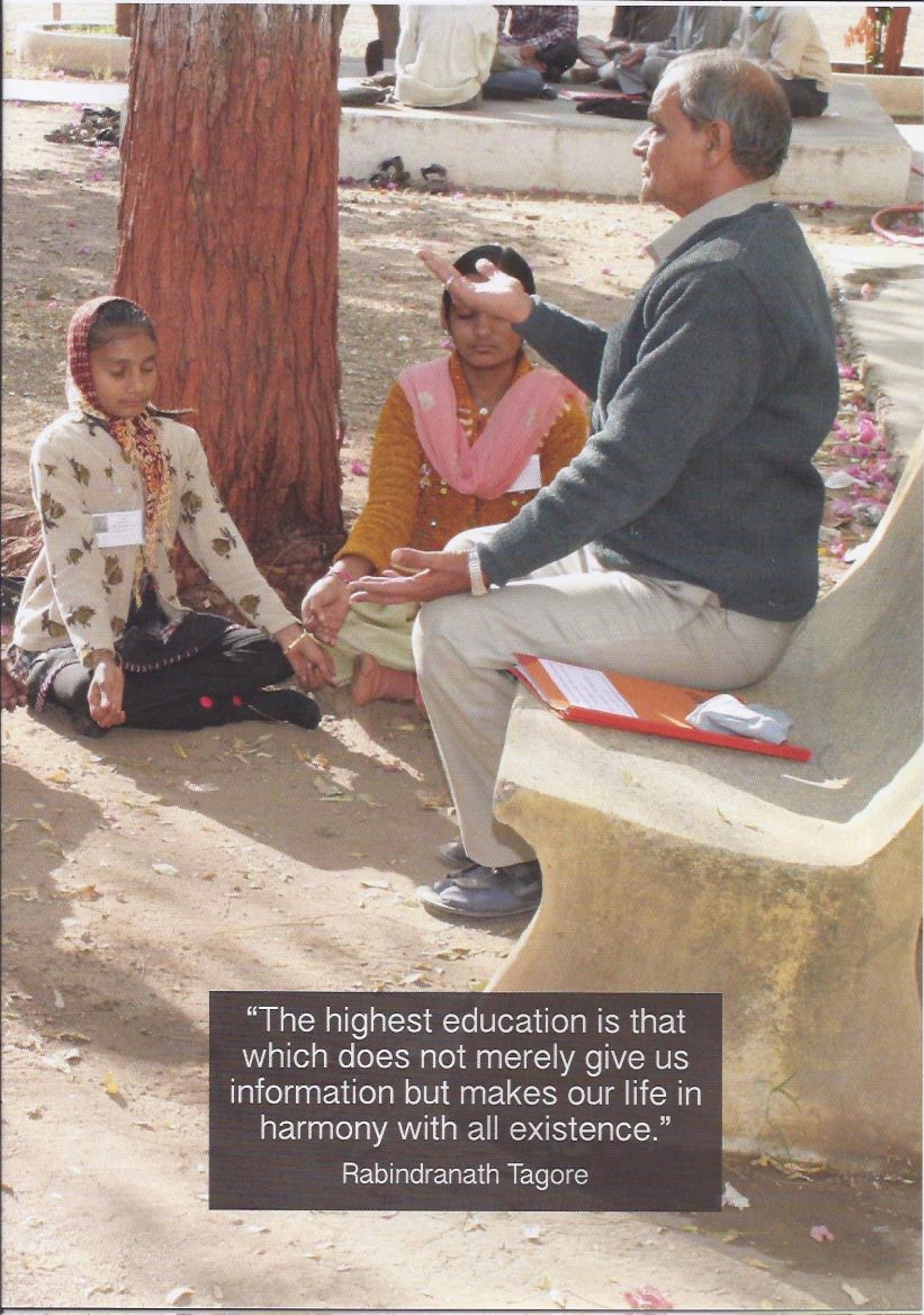




Photo: Prem
ni Parab Teacher
conducting breathing
exercises (pranayam)
before his workshop



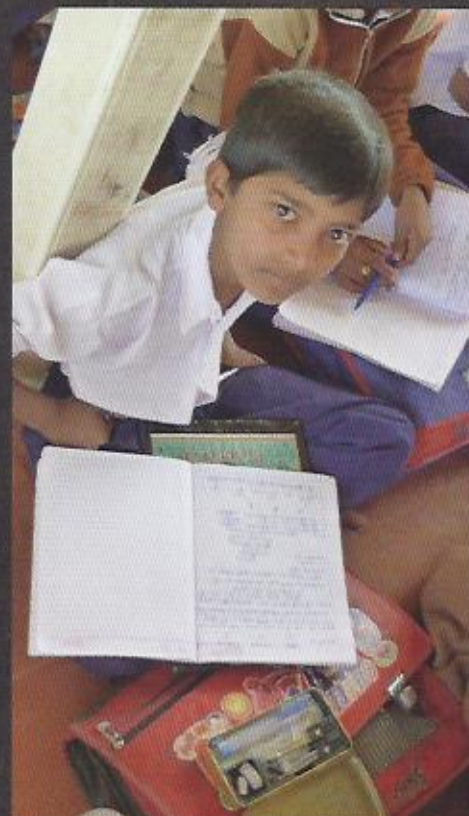
“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

Rabindranath Tagore

Exam
results of LMV
Girls High School
10th + 12th
standards TOP
of Surendranagar
league table

30,000
students and
850 teachers
taking part in
Prem ni Parab

BRIGHT SPARKS



Education

An introduction to the Ashram's education initiatives

This year over 30,000 bright sparks developed from the Ashram's education initiatives. It was Bapuji's passionate belief that education would benefit both the student as well as the community at large. The education initiatives include LMV Girls High School, LMV College of Commerce & Arts, Prem ni Parab programme, Life Science Centre and the Vocational Training Centre.

LMV Girls High School

The region around Sayla is very conservative in its outlook and parents often do not support their daughters to travel long distances for their education, if they support it at all. There was no facility within the local district of 75 villages in which girls could obtain secondary education. Bapuji always had the upliftment of the local community in his heart and particularly empathised with the disadvantaged situation of women.

In 1997 Raj Saubhag Ashram established

'Shree Ladakchand Manekchand Vora (LMV) Girls High School in Sayla town. It started with 50 girls attending 8th standard. Over time classes up to 12th standard were established and now a total of 336 girls attend the high school.

The girls have consistently achieved some of the highest results in Surendranagar district for several years now. Exam results for 10th and 12th Standards are currently at the top of the Surendranagar league tables.

The school has been expanded to a mod-

42
teacher training workshop
days with 2166
participants

Student drop out rate
reduced from
29% to 7.28%
with Prem ni
Parab

100% pass rate
for LMV College.
12 girls get
distinction and
further 12 graduate
with 1st class
honours

ern 16,000 sq.ft. landmark building in Sayla. It is equipped with modern classrooms, laboratories and IT rooms.

The ethos of the school in this small rural town differs from those in a similar environment. The head teacher Shree Chandrakantbhai Vyas has created an environment where the girls are given considerable freedom to express their opinions, organise their own activities, take part in the running of the school and made to feel responsible for their own success. They have the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities to help the girls build more cultured and confident personalities such as classes in classical dance, drama and self-defence. There are many group discussions, debates and elocution lessons in which the girl are encouraged to express and develop their own thoughts and opinions. They also learn about morals, ethics, social work, active citizenship, domestic and public hygiene.

These activities have not only empowered the girls, educated them and equipped them with broad skills and qualifications, but also developed them into beacons and role models within their communities. As ambassadors the girls give the school its reputation of excellence.

LMV College of Commerce & Arts
Previously after completing their 12th standard many students would either leave education or have to travel long distances to access higher education which is particularly difficult for girls. Raj Saubhag Ashram therefore opened the first ever college in Sayla. Working alongside the University of Saurashtra, Shree Ladakchand Manekchand Vora (LMV) College of Commerce & Arts was established in 2007 to offer degrees such as Bachelor of Commerce (BComm).

Starting with only 11 girls in attendance, today 142 young women attend the college from 25 neighbouring villages.

In 2013, the College achieved a 100% pass rate, with 12 girls graduating with Distinction and a further 12 girls passing with 1st class honours.

JUST AS A HOUSE WITHOUT LOVE CANNOT BE CALLED A HOME, A WELL-EQUIPPED BUILDING WITHOUT HIGH STANDARDS OF EDUCATION AND RESPECT FOR EACH CHILD CANNOT BE CALLED A GOOD SCHOOL. This is Bhaishree's philosophy

Prem ni Parab (Fountain of Love)
47 new primary schools were built to replace the schools in and around Sayla district, damaged during the 2001 earthquake.

Although the newly built schools provided an excellent learning

environment, it was recognised that the quality of education being imparted in these and other rural government schools was poor and a major change was essential.

Bhaishree assembled a panel of experienced and dedicated educationalists. Their remit was to draw up an action plan to transform these schools into homes for true education, helping their pupils to create a better future for themselves and their families.

The State Government, immediately approved the plans presented. This led to the 'Prem ni Parab' project being launched in January 2004 initially incorporating 51 schools. Because of its success the Gujarat Government requested the project to extend coverage and include all 128 schools in Sayla District engaging over 30,000 students and 850 teachers.

The project recognises that teachers, parents and students are the three key constituents of the educational process. The involvement of all three is essential in transforming attitudes towards education.

STUDENTS

Educational transformation

PARENTS

TEACHERS

Children: In an environment of enthusiasm, creativity and healthy competition, mutual respect and trust, each child is invited to unlock his or hers vast potential. The Prem ni Parab project provides equipment and support for games, drama, elocution classes, music lessons, arts and crafts and visits to museums and historic places. It also encourages the teaching of ethics, morals and care for the environment. The aim of these activities is to nurture and expand these young minds.

Teachers: Throughout the year Prem ni Parab organises capacity building workshops for school teachers. Teachers are trained in modern teaching techniques by leading experts and professors. They are encouraged to make classes interesting, interactive, practical and thought-provoking. They are also taught to develop a bond of mutual love and respect with their pupils. The capabilities of each child should be valued and developed.

Parents: Historically many students dropped out of school at an early age. By engaging parents in their child's education not only have drop out rates reduced from 29% down to below 7.3%, but also participation in extra-curricular activities has increased. Parent committees have been formed to forge closer relationships with teachers and schools.

Sayla district was ranked 9th in

Surendranagar county in the year 2000, today it is ranked 3rd. No academic awards had been previously won, now Sayla can boast a 'Nationwide Best Teacher', a 'State-wide Best Student' and several other national and state awards.

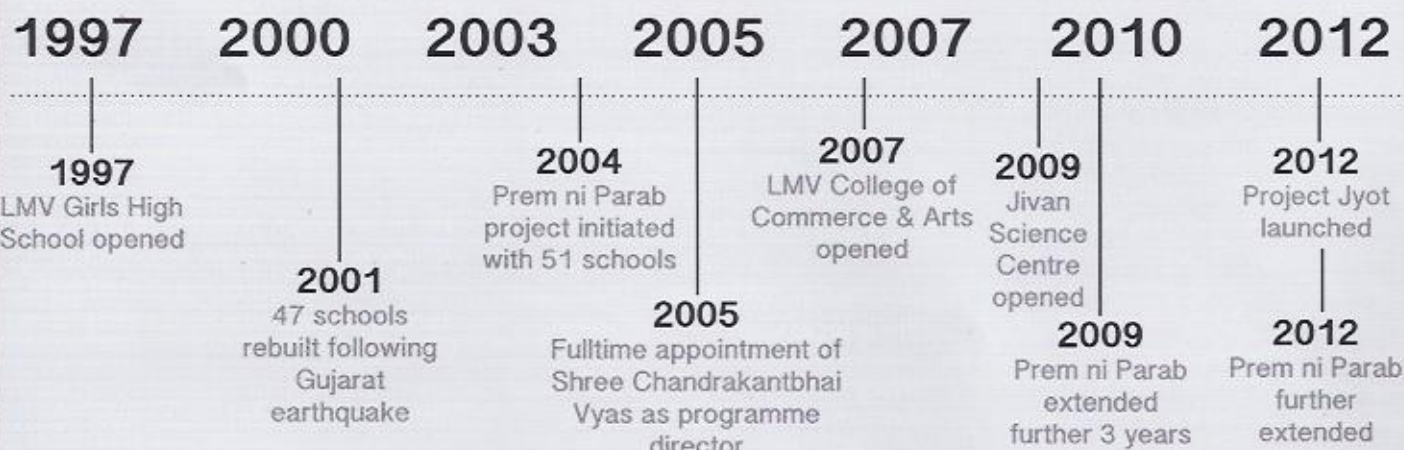
The Prem ni Parab project has now been running for over 9 years. At the celebratory mahotsav in February 2012, brimming with love, Bhaishree gave his commitment to extend the Prem ni Parab project further. His voice was submerged in the roar of excitement from the overjoyed audience of teachers and students upon hearing this news.

Raj Saubhag Ashram has been fortunate to have the support of many esteemed professional education specialists, university professors, inspirational leaders such as Shree Chandrakantbhai Vyas, motivated teachers, engaged parents and the hard working and spirited students of Sayla district.



Timeline

Educational initiatives in Sayla





In pictures

Snapshots Education

1. Children performing drama at Prem ni Parab Annual Festival
2. Generating electricity workshop at Prem ni Parab Annual Festival
3. Science class
4. Science experiments
5. Rangoli artwork at Prem ni Parab Annual Festival
6. Morning prayers at LMV Girls High School



Education

Jyot: Birth of a new project raising social awareness

The Jyot Project, launched in July 2012, aims to spread the 'flame of knowledge' and raise awareness of social issues through street plays performed by LMV High School and College students in villages throughout Sayla District.

The premise of the project is that if knowledge is power then raising awareness of social and health issues at the village level could lead to a dramatic shift in self empowerment.

The first Jyot project is now being implemented. It is focused on key issues around the health of pregnant mothers, both before and after giving birth. Currently there is a widespread lack of understanding, made worse by superstitions and bad practices. As a result the rate of maternal and infant mortality is very high in rural villages.

It was decided that a colourful street play explaining the precautions that need to be taken by mothers would bring the messages to life. Under the skilled direction of Grishma Shah,

actress and director from Mumbai, and guidance from Bramnisht Vikrambhai, a 30-minute play has been created. This is being performed by female students from the LMV High School and College.

Full of humour and simple, practical tips, the play has been an instant hit with an audience 600 in Vadiya village and 500 in Kerala village. The plan



now is to take it to as many villages as possible across the Sayla district.

The positive impacts of the new awareness can already be seen. In Vadiya the very next day many pregnant women who had previously avoided regular check ups went to the hospital to be checked. Others are now asking authorities to receive benefits from government schemes that they are now aware of, such as free iodized salt during pregnancy.

Their play 'Stri Jivan ni Katokati' was played on Rajkot Radio 'Akashwani' on 7th February 2013 and heard throughout Gujarat and Mumbai.



Jivan Vignan Kendra - Life Science Centre

Sayla is proud to be home to one of the very few Science Centres in Gujarat. Raj Saubhag Ashram established this centre in 2009 to give children the rare opportunity to engage with modern learning facilities and learn about the world of science. With advances in the technological world, understanding scientific principals is becoming increasingly important and relevant.



The Science Centre houses a seminar room, a laboratory, a library and an interactive science discovery suite. Students can engage with scientific and mathematical models and learn through 'play'. On average 40 students visit the centre every day. In the past 4 years over 12,700 students, 594 teachers have utilised the facilities here.

On 28th Feb 2013 Science Day was celebrated in the centre and science kits were distributed as gifts to 100 schools.



Teachers Day at LMV Girls High School

Tell me and I forget,
Show me and I remember,
Involve me and I understand.

On Teacher's Day, girls at the LMV High School took on the roles of their mentors. They not only dressed up as teachers and ran various classes, but were also involved in the administration and management aspects of the School for the day.



Education

Prem ni Parab celebrates 9 years at the Annual Bal Kilol Festival 2013

The annual Bal Kilol Festival is where all 128 schools in Sayla district come together in a celebration of talent and achievement. Bal Kilol in Gujarati means the natural expression of joy by children.

Over 30,000 students took part in a variety of activities from handwriting, essay writing, drawing, painting, rangoli, elocution, drama, traditional and modern dance.

Interschool group stage competitions took place in the run-up months culminating in the competition finals taking place over the 2-day festival. 1200 students, 850 teachers and guests were hosted in the ashram,

which came alive with the chatter of excitement.

Awards were given for the Best Teacher (male and female), Best School and Best Student (male and female). A panel of 15 judges, experts of various fields, interview the students and teachers and also visit the various schools shortlisted, to make the final selection.



Rural School Celebrated as Best School 2013

Chitralank School awarded Best School of the year in 2013.

Out of the 118 primary schools in Sayla District, 5 outstanding schools are shortlisted every year. They are assessed in all aspects of their delivery, from academia to extra-curricular activities, to the school environment and atmosphere and teacher-student-parent relationships.

This year Chitralank School was chosen in first place. The school is located in the most rural and distant part of Sayla district, a village so cut

off and remote that to this day it has not had a bus service to connect it to the wider region. On its stony hill is located a beautiful primary school. The teachers and students have cultivated a garden around the school which houses trees, shrubs and a separate medicinal herb section.

Despite its rural setting, not one of the children in this remote village is illiterate. Not only do all the village children attend school but the school also has a 0% drop out rate. The teachers have developed such a good reputation that when village women marry and move away, they send their children back to this particular school for their education. The school was started in 1984 with just 19 students, and today it is responsible for the

education of 182 children.

The school is decorated with the work of the students. On the walls are encouraging and thought provoking messages. The students manage the gardens and are taught to respect the environment. The teachers have a close and respectful relationship with the students. The Principal, Ghanshyambhai, has devoted the last 24 years to the school along with his wife who also teaches there. His staff travel long distances, choosing this school in particular to teach at due to its warm and loving atmosphere.

The school has become a temple of learning, an outstanding example to others and a deserving winner of the Best School of the Year 2013 in Sayla.

On her wedding day

A young bride takes her examinations straight after her marriage.

On the 26th April 2012 a historic event occurred in Sayla. A young bride having completed her wedding ceremony, headed straight to her school examination hall to sit her end of year exams while still in her full bridal dress (panetar).

Bhanuben Dharmasi Sonagara was in

her second year of her BA course at LMV College of Commerce & Arts. She and her new family decided it was more important for her to complete the exam than to accompany the groom back home for the post-wedding ceremonies.

The villagers of Sayla had never seen such importance being given to a girl's education. She featured in the local newspaper as an inspiration to others for her unprecedented act of courage and determination.



Education

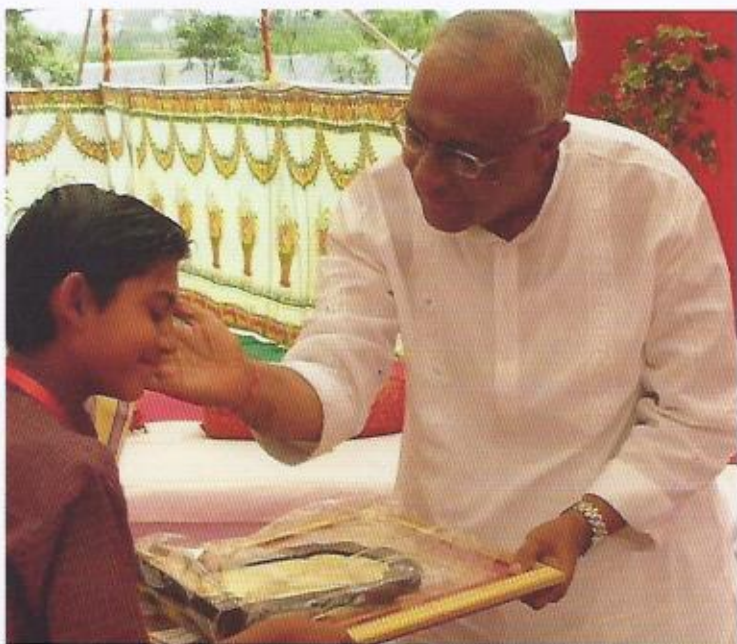
Student goes to Dental College

Hard work pays off as Sayla student excels in his studies and is rewarded with a place at Dental College.

A shy yet very bright young Sandip Mithapara from Anpar Village excelled in his studies and extra-curricular activities to win Prem ni Parab 'Best Pupil' Award in 2006 when he was in Standard 6 at Sayla Primary School No. 5.

The award opened many opportunities for him, the first being to participate in an International Student Seminar in Mauritius where his team returned with the 'Best Team' Award.

His enthusiasm and drive motivated him through High School. In March 2012 he passed his Standard 12 exams and was awarded a place to study BDS Dentistry at College, a mighty achievement for a young student from a humble background.



Rooted in the environment

Trees planted in all Sayla district school.

Students are taught the importance of environmental conservation. Trees have been planted and maintained by students in all schools across Sayla. Preventative measures against global warming are part of the curriculum.



Putting ethics at the heart of education

Raj Saubhag Ashram hosts two day conference on ethics in the education system.

In the midst of monsoon season, in September 2011 Raj Saubhag Ashram was host to 200 leading educationalists from across Gujarat. For two intense days they explored ways of developing education at the grass-root level to encourage children to become moral and upright citizens of the country.

This "Education Brainstorming Conference" was energised by the experience, insights and ideas of a diverse and passionate group that included academics, policy-makers, teachers, and students. The conference featured several thought-provoking

speeches, presentations, and two book launches.

Chandrakantbhai Vyas, director of the Ashram's "Prem ni Parab" initiative stressed the importance and responsibility of teachers, as role-models for children in their early years.

Acknowledging how difficult it is to make such changes within schools, Pujya Bhaishree inspired all participants by referring to Gandhiji's philosophy, and inviting everyone to work together to bring about changes with a gentle hand.

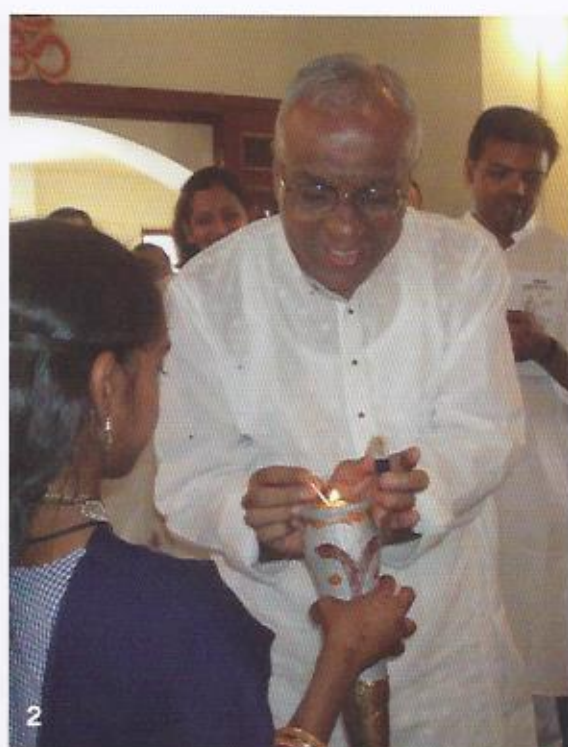


Vocational training: sewing classes

The educational initiatives of the Ashram extend to adults as well. Ladies from Sayla and its neighbouring villages are taught certificate sewing courses free of charge. Each course has 30 students and lasts 6 months.

In the past 12 years approximately 750 women have been trained. Ashram members have often individually gifted sewing machines to students, empowering the women and providing them with a platform for economic self-sufficiency.





In pictures

Snapshots Education

1. Science: Students examining slides under microscope
2. Lighting of flame for Prem ni Parab Annual Festival
3. LMV High School girls celebrating Indian Independence Day
4. Teachers workshop
5. Cultivating enthusiasm: students at Science Centre
6. Cultivating talent: primary school art exhibition



Education



Enduring Happiness

Shree Chandrakantbhai Vyas shares his insights as Programme Director for Prem ni Parab and Principal of LMV Girls High School and LMV College of Commerce & Arts.

A meeting with Param Pujya Bhaishree in 2004 became a cornerstone in my life and the relationship I had formed with Raj Saubhag Ashram from Param Pujya Bapuji's era flourished.

Pujya Bhaishree had an intense desire to bring about a dramatic transformation in the education of our children in Sayla. Under his divine shelter the 'Prem ni Parab' project was born. At that time I was the Principal at Vadhavan Gharshala (High School). 'Prem ni Parab' represented the need of the hour. To bring about change in primary education was necessary but would not be easy considering the ingrained mental models existing within those in the sector. It was difficult to dedicate enough time to the project. Pujya Bhaishree offered me the opportunity to manage the educational activities undertaken by the Ashram and I promptly accepted. Leaving my stable and well paid job, in 2005 I devoted myself fully to the cause.

Nine years have passed by in service. Working with 30,000 students and 850 teachers. I feel completely satisfied with my vocation, as it is only human to like good things.

સંવાદાનુભૂતિનો આનંદ

ચંદ્રકાંત વ્યાસ

(ડાયરેક્ટર-પ્રેમની પરબ, સાયલા)

ઈ.સ. ૨૦૦૪ માં પૂ.ભાઈશ્રીને મળ્યો. વિક્રમભાઈ અને અન્ય સાથે પ્રોજેક્ટ અંગે ચર્ચા કરી ત્યારે આશ્રમ સાથે જે નાતો પહેલેથી જ પૂ.ભાપુજી વખતથી હતો તે વધારે દઢ બન્યો. પૂ.ભાઈશ્રીની નિશ્ચયામાં શિક્ષણ-પરિવર્તનનું કામ કરવાનો ભાવ હતો. 'પ્રેમની પરબ' પ્રોજેક્ટ નક્કી થયો. હું વઢવાણ ઘરશાળા (હાઈસ્કૂલ)માં આચાર્ય હતો અને પ્રોજેક્ટનું કાર્ય સંભાળ્યું. પ્રાથમિક શાળાની સ્થિતિ અને માનસ પરિવર્તન કરવાનું કાર્ય વધુ જરૂરી હતું અને અઘરું પણ હતું. હું પૂરો સમય આપી શકતો ન હતો. પૂ.ભાઈશ્રીએ મારી સલામત અને આર્થિક લાભવાળી નોકરી છોડી આશ્રમ દ્વારા ચાલતી શૈક્ષણિક પ્રવૃત્તિ સંભાળવાનું કહ્યું અને મેં સહજ રીતે તે સ્વિકાર્યું અને જૂન-૦૫ થી બધું છોડીને અહીં બેસી ગયો.

આજે ૩૦૦૦૦ બાળકો અને ૮૦૦ શિક્ષકો સાથે કામ કરતા કરતા ૯ વર્ષ પુરા થયા છે. કામનો પૂર્ણ સંતોષ છે. દરેક વ્યક્તિને સારું જ ગમે છે. આપણી ભાવના સારી હોય, આપણા પ્રયત્નો નિષ્ઠા વાળા હોય અને મનથી કોઈ કામને સમર્પિત હોઈએ તો પરિણામ અવશ્ય આવે જ છે. આજે બધા શિક્ષકો - વાલીઓ - વિદ્યાર્થીઓને આશ્રમ સાથે પ્રેમથી બંધાયેલા જોઈ હું તો ખૂબ આનંદ થાય છે.

ઘણાં બધા શિક્ષકોમાં ભાવાત્મક પરિવર્તન આવ્યું છે. પૂરા આદર અને હકારાત્મક દ્રષ્ટિ બિંદુથી 'પ્રેમની પરબ' ના કાર્યક્રમોનો અમલ કરે છે. ક્યાંય વિરોધ નહિ, વિવાદ નહિ, નકારાત્મકતા નહિ, આ બધું કામ કરવાનું, નવા વિચારોનું, નવા પ્રયોગોનું બળ આપે છે.

૧૨૮ પ્રાથમિક શાળાઓના ૩૦૦૦૦ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ અને ૮૦૦ શિક્ષકો આપણને ઓળખતા હોય- સન્માનથી જોતા હોય તે નાનીસૂની વાત નથી.

'પ્રેમની પરબ'ના દરેક કાર્યક્રમ નાવિન્ય સભર હોય છે, ફળદાયી હોય છે, પૂ.ભાઈશ્રી અને વિક્રમભાઈ, મીનળબેન અને અન્યોએ મારામાં મૂકેલ વિશ્વાસ અને કામ કરવા માટે આપેલ સ્વાયતતા મારી જવાબદારી વધારે છે. નિષ્ઠા, કર્મયોગ, નીતિમત્તા, પ્રેમ, આત્મીયતા આ બધા મૂલ્યો જીવનમાં આત્મસાત કરવાનો ખરો આનંદ મળે છે. સારું કામ કર્યાનો સંતોષ થાક લાગવા દેતો નથી.

પૂ.ભાઈશ્રીની વિશાળ દ્રષ્ટિ, દૂરંદેશીપણ અને વ્યક્તિને ઓળખવાની સૂઝ ઉપર હવે ભરોસો બેસી ગયો છે.

જેટલા વર્ષો કામ કરી શકાય એટલા વર્ષો આશ્રમ માટે જ કામ કરવું એવી ભાવના છે. આવું સુંદર - સંતૃપ્ત કરે તેવું કાર્ય મને પ્રાપ્ત થયું. તે મારું સદ્ગુણ સમજું છું અને શિક્ષણમાં હકારાત્મક પરિવર્તન માટે નિમિત્ત બની શકવાનું ગૌરવ અનુભવું છું.

Any activity done with sincere efforts and dedication of the mind is bound to reap rich dividends. Today my heart brims with joy when I see the love that the students, teachers and parents harbour towards the ashram.

Apparent transformation can be observed in many of the teachers associated with this project. They attend workshops conducted by "Prem Ni Parab" with positivity and respect. Knowledge and training given through this program has been well implemented by them.

Working in an environment that is devoid of opposition, argument, and negativity only further inspires new thoughts, new initiatives and new programmes. It is no small feat to be known and respected by 30000 primary school students and 800 teachers from 128 such schools.

Every programme of 'Prem ni Parab' comes packed with something new and innovative and is immensely beneficial. Pujya Bhaishree, Br Vikrambhai and Br Minalben's faith in me increases my responsibility manifold. I feel truly blessed in imbibing values like sincerity, dutifulness, morality, love and oneness in my life. The satisfaction of doing a good job keeps fatigue at bay.

I have now developed enormous faith in Pujya Bhaishree's magnanimous vision, farsightedness, and the ability to appraise a person.

I have a desire to work for this Ashram for as long as I can. It is indeed my good fortune to be associated with such a beautiful and fulfilling job and I feel really proud to have been a catalyst in bringing about a positive change in the education sector.

Chandrakant Vyas

Health

Something to smile about

An introduction to the Dental Surgery

In July 2010 Raj Saubhag Ashram proudly opened a state of the art dental surgery. Previously the nearest dental surgery was in Surendranagar which, for many was an unaffordable distance to travel to.

The modern clinic is equipped to a high standard with a sophisticated dental chair, X-ray unit and autoclave. Dr Sharma is the full-time dental surgeon based here. He is often joined by many professional dentists who volunteer their time to help during the busy dental camps. Camps are being held monthly where patients are seen free of charge. Last year 4319 patients were treated at the surgery.



CASE STUDY: DENTAL CAMP

Location: Sayla, Gujarat
Date: January 2013 India

Dr Aarti Shah accompanied Dr Sharma, in a dental camp in January 2013 where 162 patients were treated.

During the camp 9 cases of oral submucous fibrosis were diagnosed in young males aged 20-25. Having a habit of chewing tobacco causes scar tissue and damage to the lining of the mouth restricting how much the mouth can be opened. One case of trigeminal neuralgia was also diagnosed.

Many of those attending had very poor dental hygiene requiring tooth extractions, extensive cleaning and counselling on good oral care.



Numbers

Sayla Dental Surgery

Opened in
2010

4319

patients
treated in the
Dental Surgery
in the past year

over **100**
teeth
extracted every
month

107
fillings in the
past year

90
X-rays taken
yearly

124
root canal
treatments

The **only** dental
surgery in Sayla

Free
Dental camps held
every month



50
Dentures
fitted every
year





Health

Seeing is believing

An introduction to KHS Eye Hospital

Since 1987 eye camps were held annually in the Ashram. In 2006 a purpose built Eye Hospital was constructed in Sayla town centre.

The Kashiben Harkisandas Sanghrajka (KHS) Eye Hospital is equipped with the latest PHACO machines and currently conducts approximately 3000 cataract operations and 200 other eye-related operations every year. This includes surgery for glaucoma, pterygium and corneal relaxing procedures. There are two full-time ophthalmic surgeons Dr Kamalbhai Shah and Dr Vidhyut supported by their team of staff.

Patients are screened in Out-patient Clinics or Eye Camps. All treatment, including surgery, lens implants,

medication and in-patient care with meals, is provided completely free of charge. Patients are welcome to give donations, and many do, even those from poor backgrounds

The hospital's dedication and hardworking ethic was displayed on 27th Aug 2012 when Dr Kamalbhai examined a record 167 new patients and 25 follow-ups in one day along with performing 11 eye operations. Over the past 8 years over 155,000 patients have been seen in the out-patient department and over 25,800 operations have been undertaken.

EYE CAMP

Location: Sayla, Gujarat, India
Date: October 2012

Ashram members and well-wishers regularly sponsor eye camps. In October 2012 in memory of Late Shri Dhirajlal Damjibhai Shah, UK mumukshus generously donated funds to help restore the sight of 85 patients requiring cataract surgery, greatly improving their quality of life.



Dr Kamal Shah

Dr Kamal Shah shares his insights about working at the Raj Saubhag Eye Hospital.

I joined this Eye Hospital at its inception. When I first visited Param Pujya Bhaishree and Raj Saubhag Ashram, I was overwhelmed by observing the unique combination of spiritual and social causes. I realised that by working here, I would be able to achieve a spiritual growth in my life through my professional work. No feeling is better than to give vision to the blind and needy people in this rural area.

We started our Eye Hospital as a small unit, but with the blessings of Pujya Bhaishree, we are giving the best of the best eye care to thousands of patients in this rural area, it is on par with any metro city, and we are still growing. Giving eyesight to the poorest of the poor people is the only passion that drives us to work harder and harder.

Dr Kamal Shah



Statistics:

25,800

eye operations completed to date

268,000 patients assessed

25111 cataract operations

400 glaucoma operations

400 other eye operations



Community Health Centre

An introduction to Sayla Community Health Centre (CHC)

In 1998 Raj Saubhag Ashram opened a general medical dispensary to provide medical advice for those who could not afford private services. Demand was high with 80 patients seen every day.

In 2008 the State Government of Gujarat requested the Ashram to take over the management of the poorly performing Sayla Community Health Centre (CHC). Services at the dispensary were closed and attention was shifted to focus on the Community Health Centre.

Sayla CHC provides services for the entire district of 75 villages and a population of over 115,000. In addition to managing this institution, the Ashram refurbishes the facilities and provides additional medical services that were not previously available. The

Government continues to contribute a part of the running costs.

The centre now provides basic emergency medical services and has expanded to include 4 medical officers, a surgeon, an obstetrician, 7 nursing sisters, 15 paramedical staff, a pharmacist, 2 lab technicians, a radiographer and 4 administrative staff.

Since the change in management the number of patients seen in outpatients has risen from 150 to 350 per day, deliveries have increased from 5 a month to over 90 a month. In the past year 65,000 patients were seen as out-patients, 2200 x-rays were taken, 845 babies were delivered and 5300 surgeries were performed.

Charges for registration and treatment are as per government regulations.



Surgery

Both minor and some major surgery is conducted including laparoscopic work. Since the Ashram took over, the number of surgeries (minor and major) has jumped up from 900 to over 5000 per year.

Paediatrics

Dr Masrani examines approximately 50-60 children daily in the outpatient department. Emergency services are provided around the clock. Sayla CHC has been classified as a 'New Born Stabilisation Centre'.

Also on-site are:

- ICT centre for detection, counselling and treatment of HIV.
- Child Development & Nutrition Centre providing nourishment and observation for malnourished babies.



Cardiac Camp

The Community Health Centre hosted a Cardiac Medical Camp on 20th April 2012

Dr Dave an eminent cardiologist from Ahmedabad and his team of five cardiologists donated their time and expertise to assess 90 patients and conduct investigations such as ECGs and 2D Echo scans. The camp was opened by Hon. Kiritsinhji Rana, Gujarat State's Minister of Environment.





CASE STUDY: MEDICAL CAMP

Multi-disciplinary Medical Camp
Location: Sayla CHC Gujarat, India
Date: 26th August 2012

Healthcare in Sayla is limited and for specialist medical services people have to travel to either Surendranagar or Rajkot at considerable cost that many can not afford.

To alleviate this problem, Raj Saubhag Ashram has started holding medical camps at the Community Health Centre. The first was held in 2010 and since then camps have become a regular event, funded by charitable sponsors. In August 2012 a major camp was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown who had generously agreed to provide medical specialists free of all costs.

Additionally, the Club members had agreed to fund the cost of all required medical operations subject to Raj Saubhag paying the first Rs 5,000 of the cost. Raj Saubhag's London members had provided funds for 60

Numbers:

Total Patients: 439

Medical specialists: 14

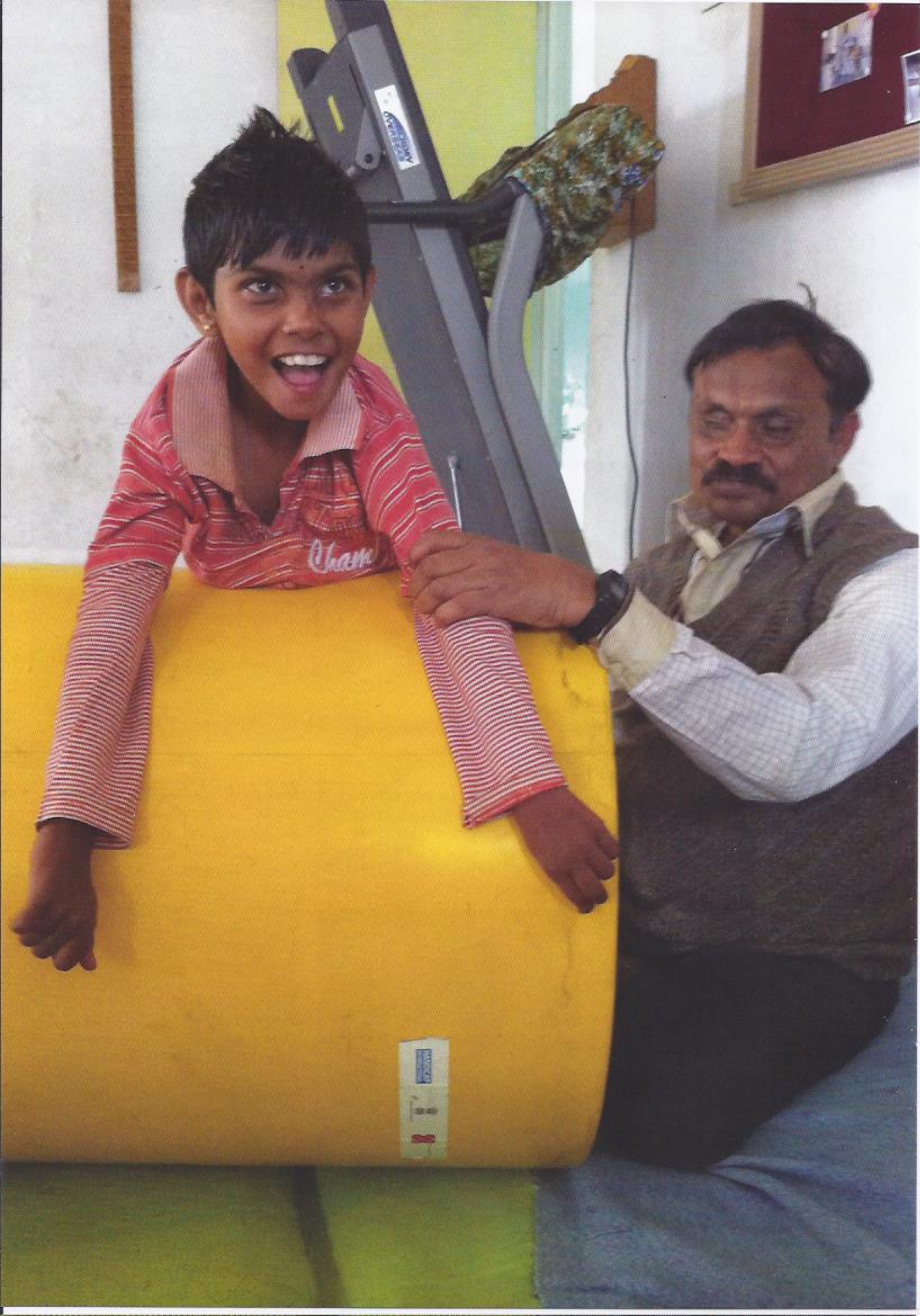


operations. The Sayla Community Health Centre provided free X-ray, lab test services and required medication.

Three ENT surgeons, three Orthopaedic surgeons, a Plastic surgeon, Dermatologist, three Gynaecologists and a Diabetic Foot Surgeon totaled 14 medical specialists that donated their time and expertise.

Altogether 439 patients (from Sayla, Muli, Vadhavan & Chuda Districts) were examined and 27 were given dates for operations in Sayla. One lady requiring immediate treatment for uterine cancer was admitted to hospital directly from the camp.

Gujarat State Minister for Environment & Forestry, Shree Kiritsinhji Rana, President of the Rotary Club Shree Ashwinbhai Kamdar and various other State and local dignitaries attended and gave their blessings.



Ashirwad

Breaking Boundaries

Rehabilitation of the differently abled

Sayla district has long suffered from the lack of support services for thousands of blind and disabled people. In 1996, through the divine inspiration of Param Pujya Bhaishree, a new institute 'Ashirwad Trust for the Disabled (ATD)' was established. Raj Saubhag Ashram partnered with Blind People's Association of Ahmedabad who brought their vast experience and technical expertise to the work.

For many years, from a very basic premise the Ashirwad Trust rehabilitated differently abled children and adults with physical and/or mental challenges living in remote villages across the Sayla district. In 2006 a purpose built 10,000 sq ft modern resource and day centre was built in Sayla. Today Ashirwad Trust has three active day centres, Ashirwad Centre (Sayla), Upasana Kendra (Vadhavan) and Kshamata Kendra (Limbdli).

Centre Based Rehabilitation

Ashirwad Trust has three rehabilitation day centres. These provide services for 223 children with various disabilities from visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech impairment, deaf and dumb, mental impairment, cerebral palsy and other multi-disabilities.

Field workers from Ashirwad Trust travel to villages to identify those with disabilities that have needs unmet and achieve holistic rehabilitation. The field workers provide initial training in the home environment on basic personal hygiene and social skills. In many cases parents have neglected these children due to financial constraints and social stigma.

After foundational training the children and parents are brought to one of the centres for a medical and developmental assessment. A personal plan is developed for their multi-disciplinary rehabilitation programme, including medical intervention, psychology and psychiatric therapy, physiotherapy, education and access to social services and state entitlements.

There is multi-disciplinary involvement from professional teachers, physiotherapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, orthopaedic and ENT specialists. The Ashirwad Centre in Sayla is equipped with technology such as brailers, tactile maps, mobility aids, play materials and specialist dark rooms.

AT THE HEART OF ASHIRWAD TRUST LIES A BELIEF IN INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION. PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES DESERVE LOVE, DIGNITY AND CHOICES.

Community based Rehabilitation

Many people are unable to travel or attend a day care centre. There are numerous reasons, such as severe and multiple disabilities, homes in remote areas, family obligations and severe poverty. Funding from Gujarat Government and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment allows Ashirwad Trust to provide rehabilitation services for over 2200 disabled people across Surendranagar county at their own doorsteps.

Physiotherapy

The Ashirwad Centre provides a physiotherapy service free of charge to the local community. Many visitors are impressed and inspired by the fact that the qualified physiotherapists here are blind. The physiotherapists provide assessment, advice and treatment for those with disability. In addition patients are referred from the Com-

Mission Statement

With God's blessings, our mission is to rehabilitate people with disabilities; to reach and to serve them through love and dedication with the ultimate goal of enabling independence.



munity Health Centre for physiotherapy following accidents, injuries or after surgery. Last year a total of 1047 individuals utilized this excellent service.

Training Centre for field workers

The Ashirwad Trust is a recognised agency for conducting training for disability field workers and is a human resource training centre. People from Indian disability-related institutions regularly attend training days and field visits held by Ashirwad. Nurses and paramedics in training are sent from colleges in Rajkot and Surendranagar to observe Ashirwad staff and learn how to communicate with and manage those with mental and physical disability.

Social Awareness Programme

To build awareness of disability issues the Ashirwad Trust conducts workshops and presentations to inform and connect with society. Midwives, panchayat officers, police, judges and magistrates are trained to ensure early recognition and fair treatment of those with disabilities.

Mental Illness Project

Until recently mental illness in the region would mostly go undiagnosed and untreated. In response a new service has been introduced by the Ashirwad Trust, 'The Mental Illness Project'. During four recent screening camps, 324 cases were registered. As a result of this project a psychiatrist visits Surendranagar and Limbdi Civil Hospitals each month to help diagnose mental illnesses. This service was initiated by Ashirwad alongside a public awareness campaign.

Ashirwad

World-class Sensory Park opened

In December 2011 a Children's Sensory, Mobility and Amusement park was opened at the Ashirwad Centre, Sayla. The park was created with equipment, colours, materials and textures specifically designed for fun, safety, education and development. An experience to stimulate their minds and senses and to enhance functionality of their limbs.

It was thanks to the support and specialist input of members of the Lions Club of Tardev Mumbai that such a contemporary rehabilitation centre was conceived. Their active alliance was instrumental. Their continuing commitment has facilitated four medical and physiotherapy camps in Sayla.

'I have never heard of a Sensory Park in a village! In all of India, Sayla is the only village with a Sensory Park. Ashirwad Trust, managed by Raj Saubhag Ashram has truly set an example for all organisations in India. No one could ever imagine that a place as small as Sayla is home to such a well designed, well maintained and well managed organisation. It's a wonder. Full credit for this achievement goes to Param Pujya Bhaishree and his entire team. The organisation has made an inspiring mark on the world map.'

Mr Bhushan Punani,
Exec Director
Blind People's Association of India



CASE STUDY: Mahesh

Zest for Life

Mahesh brims with enthusiasm and is full of zeal to live his life to the fullest. This is his story.

Mahesh was born to a poor family 12 years ago in Vadia Village of Sayla District. Just three months after his birth he suffered from prolonged seizures, resulting in damaged brain function and intellectual impairment.

When project staff first identified him he was still suffering from severe, regular epileptic seizures. Due to his brain impairment he could not speak properly, had difficulty with his vision, was unable to walk confidently and was dependant on others for personal care. At home his parents were unaware of state entitlements for his condition, and struggled to provide for him. He was socially undermined. His surrounding community did not understand his impairment and excluded him and laughed at him. He lost his confidence and did not attend school.

He was selected for the Ashirwad rehabilitation program following a comprehensive assessment of his medical, social, and educational requirements. He was medically reviewed and his seizures were brought under control through medication. A multi-disciplinary team consisting of special educators, a physiotherapist, an ophthalmologist and a psychologist developed a comprehensive program for him. His parents were counselled and trained in Sayla.

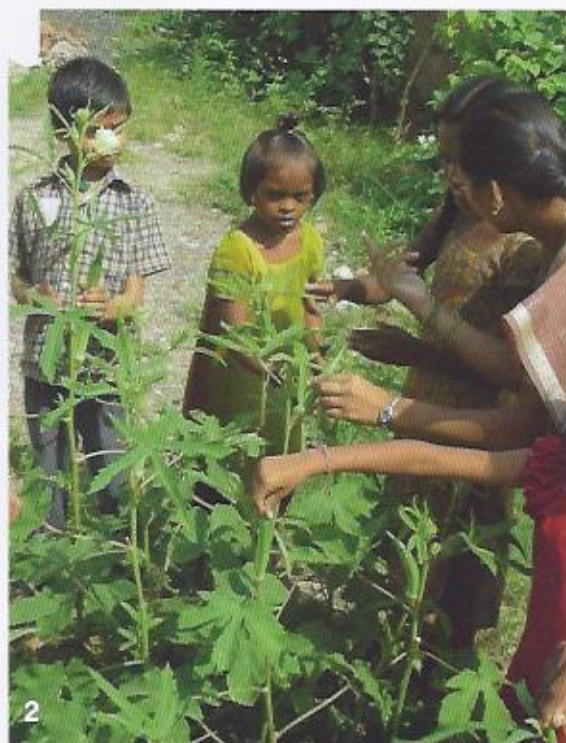


Mahesh was admitted to the local village school as Ashirwad believes in promoting social inclusion. He was the first child with a disability to be admitted in the school and both his

teacher and Principal were called to Sayla for a 2-day training program on inclusive practices. Both Mahesh and his school continue to be supported by the Ashirwad Trust.

Mahesh attends the Ashirwad Centre in Sayla regularly. Thanks to the hard work of his team, his teachers and his parents, Mahesh can now talk and participates well in class. He understands basic commands and also utilises his vision meaningfully. He goes to school every day. He has also been helped to get various entitlements from the State including a disability certificate, an identity card, a scholarship from the government, an educational kit from Sarva Shiksha Abhivan and enrolment under the Niramaya scheme.

When he was first identified his father used to carry him as he was not confident to walk independently. Now Mahesh goes to school on his own, walks independently, sits with his 50 classmates in total inclusion and is valued by his family and by society. He has been shown love and respect and he smiles, laughs and interacts with confidence. He inspires us with his energy and zest for life.



In pictures

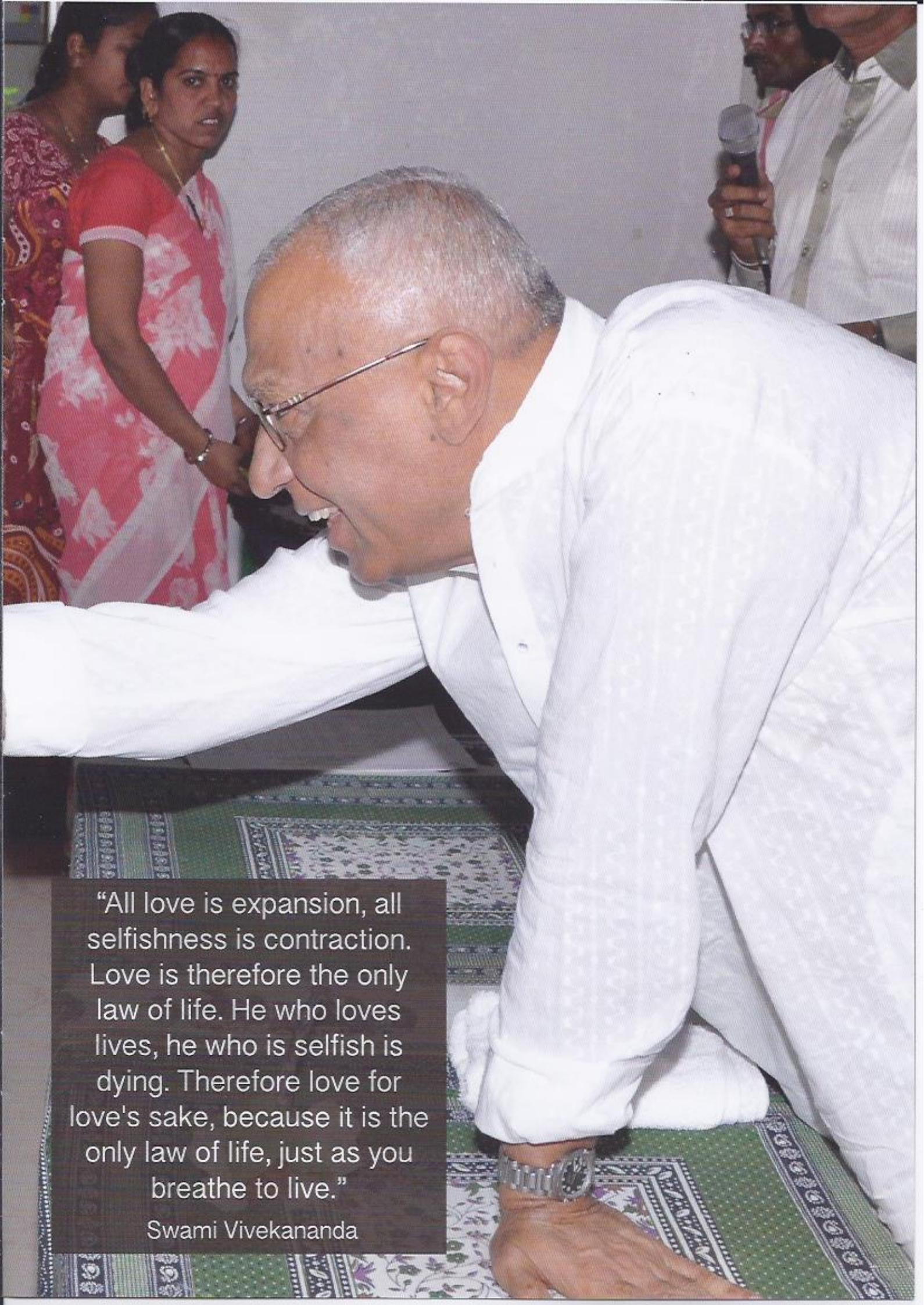
Snapshots Ashirwad

1. Bhaishree & Dr Saroj Sanghavi of Lions club Tardev Mumbai at the Ashirwad sensory park.
2. Children learning about okra in the Ashirwad vegetable garden
3. Partially sighted villager trained in making rope to earn a living
4. Bhaishree shaking hands with a recipient of an artificial hand
5. Physiotherapy camp sponsored by Lions Club South Mumbai
6. Ashirwad sensory park





Photo: Bhaishree
thanking Ashirwad
student for his welcome



"All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore love for love's sake, because it is the only law of life, just as you breathe to live."

Swami Vivekananda

Ashirwad

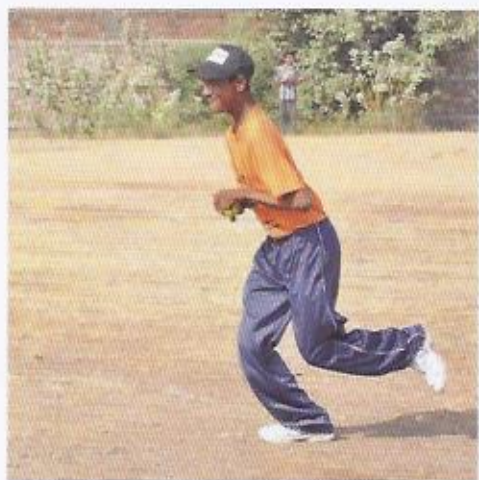
Children from Ashirwad Centre excel at sports

At the Ashirwad Centre children are taught that they each have individual talents with which they can shine. Gaining self-confidence from their teachers' enthusiasm and training, many children with various physical and mental disabilities have become active in competitive sports.

In December 2011, 26 children from Ashirwad Centre were selected to compete in the Gujarat State Sports Festival. Out of these 16 children competed at the State Level and 4 of these came home with medals in Running, Fast Walking and Ball Throwing.

In January 2013, Ashirwad Centre hosted its second Cricket league match. The match was between the Surendranagar Sherdills and Ahmedabad Aggressors. Vipul, a student of the Ashirwad Centre, was one of the players. Each cricket team included a mix of abled and disabled students.

These cricket matches are part a new kind of IPL - "Inclusive Premier League" - which is an awareness-raising campaign being led by the National



Trust. It aims to support the cultural and social integration of people with disabilities.



Vocational skills for earning income

Training in crafts and vocations is provided to deaf, blind or otherwise disabled adults to empower them and aid economic self-sufficiency. They are given workshops in trades such as tailoring, bead work, beauty care, henna art (mehndi), cooking, knitting, jute work, mobile phone repairing, repair of diesel engines and scooters. Traders are often donated market carts and craftsmen their sewing machines to help them get started in business.

Children go on Jatra

The children from Ashirwad Centre who had never travelled further than a few kilometres out of Sayla were given the opportunity to travel to Dwarka for 2 days. To travel in a luxury bus, visit magnificent temples, fun fairs and go to the sea side was beyond these children's wildest dreams.

A wonderful generously gift by Pankajbhai and Nipaben Shah.

CASE STUDY: Dharmesh

The Community Leader

Twenty seven year old Dharmesh Ravjibhai has impaired mobility due to contracting polio at a young age. Dharmesh lives in Barejadi Village. He used to walk, mobilising with the aid of a rough stick. He was very intelligent but did not know how to use his skills, so he used to hang about idle at pan shops for most of the day and was criticised by his family for not earning money.

When a field worker identified him Dharmesh felt he did not need any help. He was urged by the field worker to change his walking stick to prevent spinal deformity in the future.

Dharmesh agreed to this. He was also helped to get a Disability Certificate. After being given a pair of crutches he was suddenly able to stand tall. He now wanted to earn a living and was enrolled into a mobile phone repairing class, which he completed and was given a mobile phone repairing kit. He was helped into employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

Dharmesh felt so empowered by the process and the NREGA scheme that he became an advocate and helped many others to benefit from employment. He also helped many people to get housing under Indira Awas Yojana. His respect in society rose and he was recently elected to represent his village as a panchayat member. He is also the 'Person with Disability' (PWD)

leader of his village and helps others with disability in getting entitlements from various government schemes. He brought some of his villagers to the Bareja Eye Hospital for free cataract and keratoplasty surgery under the Retina foundation.

Not only has Dharmesh become independent, taking care of his personal and family needs, but he is now also an advocate for others and a pillar of support in his community.



Ashirwad

Shree Rambhai Jadav

Shree Rambhai Jadav shares his insights and inspiration as programme director for the Ashirwad Trust.



Whilst working with the Blind People's Association of Ahmedabad, I was blessed to have met Param Pujya Bapuji in 1996. It gave me such pleasure to host a disability camp where he donated tricycles to those with disability with his own hands.

After a further 2 years I met Param Pujya Bhaishree when we hosted a mobility camp in the Ashram grounds. From this point I realised that with Pujya Bhaishree's blessings we would be able to give those with disabilities the respected place in society that they deserved. We started a small day care centre within the Ashram through the generous donations of Arunbhai Doshi. Pujya

શ્રી રાજસૌભાગ સત્સંગ મંડળ સાયલા

સંચાલિત

આશીર્વાદ વિકલાંગ કેન્દ્ર સાયલા

અમદાવાદ અંધજન મંડળ દ્વારા સાયલા તાલુકામાં પુનઃવર્સન કાર્યક્રમ ચાલતો હતો તે દરમિયાન ઈ.સ. ૧૯૯૬ માં પરમ કૃપાળુ પુજ્ય બાપુજી ના દર્શન કરવાનો લ્હાવો મળ્યો. અને તેમના હસ્તે વિકલાંગો ને ટ્રાયસિકલ વિતરણ કરવાનો અનેરો આનંદ મળ્યો.

ત્યાર બાદ લગભગ બે વર્ષ પછી પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી ના દર્શન કરવા હું આશ્રમમાં આવ્યો અને પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી ના હસ્તે વિકલાંગોને સાધન વિતરણ કરવાનો મને મોકો મળ્યો. અને ત્યારથીજ મનમાં એવી ભાવના હતી કે પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી ના આશીર્વાદ થી વિકલાંગોને સમાજમાં માનભરે સ્થાન મળે અને એ અવસર મને મળ્યો. અને આશ્રમના પ્રાંગણમાંજ નાનું એવું સેન્ટર અરૂણભાઈ દોશીના ઘરમાં આશીર્વાદ કે કેર સેન્ટર બે બાળકોથી શરૂ કર્યું. અને વિકલાંગ બાળકોના દરેક ઉત્સવમાં પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી અને ગુરુમૈયા પધારતા અને અમને હુંફ અને આશીર્વાદ મળતા રહ્યા. અને પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી દરેક વખતે કહેતા કે આ સેન્ટર ખુબ જ મોટું થશે અને વિકલાંગ બાળકો હસતા, રમતા અને કુદતા થશે અને એવું જ બન્યું. આશીર્વાદ સેન્ટરની સાથે સાથે બીજા બે કેન્દ્રો ક્ષમતા અને ઉપાસના કેન્દ્રો બન્યા. અને આમ આશીર્વાદ નું વટવુક્ષ મોટું થતું ગયું. અને શ્રી વિક્રમભાઈ, શ્રી મિનળબેન, શ્રી અરૂણભાઈ, શ્રી જયસુખભાઈ અને મુમુક્ષો ના આશીર્વાદ મળતા રહ્યા. અને પરમ પુજ્યભાઈશ્રી ની નિશ્રામાં ચાલતા આધ્યાત્મિક કાર્યક્રમોનું આ એક કાર્ય બની રહ્યું. અને આજે ભારત નહીં વિદેશ સુધી પણ આ સેવા કાર્યની સુવાસ ફેલાવા લાગી છે.

મને પરમ પુજ્ય ભાઈશ્રી દ્વારા એવું આત્મબળ મળ્યું છે કે હું છેવાડાના માનવી (વિકલાંગો) સુધી પહોંચીને અંદાજે ૫૦,૦૦૦ ઉપરના વિકલાંગોને વૈદકીય, શૈક્ષણિક, સામાજિક અને આર્થિક પુનઃવર્સન સાધનો કે તાલીમ આપી ને સમાજ માં માનભરે જીવવાની કેડી કંડારી છે. સાથે સાથે જ ગુજરાત અને ગુજરાત બહારના લગભગ ૫,૦૦૦ કાર્યકરો આશીર્વાદ વિકલાંગ કેન્દ્ર દ્વારા તૈયાર કર્યા છે. અને આજે તે ભારતભરમાં કામ કરી રહ્યા છે.

Bhaishree and Pujya Gurumaiyaa would be present for every celebration and event, and with their energy and blessings the centre grew.

Pujya Bhaishree envisioned that the centre would one day become a large beacon organisation where children with disabilities would laugh, play and jump for joy, and this is exactly what has happened. Not only have we developed a large day centre in Sayla town, but 2 further centres have been developed in Vadnavan and Limbdi. With the support of the Brahmists and Ashram Mumukshus the work carried out by Ashirwad Trust has been recognised throughout India

and beyond.

Pujya Bhaishree has inspired such inner strength in me that through our work we have been able to reach over 50,000 disabled children and adults. We have been able to provide them with medical, educational, social and financial support to help them become self-sufficient and give them a respected standing in society. Alongside this we have trained over 5000 workers from Gujarat and beyond who now work throughout India to help meet the needs of those that live with disabilities and empower them to utilise their unique abilities.

Rambhai Jadav



Mobility camps

Getting you back on your feet

Ashirwad

Getting you back on your feet

Mobility camps have been conducted throughout Gujarat by the Ashirwad Trust. Where a need is identified the population in the local vicinity to the camp is screened and a functional assessment is made in the home environment of individuals requiring mobility assistance. Equipment such as wheelchairs, tricycles, callipers, artificial limbs, CT chairs, crutches, hearing aids and educational kits are subsequently distributed in the mobility camps.

Over **10,000**
mobility aids
distributed by
Ashirwad Trust

CASE STUDY: VANSDA CAMP

Ashirwad Mobility Camp
Location: Vandsa, Gujarat, India
Date 21st – 23rd Jan 2013

Vandsa, a small town near Valsad, Gujarat, was identified as having villagers requiring mobility assistance aids.

Screening sessions had been held in 3 village locations near Vandsa a month prior to the camp. The communities had been informed through leaflet distribution and newspaper articles about the camp and screening sessions. A total of 934 recipients were identified and registered to attend the mobility camp over 3 days in January 2013.

On the day of the camp a ceremony was conducted to welcome all

recipients, to thank all donors and staff, to remember the values of charity and to give blessings for the occasion.

At the camp, recipients were welcomed at the registration desk and then directed to the allocated areas for different mobility services according to their assessments. They submitted their papers and were given their mobility appliance with training on how to use it.

Those requiring arm or leg prosthetic limbs had measurements and impressions of their limb stump taken at initial screening so that a custom made cast could be prepared in advance. This was then fitted and adjusted on the day.

All recipients were provided a sumptuous lunch. If they had travelled long distances, transport was provided to help them get their tricycle or wheelchair back home.

Numbers:

Total Recipients: 934

Tricycles: 144
Wheelchairs: 97
Cerebral Palsy chairs: 10
Calipers: 66
Artificial limbs: 62
Other: 555



Param Pujya Bhaishree's empowering message

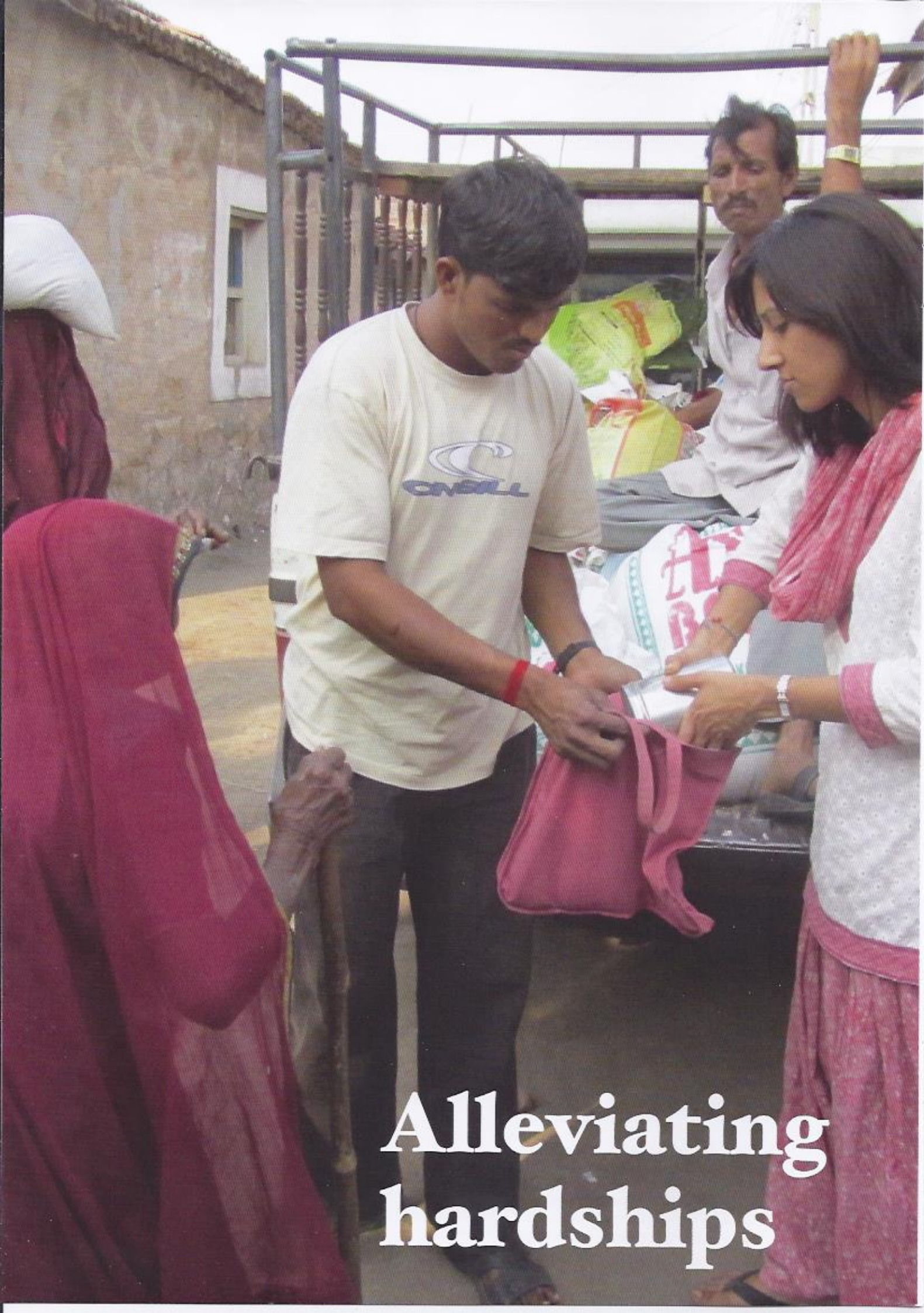
At the camp's opening blessing ceremony Bhaishree highlighted the benefits of compassion in one's heart. He explained that we are all differently abled. We see the physical constraints in the people around us, but are blind to our own mental disabilities, our lack of open mindedness, will power and strength of conviction. We often fail to endure such small obstacles in life where those with physical disabilities suffer a great extent yet have the ability to smile and show love.

By giving these people help to manage their physical constraints we allow them to discover their vast potential, to explore their abilities and become self-sufficient in life. They gain the chance to get up and run.

We too should be inspired to free ourselves from our bindings, discover our inner strengths and abilities and move forward towards our goals in life.

He spoke directly to the beneficiaries empowering them by telling them there was nothing they couldn't achieve if they put their mind to it. **The biggest obstacle holding us back is ourselves.**





**Alleviating
hardships**

Alleviating hardships

Food distribution

For over 20 years Raj Saubhag Ashram members have been distributing grain to individuals and families that are struggling to make ends meet. Currently every month 4 tonnes of grain are distributed to 258 families spread over 39 villages in Sayla district.

Needs assessment is an ongoing and in-depth process that involves the input of the recipients, their community, a third party verifier and the project managers. Families are often identified due to physical or mental incapacity, widows with dependants or other extenuating circumstances. The level of support is regularly updated to reflect changing circumstances.

Ashram members deliver the grains themselves to keep costs low. Fruit, biscuits and clothes are also distributed according to the season.

4 tonnes
distributed
every month



Emergency relief

Following the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat, the Ashram raised over Rs 4 million from its members and provided 35 tonnes of food, medicines and over 600 tonnes of cement for reconstruction of over 1,300 homes to the victims in and around Sayla.

The Ashram adopted 1500 individuals of a remote village called Ninama which was completely destroyed. The village was rebuilt nearby with 335 new homes, a school and a temple. It was renamed Ladakhpur. Fifty percent of funding came from the UK Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund and the Times of India Foundation, the rest from the Gujarat Government.



Buttermilk centres

Every summer Raj Saubhag Ashram distributes buttermilk to provide relief to villagers in the scorching heat. 11 free Buttermilk Distribution Centers are set up in 10 villages of Sayla district. Last summer villages in the district were only getting drinking water delivery every 10 days. Buttermilk made from 4 tonnes of milk powder was distributed providing a cooling and nutritional refreshment at this time.



Environmental restoration

Raj Saubhag Ashram has created its own rainwater harvesting facilities to provide members with clean drinking water. This successful experience has been utilised to support many other similar social projects nearby. The Ashram has also funded check dams, ponds and wells around Sayla and Kutch. The transformation brought to the lives of farmers and villagers has been dramatic, encouraging Ashram members to support further water projects every year.



Join hands with us

Join hands with us

Be an agent for transformation

In our routine and comfortable daily lives it can be easy to forget the plight and misery of others. When we are acquainted with those less fortunate we can regain some perspective. In our service to others, we not only facilitate transformation of their lives, we also transform ourselves. Compassion for the self and others, combined with detachment, will enable us to live in this world in a way that creates inner peace and harmony with those around us.



LMV Girls High School LMV College

Sponsor a girl's education for 1 year

High school: Rs 5000 / £60 / \$100

College: Rs 6000 / £75 / \$125

General donation. For large donations over Rs 35,000 / £450 / \$720 we would like to honour your generosity with a permanent inscription at the school donor panel.

Prem ni Parab

A Donation of Rs 1,800 / £25 / \$35 will support the cost of one pupil in the project for 3 years.

Vocational Training Centre

Sponsor a new sewing machine for Rs 7,000 / £100 / \$150

Buttermilk distribution

Contribute towards the cost of distributing buttermilk during the hot summer months.

Ashirwad Trust

Make a donation towards running costs. For large donations over Rs21,000 / £260 / \$420 we would like to honour your generosity with a permanent inscription at the school.

Mobility camp

Sponsoring a Mobility camp can enhance the quality of lives of so many. Costs vary depending on size and location of camp - please enquire for further information.

Food grain distribution

Sponsor or contribute towards one month's food grain distribution to the needy: Rs 80,000 / £975 / \$1600.

Donate second hand clothes for distribution.

Water harvesting

Sponsor a well and give the gift of cleaner water. Costs from Rs 20,000 / £250 / \$400.

Sight restoration

Sponsor a number of cataract operations costing Rs 1,600 / £20 / \$32 each, which includes the implantation of a high quality lens.

Dental Surgery

Contribute to the daily running costs of the Dental surgery by making a donation.

Sponsor a one day Dental camp for Rs 15,000 / £200 / \$300, giving free assessments and interventions to all recipients.

Community Health Centre

Contribute to the daily running costs of the centre by making a donation.

Sponsor a multi-disciplinary Medical camp involving screening and diagnosing various illnesses. Where possible surgery is completed at the Health Centre, others are referred to tertiary centres in Surendranagar & Rajkot. Arrangements costs vary.

Donate now



JustTextGiving

by Vodafone

Donate in the UK:

UK Registered charity No: 1112669

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/>
search for 'Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal'

Or Text (sms) 'RAJS01 10' to 70070 to make an instant £10 donation



Donate in USA via Google wallet.

All donations are

tax deductible (See website).

USA Registered Charity

Tax ID No 202799776