

## **Past projects**

- **7 Homes in Orissa (Helped through National Youth Project)**

We visited the people who lost their homes during great Cyclone of 1999 Orissa, India. We selected seven families who were landless laborers and were still living in broken homes. We inspected these homes and showed them techniques, how they can repair their homes by reusing the old material plus some new bamboos etc. that was locally available, with their own labor. Our family and friends donated money for this project.
- **31 Latrines in West Bengal (Helped through SGKB)**

We visited Daspur where Sarbik Gramin Bikas Kendra (SGBK) is located. We were impressed with the quality, dedication and economics they applied to solve the latrines problems in rural West Bengal. We decided to help some of the families who could not afford even the low cost. Gaurav, Tara Rohatgi, donated money for this.
- **Cattle research Center in Orissa (Helped through Abhiyan)**

While we were visiting Orissa during 1999, we were asked to lay the foundation stone of the new Cattle Research Center, to be run by Abhiyan in Jagatsing District. A thought came into the mind why not give money to buy at least two cows worth of money to boost their efforts.
- **Bakery in Orissa village (Helped through Hope)**

During the same trip in 1999, we were seeing the projects where Hope was working. And suddenly they asked us to lay the foundation stone for a bakery to be run by very poor families who want to make money with some alternative income. We agreed thinking that we would be part of a new beginning and later decided to send some money for them as a token of our share in their progress.
- **Nai Azadi Andolan in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat.**

Donors of USA wanted to know from Independent source whether the money they have donated is being used properly. We offered our services and time to go and inspect the projects, where the International Services Society of Okemos MI is providing the Funds. In this respect we visited scores of projects in above-mentioned four States. We submitted our report to ISS and we were glad to share with everybody that we were impressed with the dedication and the amount of selfless work done by these NGO's. Some times we donated our own money with out being asked, to encourage good effort and enthusiasm of youth, like youth drama Club, school library and crafts etc.
- **Development by Design 2002 (DYD02)**

This Development by Design conference we attended with some 300+ delegates from all over the world, held at 'Infosys' facility in Bangalore Karnataka India. Where we presented one paper on Water and learnt many things. We saw the use of Computers in Indian context, which made our dreams come true. First time in life we came to know that entire land record of Karnataka is on Computer now and any body can check his or her record by just paying Rs.14 from a kiosk, which are operated by unemployed youths who can earn a decent living through this work. Also the reduction in litigation will result through this. Within one year, Karnataka Government recovers half of its entire investment on project. This is the best investment we have seen in recent years made by a Government Organization in India.

## Current Projects.

- **Panchayat in Tamil Nadu**

Visited the panchayat working at Kutumbakkam near Chennai with the help of Elango Rangaswami. He is president of this village panchayat. He wanted to start a Panchayat Academy to teach, self-sufficiency and self-reliance to revive the village economy, to the fellow Panchayat leaders in the State of Tamil Nadu at Kutumbakkam. He needed help in raising the money to buy land from a bank that owns the land. We successfully appealed to raise necessary money in USA and donated initial capital our selves within a month.

- **Flood Relief in Orissa with help of “HOPE”**

A request for urgent requirement of money to help the victims of flood 2003 came from Hope. We responded by sending some money through the generosity of our dear mother Smt. Kailash Rohatgi.

- **Sharing Knowledge through our Hindi, English articles.**

Time to time we have been documenting our life experiences of travel to some 320 villages in 18 states of India in articles which have amounted to 40 in Hindi and about 80 in English. They consist of problems prevailing in the country, society and administrative system. We share with our fellow countrymen the unique solutions that came to our mind and hope to hear from them any thing they can come up with in terms of ideas, contact, enterprise etc. Some of our articles are translated in Nepali and Bengali.

### **Sursardham with help of Manav Kalyan Trust (MKT) in Gujarat**

This is a village we adopted in 2001 to support for a period of five years to make them self sufficient and self-reliant. Also up to date in using the solar energy and wind energy. It consists of 114 homes, which are already constructed. A community hall, which can be used as shelter in case of another earthquake by whole village, is near completion now. See our detailed report included in our articles.

- **Helped Libraries in Hapur, Jamnagar, Sursardham, Mumbai**

We felt that libraries are going to play a very important part in development process of rural India. Hence opening or advancing of libraries should be encouraged where youth and aspirants of all ages can tap in for knowledge and information. We saw some good results of these libraries in the villages supported by Deendayal Research Institute as well, so we gave donation of good books to a Jamnagar Pranami school, a school in Mumbai area where our Sister-in law is Principal and gave donation for library at Hapur girls senior school and decided to built a Library at Sursardham.

- **MKT / Seva Bharati / IDRF USA**

India Development and Relief Fund asked us to visit (IDRF) supported projects in Gujarat during our recent trip to India in 2003. We saw as many as 16 such projects including schools, hostel, hospitals, and orphanage for the benefit of earthquake-affected people in Kutch Gujarat. While at MKT's Lakadia center for Sursardham project with Lallu Bhai, we saw lot of their work in other area as well, like water retaining structure, self help groups children's camp, health awareness program for young women, cottage and small village industry for

income generation and other housing projects, We were very much impressed with the dedication of Seva Bharati workers and quality of their work in the price much below existing market price. The main thing we discovered that IDRF/MKT/ Seva Bharati serve people from all walks of life and religion, irrespective of their political affiliation.

- **Deendayal Research Institute Chitrakoot (DRI) UP & MP**

During our last trip to India in 2003 we had good fortune of meeting and spending four very productive and informative days with Nanaji Deshmukh at Chitrakoot and visited different projects of research institute. It is located at the border of MP/UP hence DRI rightly serves both states. There we not only met lot of high Government officials at the conference but also came to know about Government's grand design for future of Ayurveda in India. We came to know about Samaj Shilpi Dampatti (Social Sculptor couple) a new concept in village development, which is explained in our articles. These graduate couples live in a village as villagers do for at least 5 years on a very meager stipend per month. They play the role of a mentor, motivate and guide them also come up with the solutions to the villagers' problems working with them. It is amazing what difference a well meaning educated person can make in these villages.

- **Jamnagar –Medical Center for Z. Rangoonwala Service Trust**

We visited the Rangoonwala Trust Medical center and were impressed with their dedication for general population. Who so ever needs it's services gets it for a fraction of the price for medical services available elsewhere. They also provide them Government entitlement they qualify for without any service charge and act as facilitator.

We recommended this organization for more fund from IDRF for their future new expended medical facility. Here in Jamnagar we found lot of Hindu and Muslim interaction on a positive note, which is not nobility but a norm, unfortunately not for our print Media in Gujarat, as they don't pay any attention to the positive things any way.

- **Narain Sarover – A swami in action, making a difference in Gujarat**

We know swami Narain Giri ji since he visited USA many years ago. He is Mahant of Shri Koteswar temple in Kutch Gujarat. He is not only running a day school for Sanskrit students at his ashram, very near to Pakistan border but also improving the lives of thousands of people in surrounding area by his unique approach to solving their problems. We try to meet him whenever we go to Gujarat and offer help whatever little we can for his armada of 2000 cows. This area is starved for usable water but with his unique approach and hard work Swami ji manage to produce enough fodder for his cows in 100+ acre donated land.

- **Social work in USA**

AFOTH - We formed an organization Active Friends of The Homeless with the help of other like-minded people in Detroit Metro area, 17 years ago to provide help to the homeless people. So far we have been able to stop more than 800 people from becoming homeless. We raise funds for this by doing Garage sale in summer, selling donated used books at town fair, participating as volunteers in department stores' charity day sale programs and of course by private and corporate donations.

We also visited a prisoner as volunteers for prison out reach program through Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment. We realize there is a need for less fortunate in our community who get on wrong side of the law and are repenting and tormenting their soul in prison. We need to give them spiritual strength and religious support at this crucial time in their life.

- **Jal Biradari India**

It is an organization Headed by Magsesse award winner Rajendra singh ji of Tarun Bharat Sangh, Alwar, and Rajasthan. Its purpose is to teach proper use of water in villages of India and also create awareness about their rights and responsibilities towards this very important natural resource. We attended their meetings in New Delhi 2001 and Juna Koba 2002 in Gujarat. Umesh is chosen as their technical resource person.

- **Helping student in hostel from other states, in Hapur, UP, India.**

We visited Brhmadevi Sarasvati School in Hapur and were delighted to see the all-round best quality of education young girls are getting in least amount of money. It is run mostly on donation and no seeker of knowledge is turned away for inability to pay the fees. With the help of our son Gaurav and his wife Tara we are sponsoring two girls from Mizoram with their hostel expense.

- **Janmadhyam in New Delhi – Helping physically challenged women.**

We visited Janmadhyam and saw the hard work of its wonderful workers in villages near Delhi. They go to the villages to find mentally and physically challenged female children, convince and help their parents to treat them with dignity. They train these kids some money generating simple craft like paper bags, earthen lamps etc. and after selling these items the money is given back to them thus helping them become productive member of their family as well as society. We dispersed first proceed from the trust set up in memory of our beloved father Ram Babooji who passed away in 2001 in India. Jan Madhyam is in need of a van to transport children to and from home and we are trying to raise funds for the same.

- **Computers for Rural schools in U.P./M.P.**

With the help of People To Support People Foundation (PTSPF) of Michigan sent 252 old used computers donated by various groups and individuals. These computers will be used in schools around Chitrakoot managed by DRI and in Hapur managed by SVSS respectively. Computers had reached India in September of 2005. Permissions for imports had been taken by GOI and for export from USA by federal government.

- **Trade Schools for Rural youth in Orissa and West Bengal.**

With the help of IDRF and a donor from MA we could funded three such schools two in Orissa, one in West Bengal. In these schools training will be given to unemployable youth for various trades and so they can be become self-employed or can get an earning job and become contributor to national economy. These projects are just got started in 2005.

- **Capacity building of various Indian groups to eliminate Corruption**

Monetary and Moral support and motivating with various article specially written to achieve unity between fractional Indian Public for common social causes. Result Power rate hike was reversed by Delhi Government because of resistance from various RWA resident welfare Associations of New Delhi. (NNFI). Organization is National Network For India.

## **Future Projects**

- Income generation projects in 539 villages of with Self Help Groups Thirallur, Tamil Nadu, in India.
- Income Generation in west Bengal India.
- Income generation for Sursardham youths and others in Gujarat India.
- Medical facilities in Sursardham Gujarat India
- Rural youth training programs in Orissa, West Bengal.
- Wind Mill at Sursardham Kutch Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

If you want to send tax- deductible donation in Dollars for any project in India, please send to IDRF, 41 Chiswick Ct., Bloomington, IL 61704 USA. In Rupees, to: MKT new police lines, Kherbrahma, Dist. Sabarknatha, Gujarat, India. - Thanks URR