



Everything under one roof...classes, sleeping and eating

Enrichment of Ashramshalas: Plans are underway for Impact India to assist the State Government's Tribal Development Department to upgrade Ashramshalas in the Community Health Initiative (CHI) in rural Thane District, Maharashtra. In recent months the Integrated Tribal Development Project, (ITDP) Dahanu, has supported Kitchen Gardens in Ashramshalas initiated by Impact India to grow fruits and vegetables to supplement students' meals.

All Ashramshalas provide education to tribal children in a residential setting within their village surroundings, without uprooting them from their culture. However, these schools lack proper infrastructure and amenities, and improvements planned by Impact India include well-equipped science laboratories and libraries, clean drinking water, health facilities, sanitation, playgrounds, improved nutrition and solar/wind energy - all of this to enhance the quality of life of the tribal

students so that their full potential is developed.



Dilip Trimbak Khade (above) of Mendwan Ashramshala expects 90% marks in the Class X Government examination. He has excelled in Athletics as a State champion and wants to be an engineer.

A recent article in a local newspaper "Loksatta" reports on the condition of the Ashramshalas "No drinking water, no toilets, no bathrooms, no spare uniforms, no notebooks, no stationery. What we find are insects in the food grains, fungus in the pulses, insufficient meals,

inadequate classrooms, insufficient residential facilities. Many students of different classes were crowded together in one classroom...The rooms were stacked with students' tin trunks and mattresses - most of them were wet because of the rains. There was no place to sit or to sleep. The mattresses were torn and the

stuffing was full of iron filings and stones. No text books were distributed to the students...Schedules for diet for the children were displayed on boards in every room, but not even half the quantity of food was given to the students...As there was no water for drinking or bathing, students had to go to the nearest rivulets."



Embur Ashramshala in a dilapidated condition



Mendwan Ashramshala with leaking and rusted tin roofs

Curative services in the CHI have accelerated with regular Health camps being held for the screening of patients with sight, hearing, orthopaedic and cleft problems. The three Lifeline Express (LLE) Mobile Clinics (Diagnostic Vans) donated by Mattel Children's Foundation, Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd., Impact Foundation U.K and the Rotary Club of Bournemouth North U.K., travel to far-off padas (hamlets) in rural locations to examine patients with vision and hearing disabilities and have tested approximately 23,000 persons, mainly children.



Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Maharashtra Krishnaji Ghoda distributing spectacles to the beneficiaries



Vision testing on the LLE Mobile Clinic

Thanks to the support provided by the Rotary Clubs of Mumbai Borivali East and of Stevenage Grange U.K., 98 Cataract surgeries have been conducted so far at the Jeevan Jyot Palghar Medical & Research Charitable Trust, Palghar.

Impact is grateful for the help extended by the Bhojraj Eye Hospital, Silvassa, in the organization of eye screening camps, investigations, transport and surgeries, all free of cost, to 415 patients. A total of 2000 eye surgeries have been conducted free of cost at referral centres including Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre, Talwada and Tuls Eye

Hospital, Nasik. Private donors and the ITDP have sponsored hearing aids and spectacles for needy persons. In the past few months about 250 Cleft Lip & Palate surgeries of patients in the CHI have been performed on Impact India's Lifeline Express train, Shushrusha Citizens Co-op Hospital, Mumbai and Godrej Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. School bags donated by The Smile Train were distributed to the beneficiaries.

Prevention activities: "For a Better Tomorrow" a twelve-minute film focuses on the social factors responsible for malnutrition. Made by Impact India in Marathi (the local language) the film is a part of Impact India's "Communication of Health Messages through Traditional Folk Art" programme in the CHI sponsored by Art Venture, Singapore. Regular screenings of the film in the malnutrition-prone areas have created a demand by the Government block-level health workers

for its widespread use.

Health Awareness sessions continue to be conducted for adolescent girls by Impact India's medical team on topics such as Anaemia Prevention & Control, Ante and Post Natal care and Immunisation of the new born.



Health Awareness session conducted by Dr. V. M. Tapshalkar at Khambale

Another feather in the Impact worldwide cap:

With Tender Loving Care, Impact Cambodia launched their boat "The Lake Clinic-1" on 13th July, 2008 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to provide basic, on-the-spot healthcare, disease surveillance and medical referrals for the poor (Visit:www.blog.lakeclinic.org)



Lifeline Express projects from January 2008 onwards have been held at Hingoli-Maharashtra, Chhapra-Bihar, Guna-Madhya Pradesh, Atgaon-Maharashtra, Mandsaur-Madhya Pradesh and Nellore-Andhra Pradesh.



Monika Jain

Monika Jain, a volunteer on the Lifeline Express at Nellore, inspired her father, Shravan Kumar Jain, to write a poem in Hindi on our life-giving hospital train. (See insert)



Shravan Kumar Jain

Our Heartfelt Thanks to :

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