Lions at
Blind People's Association

On July 11, 2009 I had visited Blind People's Association (BPA) which is nearby Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) Vastrapur, Gujarat. Ms Tejal Lakhia, PRO of the institute managed my visit to the different function Departments of the Association. A humanitarian Association began in 1954 for the serving blind and named BPA, now it works and provides services to all categories of disabled person. As being a Lion member I sensed proud to see the contribution made by local Lions clubs and Lions clubs International en route for the BPA.

Blind People’s Association (BPA)

Blind People’s Association is the largest organization in Asia serving the people of disabilities. The association has a notion that the all people with disability has right to education, equal opportunity, employment, inclusion and the same quality of life as their non-disabled counterparts. In 1954 a group of blind people starts a recreation club for blind and named as blind Men’s Association. Now the association is providing a wide gamut of services – Prevention, Education, Counseling, rehabilitation, employment, multiple disabilities and advocacy. It also works for the human resource development of healthcare professionals. The activities range from special to integrated education and disability to vocational training and commercial production, from intensive services for persons with dual and multi sensory impairments to extensive outreach service. Additionally the association manufacture and distributes assistive devices, large community based rehabilitation programmes, professional and human resource development programmes, computer training and networking.

The vision and Mission of the association:

Vision: That all persons from all kinds of disabilities will get access to individual need based services as a matter of right, will have a good quality of life and will be an indivisible element of their communities and the nation.

Mission: To provide appropriate education, intervention, training and advocacy which will lead to awareness, empowerment and employment of people with disabilities with the help and support of trained staff and caregivers and to take measures for prevention, cure and mitigation of
disabling conditions. All these measures will be undertaken with the cooperation of families, communities and other stakeholders.

Activities:
1. Education
   Association conducting schools and some academic programmes as well as technical, non technical, music and computer trainings. Similarly the association engage in conducting the different academic program in distance learning mode especially from Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Open university, M.P. Bhoj University, IGNOU etc.

2. Integrated education in villages
   The Association manages the group to serve the peoples in villages who were not able to join the BPA centre due to socio-economic factors.

3. Production Training
   Multicategories training centre: Somabhai Lallubhai Centre is providing impart training in simulated industrial engineering, commercial design, stationery, tailoring, composing, printing and bookbindings. Association itself produces such item and used to sells in market too.

4. Centre based services to children
   Ratanlal Lalubhai Centre for visual impairment with additional disabilities: Provide the education and training to the people having visual impairment with hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and slow learning or any combination of disability with visual impairment. The centre is providing home visit and parent training and counseling program too.

5. Employment assistant
   There is provision of placement officer who arranges for the employment of the trained blind or disabled person to the different industry. The Association funds for the self employment too.

6. Cataract surgery
   Regularly the association conduct the eye camps and cataract surgery.

7. Professional Training
   Nandani Ramesh Gandhi Physiotherapy school for blind: which conduct two years course for 10 blind people and award certificate of physiotherapy.

8. Braille books production and Library
   Lions club of Vastrapur & Ranip has established computerized Braille press which produces Braille books and a well equipped library was established. Any blind who need within India can get it. The library is responsible to send it through mail and the cost of operation is partly compensated by the govt. of Gujarat.

9. Community based rehabilitees
   The Association has 5 satellite centers at different places of Gujarat which gives intensive service to children (0-6 yrs) with visually impairment and multiple disabilities.

Contribution by lions

Scores of International presidents and international directors visited the organization in
an assortment of period of time and various contributions had been observed. Different lions clubs had donated for 3 wheeler for disabled person in different period of time and most significantly Lions clubs international had contributed on the Braille book production, music school and training center. Mr J. T. Panchal is assigned as a project coordinator of BPA for lions clubs who coordinates the lions clubs for contribution to this philanthropic organization BPA.

on the way to visit to the association I memorize the poem:

"God created beauty in the flowers,
He made us good and evil too;
the spirit that above us towers
in those that serve who are so few;
those that see and those who can't
those that do and those who won't
And the good need He did plant
to help those in need and want."

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नायक कल्य अफ बालकुमारी कलेज र लियो कल्य अफ बालकुमारी कलेजको पदस्थापना

दिवसको सुरम्य उपवक्ष्यमा कलेजको उत्सवको प्रशंसा एवं उन्नतिको हार्डिक मंगलमय

शुभ-क्रमनाथ भक्ति गद्दी ।

प्रो. विवेकानन्द रामदामु

जय संतोषी माँ सुन बाँडी शो सुम

मिलनरोड, नामायणाठ, चितवन

फोन : ०५६-५२०२७, ५२०८६४

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शुभ ट्रान्सपोर्ट

कमलनगर, नामायणाठ, चितवन (ढुक पाकी)

फोन: ०५६-५२०४००