



## बहुजन हिताय प्रकल्प, अमरावती. **Bahujan Hitaya Project, Amravati.**

त्रैलोक्य बौद्ध महासंघ सहाय्यक गणाचा उपक्रम.  
**A unit of Trailokaya Bouddha Mahasangha Sahayak Gan**

*Dear* friends let me express my happiness in sharing with you about what Bahujan Hitaya project Amaravati has done during 2007-2008.

Especially we wish to present in front of you the new Bahujan Hitaya website, our team's courage to shift our projects onto time bound terms (the PBFI scheme), and our out-reachings in raising funds and efforts to acquire new professional skills so we may give more to what we are doing .

To be specific I am glad to know you that through many meetings with the project leaders and funders we make ourselves ready to shift into project based funding initiatives. This took our energy, time and we had to put a lot of courage into it . And this cannot be possible without the understanding and care we got from our funders and brothers at Karuna trust U.K.

Other aspects of our team's focus is acquiring skills for better performance in their work. As a result of this we will have two full-timers having professional masters degrees in Social Work, and four of our team members have been to human rights and atrocities training .

As well as that, the team succeeded in raising funds for uniforms for our kindergarten children, we received small donations to our open school project from Australia, and we are in a dialogue with a Singapore based funding agency for funds to our Ashvaghosa cultural activities .

Here is the short report of our activities this year. We hope you will find some inspiring and moving things in this pages.

*The BH Amaravati Team*

## Slum and rural development programme

Bahujan Hitaya Amaravati requested funds from Karuna Trust for this Slum and Rural Development Programme. Primary aims were - working for the awareness about unskilled practices in the day-to-day life of the backward community; also to support youths from slums and rural areas to build their personality and organise them; therefore to support the youth leadership within this Dalit slum and rural area.



The main issues in regards to the above aim were social awareness about dowry , addiction , and social disharmony. These were addressed through cultural programmes (that is singing and street plays ), organising the youth to support themselves, to build their personality and empower them to be responsible and independent to take their responsibility and to build confidence.

The following lines will let you know what activities were planned throughout the year to achieve this. We also reproduce some of our success stories at the concluding note of this report .

The main activities that were planned throughout the year were -

- Music classes
- Cultural awareness programmes
- Youth activities



## Music class

[Units 2, beneficiaries 30, staff 2+1]

Thirty students from Dalit backgrounds and living mainly in Sanjaya Gandhi Nagar, Bicchu Tekdi, Prabuddha Nagar, and Badnera which are known for being slums and having

mostly unfavourable situations for youths to have any creative schedules in their day to day lives.

Our music class teachers have been running two music classes. One is at the BH OFFICE and other at BADNERA. These have succeeded in supporting the participants in the creative and positive development of their personalities. This included their regular coaching for one and a half hours where they learnt to engage with the singing and also prepared for the music exams organised and conducted by the AKHIL BHARTIYA GANDHARAVA MANDAL. All of our students appeared for this exam and proved that although they are from Dalit background and slum localities if they get the opportunities they too can prove their Quality.

## Cultural awareness programme

### Social awareness rally

Apart from our regular visits to slums and villages this time out team has arranged social awareness rallies on the background of various social festivals that are celebrated in many villages and slums. This is aiming to benefit as many as we could.

The Ashvaghosa Cultural Team including team leader and ten other



volunteers visited villages named Chandur railway, Darayapur, Paratwada, Anjangao Surji, Kapus Talni, Badegao, Walgaon, Chandur Bazaar, Ner Pingalai and six others on the way as well as urban slums named Bhim Nagar. A mobile Van visits villages and chooses a square of the village or a busy street. In the van are performers with messages and painted on it are quotations of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar emphasizing the eradication of castes and the importance of social harmony and practice of morality. The performers play Dholak and tabla and call people to listen to what they want to say.

## Youth activity

Regular connections and activities benefiting Dalit youths have brought the feeling of satisfaction to many local people and especially the parents of those youths we have worked with. A group of Youths from a nearby town named Badnera benefited from one of our youth summits held in May; this year they are more organised and they now meet regularly. The change in their daily life has been observed by their parents who expressed their feelings of gratitude as these youths now are doing their studies and have passed their exams. As well positive change in their behaviour they are inclined to engage themselves in creative activity such as organising events for youth awareness weekly meeting, attending guidance class, etc. The most successful indicators of our work is that the male youth have now stopped teasing girls [harassment known in India as 'Eve teasing'], and stopped eating PUDIS [a tobacco sachet].

As a result of this we can say we have succeeded in imparting our values here.

### Some of the youths who reported and expressed their gratitude by saying:-

*Amar, a shy student having a poor rural and Dalit background, is doing his engineering degree in the Government College of Engineering here in Amaravati. He has now got a job placement in a multinational company. He expressed how personality development sessions led by Amitayus [our youth activity coordinator] helped him present himself and meant he could successfully face the personal interview confidently.*

Major activities organised in the year 2007-2008

- Youth get-together Slum Urban localities: - Badnera, Chaware Nagar, Tope Nagar.

- Youth get together Rural localities:-Darayapur, Ramtirhta, Paratwada, Achalapur, Dabha.
- Youth conference: - 27-31 June 2007 Hsuen Tsang Retreat Centre Bordharan. Jawade Mangal Karyalaya Amaravati.

More photographs of the same project



## Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel Amaravati

### Annual progress report 2007– 2008

**Beneficiaries 36**

**Wardens: Sandeep Shende and Dh. Jnanratna**

#### Summary

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar taught that our ideal should be to make residential educational arrangements for those who are backward, poor, from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, tribals, or other ex-untouchable students.

Our mother trust, TBMSG Pune, started the hostel at Amaravati in 1993.

We are working for those who are from villages where school facilities are only available till primary level. We therefore include many whose education has been very poor. Generally they are from SC (Scheduled Caste) backgrounds, or Schedule Tribes, orphans, tribals, and other needy children who because of their poverty are unable to have education and therefore unable to enter the mainstream of society.

Our success

Between 1993 to 2008, 540 students got the benefits of Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel. Because of their time at our hostel they could stand on their own in life, for instance thorough obtaining a higher degree such as engineering , bachelor of dentist, master of arts, etc. Many are graduates, some are diploma holders, and many have good and secure jobs.



With good education our students could learn the thought of Dr. Ambedkar and the Buddha, especially Dr. Ambedkar's key ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. They have gone on to make efforts to spread these village to village and arranged many lectures series on the life of Dr. Ambedkar and Buddha and his teachings.

In their personal life some are practising the Buddhism which is the key of human development.

The hostel is partly funded by the Indian government's contribution and partly by Karuna Trust UK's contribution for 36 students. We have the facility of bunk beds, mats, lodging and boarding and a 16000 sq. ft playground with all the comforts necessary to a residential arrangement.

**Programme:** Arranged during June 25, 2007 to April, 15, 2008.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Honoured programme                                     | 10) Arranged test series   |
| 2) Muktavishkar shibhir (retreat)                         | 11) Study programme  |
| 3) Picnic at garden                                       | 12) Arrange singing, essays, games, and English words competitions |
| 4) Celebrating students' birthdays                        | 13) Creates opportunity to radiate their hidden qualities          |
| 5) Celebrate birth anniversaries of Bhante Sangharakshita | 14) Celebration of Indian Independence day                         |
| 6) Celebrate the conversion day of Dr. Ambedkar           | 15) Celebration of Republic Day of India                           |
| 7) Arranged Bahujan Hitaya festival                       | 16) Rituals session  |
| 8) 'Wishes' programme                                     | 17) Moral education  |
| 9) Monthly meeting with students                          |  |

**Daily /weekly activity:**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Wake up 5:30 a.m.                | 12) Monthly visit to school to know the educational progress of students   |
| 2) Cleaning of residential areas    | 13) Provide extra coaching of maths English ,and science   |
| 3) Breakfast                        | 14) Appointment of tutors  |
| 4) Morning study                    | 15) Maintain daily cash book and other important documents related to the requirements of the Karuna Trust, Government, our parent trust in Pune, and the local BH project in Amaravati. |
| 5) Lunch                            |  |
| 6) Afternoon study                  | 16) Prepare and submit the government grant proposal   |
| 7) Cleaning of residential areas    |  |
| 8) Playing                          |  |
| 9) Study                            |  |
| 10) Dinner                          |  |
| 11) Help with home work and studies |  |

- 17) progress report
- 18) variance statement
- 19) Annual audit

- 20) prepare and submit the annual educational result to Pune

### **Success stories:**

#### **1. Sharing the truth.**

*Sachin Sthool is a student of engineering and computers studying at Badnera Engineering College.*

*He says, "Currently I am a student in the Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel Amaravati. This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the hostel. In the middle of the year I got admission to the hostel. Before that I thought I would have to leave education and go back to my home. Here in Amaravati I did not have an arrangement where I could live and eat. My father is a labourer - he can't afford the expenses of rented rooms, tuition, books, etc, and there was no situation where I could study. Before I came to the hostel I was dwelling with my relatives but they were not cooperative – they were always demanding I should complete their personal work instead of study. During that time I was pessimistic about the life and darkness is that around me .*

*In this situation I explained to the wardens how the situation happened with me and they permitted me to live and eat and study. They provided me with the room where I could study without any disturbances.*

*The hostel provides not only good facilities but getting more than that I cover with the moral atmosphere and the touch of sympathy ,*

*Because of the Bahujan Hitay boys hostel I can become an engineer and I thank the Bahujan Hitaya and those are helping financially, directly and indirectly, to complete the work.*

*I want to make a promise that after on my own I too will work for Bahujan Hitay. It has taken a place in my heart and will not disappear it .*

#### **2. Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel makes it possible to become law graduates**

*I myself am Amol Lonare living in the spiritual community at Amaravati.*

*I have been with the Bahujan Hitaya hostel for 6 years and through this I got a turn to my life which is valuable - because now I have got the sangha, ie a group practising Buddhism. I am poor but because I am with the Bahujan Hitaya family I will complete my law degree and will start to practise as a lawyer at the judicial court .*

*I am living at Pimpalgaon Nipani of Amaravati district. I have no father and my mother is the only income source in my family. We do not have any farm. I have four*

sisters and a brother, all including myself depends on what my mother can earn. I am the only son among my sisters and brother having a higher degree ie a M. A. (Master of Arts in Economics). This year I will complete my LLB. Without Bahujan Hitay I could not see the dreams to become a lawyer.

Now I am voluntarily working in the hostel from where I came. I wish to help Bahujan so they can give help to many Amols to become lawyers. Educated youngsters can rightly shape their life and society.

Once again I thank you for valuable help.

### **3. The Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel is my family.**

My name is Govinda Yuvnathe, I am a 13 years old boy, I have lived always at Bahujan Hitay boys' hostel Amaravati. I don't know who and where my parents are. I don't know. I do not have any relative and I do not have another home.

But I got a home - my hostel. I have my wardens and they are looking after me and my needs in the vacation. At Diwali and in the summer everyone else is moving towards their home but I myself am living at the hostel only. Whatever my needs I ask my wardens and they get fulfilled. I get the educational help as well as moral touch through the spiritual community. I am having close contact with them

I really rejoice the merits of Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel Amaravati to provide me the shelter and the family where I am getting the affection.

### **4. Chakradhar Patel said the hostel taught him to see his dream**

I am studying science in 12th grade. I came from a tribal area where the malnutrition problem is going on

In my home no-one is serious about the future, they are satisfied if they get meals two times a day, they do not want more than that. I passed my 10th standard board exam with 89%; due to that my confidence increased and now I am working hard to get admission for the B.E . (Bachelor of Engineering). Before that I did not know what I wanted to become but while I was living in the hostel the wardens often asked "what do you want to become?" and then I thought "Here I have got tuition and a good atmosphere to study".

I could see my dreams of engineering because of the Bahujan Hitaya boys hostel Amaravati .



# Urgyen Sangharakshita Center for studies and career guidance

Beneficiaries 65

Project coordinator: Pradnyawant Shende Promod Sardar

## Summary:

In 2003 the Urgyen Sangharakshita Study Circle began with the purpose of helping those from the backwards, poorer, and weaker sections of society who have a desire to prepare for competitive examinations (railway, Civil services, union public services , agriculture department , bank , state level examination ,national and state eligibility test etc). Often because of the lack of money and suitable atmosphere for study they cannot afford the expense of books coaching of various subject seminars and guidance monthly magazines , daily news paper ,test series ,which is necessary for the preparation the project provides 24 hour study facilities and the touch of equality where no discrimination of cast and gender .

The outputs of this project are that 18 students have passed and joined various government services such as railway, agriculture officers, railway drivers, and university lecturers, also some have the NET examination (national eligibility test) for the post of administrative head of village .

This is the effective way to help poor and backwards students: they have got new turn to their life and not only the students got the help because of that the whole family settles well and increase their confidence level which is important .

## Programmes:

From April 2007 to March 2008 during various programmes were arranged:

- 1) on 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, on the occasion of Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary we arranged an 18 hours study programme. 12 participants were in the programme.
- 2) In the month of June we arranged a workshop on how to prepare for state civil services exam. Mr. S. V. Leveskar led and shared his experiences. 25 students were in workshop

- 3) In the month of August we arranged memory techniques and personality development seminars which is honoured by Mr. Pravin Gangurde in this seminars. 20 students participated.
- 4) In the middle of September 2007 we organised seminars for preparation for the state civil services and union public services. 25 students have got the benefit of this workshop. Mr. Nikum (SELTAX OFFICER) shared his vision techniques and the experiences)
- 5) In the month of feb 2008 we arranged test series for the state civil services. 25 students joined the series. It helps students prepare for the examination and we are delighted that 7 of our students passed this crucial examination .
- 6) In beginning of march we arranged weekly guidance session on the UPSC (union public civil services) preparation and geography by Mr. Vijay Virulkar who himself is a scientist of geography

### Success stories:

#### 1. Ishant Wankhede

*2<sup>nd</sup> year of studying in engineering diploma in civil branch at Badnera .*

*Before I joined the study circle at my home I could not concentrate on the studies and did not have the company for study. It gets boring therefore.*

*I always got average percentage in the examination and many times I got failed - six times in the subject of physics. Since I joined this study circle I cleared up my subject because here I got company who are always with their books. This was inspiring for me and helps me to increase my interest level in the books. Every day I am coming to the library for study and always getting guidance of my friends and teachers.*

*Here I found favourable situation for studies - chairs, tables, inverters for electricity when electric power off, water cooling system for cold water and cooler in hot season. This much facilities I did not find anywhere else, and because of this I could pass my back subjects.*

#### 2. Tushar Dilip Nandurkar

*Because of this study circle I could think of preparation for the union public civil services with my graduation BSC. bachelor of science in computer science. Here I found the passing grades of the students were always increasing – in contrast to other libraries where they were decreasing. As a result due to this I was inspired.*

*The frequency of seminars and workshops are much greater than other places; here the person who is the coordinator is very helpful in any manner. And the library is disciplined and cleaned.*

*And most of the students are from poor backgrounds. Because of the free seminars and books, the place for study provided by the study circle will really give a shape to their career. When I am seeing what they could be able to do because of this, it is wonderful. This study circle is making a great Contribution to society in my view.*

### **3. Roshan Chauhan**

*Before touching on my opinion about the study circle let me express my gratitude towards the persons who are working here in the study circle.*

*I have observed that most of students studying at study circle are from the backward class and poor family who cannot access the opportunity to lead the programme. Here I got the opportunity to radiate my hidden potential which is crucial for confidence. Here our coordinator arranged many discussion sessions on various subjects relating to our study, therefore my confidence level increased.*

### **4. Vilas Bansod**

*This study circle is totally different to the others. Here noone discriminated by their caste which I have experienced elsewhere. Here many programmes are arranged by the study circle such as personality development workshops, the techniques' of interviews, of oratorship and leadership, and the techniques of writing. With this study circle the coordinators are inspired to get involved in the social issues, they have always tried to make ready their students in every dimension.*

## **Slum education and development project**

### **Kindergarten:**

It is a great pleasure for us to let you know that there were 70 children in our Balwadis (Kindergartens) this year. We could see their blue and white little uniforms on the narrow streets in all the three slums near to us between 10.30 to 11.30 in the morning, when the children were coming to Balwadis in this uniform with a happy mood of playing, learning, and singing.

And the credit of this service goes to our Kindergarten teachers who raised the funds going home to home and knocking the door for the sake of children's so that they could have the prepared minds to go to school and be educated.

#### Survey

Like every year we did a local survey and we get ten children. The parents gave a good response to the survey.

#### Admission process

At the beginning of the kindergarten we tell parents that the admission fees are 10 Rest. And fill admission form by them. If they have birth certificate we take from them otherwise we ask them to bring as soon as they can. On the first day we welcome every child by giving them flower.

#### Journal program in brief

We go door to door and call children, clean the kindergarten, tell the stories and sing songs, chart reading, speak politely with the children, understand what they need.

As usual we open the kindergarten at 11.00 O'clock, clean it, and spread strips of carpet for the children to sit on. First we ask children to sit in circle give them toys for half hour then ask them to write numbers. Then give 10 minute recess afterward ask them to stand in circle take some physical exercise, pledge, national song . Then we take presents and count them all. We ask them to say after us the names of the days in the week in Marathi and English, the names of the months, the names of the main directions and sub-directions, and the numbers from 1 to 50, and finally the ABCD. Every day new chart reading . And we sing songs tell stories which children like most and take new chapters every day. We ask them to learn their name, address, and the name of the kindergarten .Then give recess fro lunch after that take some dance and games then ask them to sing songs.

Last we give them some sweet food and so ends the day .There are 17 students in all, 10 boys and 7 girls, of those 12 to 15 are present everyday.

Annual parents meetings including teachers and volunteers have generated a happy feeling and make it possible to share our success at different levels.

**Sadhu, TBMSG Amaravati!**

Please see [www.justgiving.com/ashvajit](http://www.justgiving.com/ashvajit) to contribute to our Dhamma programmes.