



BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION, CHENNAI
NINTH MAHAVEER AWARDS DAY

14 - 2 - 2005



BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

A PROFILE

Sri Sugalchand Jain, the Managing Trustee of the Foundation is sure that our small universe continues to exist because of the selfless souls who have nothing but others' wellbeing in mind. It is easy to contribute financial and other resources for social causes. But dedicating one's time and energy entirely, expecting nothing in return calls for courage and conviction and needs to be commended. It is with this view that the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation was set up in the year 1994 by Sri N. Sugalchand Jain. The Foundation aims to bring to light the selfless services of such noble souls. The initiative took concrete shape in the form of the institution of Annual Awards namely the Mahaveer Awards to those institutions and individuals, whose services to all living beings met with the exacting standards of evaluation prescribed by the Foundation.

Three annual awards are being given for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the fields of Non-violence and Vegetarianism, Education and Medicine, Community and Social service. These awards include a cash component of Rupees Five Lakh each, a Memento and a Citation. Nominations are invited from all over the country for this purpose and the final Awardees are decided by a Selection Jury headed by Justice Sri M.N. Venkatachaliah and Chairman Sri Ram Nivas Mirdha, former Member of Parliament and Union Minister, Government of India.

To commemorate the 2600th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Bhagwan Mahaveer, the Foundation instituted a Special Award to honour the author of an outstanding Jain religious book. The special Jury honoured Dr. Premsuman Jain with the award of Rs. 51,000 for his book in Hindi, titled, 'Jain Dharamki Sanskritik Veerasat'.

The Foundation has created an Endowment of Rupees Five lakh in the name of Dr. Nemichand since he breathed his last before he was presented with the Mahaveer Award for excellence in Non-violence and vegetarianism. Proceeds from the endowment would be utilised to recognise good literature on Vegetarianism and Non-violence, as decided by the Trustees from time to time.

The pictures on the front and back covers give a beautiful view of the Jain Temple at Kolkatta.

Courtesy - Tirth Darshan



BHAGWAN MAHAVEER

नमोकार महामंत्र

नमो अरिहंताणं
नमो सिद्धाणं
नमो आयरियाणं
नमो उवज्झायाणं
नमो लोए सब्वसाहूणं

एसो पंच नमुक्कारो, सब्व पावप्पणासणो
मंगलाणं च सब्वेसिं, पढमं हवइ मंगलं

NAMOKAR MAHAMANTRA

Namokar Mahamantra is one of the earliest mantras known to man. It is the invocation to the Supreme being recommended by the Dharma of the jains, one of the oldest known religious denominations of the world.

Salutations offered through this Mahamantra are supposed to provide the reciter with great spiritual and material success, remove evil and negative tendencies of the mind, destroy various aspects of misery and give divine peace of mind while removing any obstacles that may come in the way of the individual's spiritual and material growth. Thus the Mahamantra is attributed with powerful healing and curative properties.

Considered the sacrest amongst the sacred, this Mahamantra can take man to the pinnacles of spirituality and holiness.

clouded him at the loss of his parents. Because I lost my mother when I was ten. My father ensured that we never faced insecurity either emotionally or financially.

As in business, in philanthropy too I am proud to say that my father is my role model. Every day he kept aside money to give the needy ones. He doubled this contribution when I too started visiting the shop. It did not matter that I was only ten years old and that I did not conduct any business. Sometimes he would forego his comforts so that a fellow being did not suffer for want of money. At a point of time my private tuitions had to be cancelled because of dwindling financial resources. In spite of that position he was always lending a helping hand to those in need. It was this benevolent attitude of his that taught us that one need not be rich to be philanthropic. Through his actions he taught us that we could always be sympathetic towards others' needs irrespective of whether we had little or in abundance.

His compassion extended not only to his fellow beings but also to all living creatures. He set up ghowshala in our native village Siyat. Though he never voiced his views, it was obvious that he considered helping others.

CHIEF GUEST OF THE DAY



Sri Surjit Singh Barnala

His Excellency, The Governor of Tamil Nadu

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

Sri N Sugalchand Jain

THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

It is a privilege and pleasure to come to yet another milestone, the Ninth Mahaveer Awards Function this time. It is an honour to have His Excellency Sri Surjit Singh Barnala, the honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu gracing the function as the Chief Guest.

A lawyer by profession, he was an active participant in the Quit India Movement even as he was pursuing his legal studies. Sri Barnala is a seasoned politician, with various ministerial and gubernatorial portfolios to his credit, including a short stint as the Governor of Tamil Nadu in 1990. He was instrumental in establishing the Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar when he served as the Education Minister. As the Chief Minister of Punjab, his leadership was a challenge to the terrorists. A widely travelled person, and a nature lover, he wields his paintbrush with finesse that has led to painting exhibitions. He has also authored a book titled 'Story of an Escape'. With pleasure we welcome him for this Awards function.

We have had a calamity, the impact of which cannot be described in words. But let us place our trust and faith at the feet of the Almighty and greet this New Year with hope and prayer.

From a small news item that provided the spark of an inspiration the idea has grown into a full-fledged Foundation, thanks to the efforts of all those involved with the Foundation's activities. We, at the Foundation, are extremely happy about the response to invitations for nominations. The number of responses has been overwhelming and increasing by the year. For the Ninth Mahaveer awards, we received 212 nominations. We hope the number will keep increasing over the coming years, because it implies that we have many among our midst who are engaged in selfless service.

We come to know of institutions and individuals that we have not heard of because they have been bringing about a silent revolution without fanfare and media attention. At the same time we are happy that the Foundation has been given an opportunity to recognise their work. We do know that these compassionate people serve the society without expecting anything in return. It takes an indomitable spirit and will to overcome many hurdles that cross the paths of these workers. Our aim in bringing their service to light is that it acts as a catalyst to boost their morale and service-mindedness. And we hope to widen the ambit of the awards in the years to come.

We are grateful to Sri M N Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India, for the role he has played as the Chairman of the Selection Jury. We are honoured that Sri Ram Nivas Mirdha, former MP and Union Minister of the Government of India, consented to be the Chairman of the Foundation and a member of the Jury. We are honoured that Professor M S Swaminathan, eminent agricultural scientist, Magsaysay Award winner and Chairman of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, has also accepted to be on the Selection Jury. In spite of their busy schedules, Sri Venkatachaliah, Sri Dipchand Gardi, Poojya Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj, Sri D R Mehta and Prof B M Hegde came to Chennai for the selection of awardees. Due to pressing demands, Dr L M Singhvi, Sri Sudarshan Agarwal and Prof. M S Swaminathan sent their recommendations after scrutinising the nominations. We thank all the members of the Jury for their kind co-operation and unbiased selection of the awardees. We are extremely happy to have put the Selection Jury through a tough process - because it indeed was tough to select the awardees from among the nominations. But as in the preceding years, this year also there has been unanimous agreement among Jury members regarding selection of the awardees.

As announced earlier, the award for excellence in the sphere of Non-violence and Vegetarianism goes to Sri Siddharaj Dhadda, the award for excellence in Education and Medicine to Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi

Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan and the award for Community and Social Service to Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement. The citations would throw light on the welfare measures being adapted by the awardees.

We are grateful to all the nominators, without whose help we would not have received so many nominations. We appreciate the efforts they have taken in sending us the nominations. We assure the nominators that each nomination received equal consideration from the Jury. We also assure that the selection of awardees in no way belittles the services rendered by the other nominees.

The Foundation instituted a Special Award to coincide with the 2600th Birth anniversary of Bhagwan Mahaveer. The Award was to honour the author of an outstanding religious book that perpetuates the philosophy and principles of Jainism and Bhagwan Mahaveer. A Special Jury was constituted to select the awardees from the twenty nominations we received. Though the Foundation had instituted an award of Rupees One lakh and had called for nominations in both Hindi and English, the Jury decided on Rs. 51,000 since the materials that were received by us fell short of the standards set by the Foundation. Dr. Premsuman Jain was honoured with the award for his Hindi book titled, 'Jain Dharamki Sanskritik Veerasat'. Due to unforeseen delays, a function could not be organised to felicitate Dr. Jain and the award was sent to him by post.

I place on record my appreciation to the members of my family, the Foundation and public who have been very supportive of the activities of the Foundation with their constructive ideas and suggestions. The media has also played a great role in recognising the activities of the Foundation, highlighting the Mahaveer Awards. We hope this acts as an inspiration to many others to take the path of service and also to institute similar awards.

Together let us salute the spirit of selflessness and dedication of those involved in social service.

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR

Inception:

The Foundation was set up as a Public Charitable Trust on 22nd April 1994 by Sri N. Sugalchand Jain, a well-known businessman and philanthropist of Chennai. The honour and prestige associated with the Nobel Prizes inspired him to institute the Mahaveer Awards to recognise the services of individual and institutional social workers.

Trustees of the Foundation:

Sri N Sugalchand Jain
Sri G N Damani
Sri S Prasanchand Jain
Sri S Vinodhkumar

The Awards:

The awards are given for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the fields of

- (i) Non-violence and Vegetarianism
- (ii) Education and Medicine
- (iii) Community and Social Service

Donations to Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act and the cash component is also free from Income tax in the hands of the recipients.

NINTH MAHAVEER AWARDS 2003

The Foundation received 212 eligible nominations from all over the country for the Mahaveer Awards for the year 2003. The Selection Jury met on 26th September 2004 at Chennai for the Ninth Mahaveer Awards and selected the Awardees for 2003.

Selection Jury

Justice Sri M N Venkatachaliah

Chairman – Selection Jury
Former Chief Justice of India

Sri Ram Nivas Mirdha

Chairman – Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation
Former M.P. and Union Minister Govt. of India

Sri Dipchandji Gardi

Bar at Law & Philanthropist

Poojya Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj

An eminent Sanyasini & Social reformer

Padma Bhushan Dr. L M Singhvi

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) & Former
High Commissioner for India in U K

Sri D R Mehta, I.A.S. (Retd.)

Former Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India

Sri Sudarshan Agarwal

His Excellency the Governor of Uttaranchal

Prof. B M Hegde

Chairman
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mangalore Kendra

Prof. M S Swaminathan

Chairman
M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

RECIPIENTS OF THE NINTH MAHAVEER AWARDS

Award for Excellence in the Sphere of Non-violence & Vegetarianism - 2003

Sri Siddharaj Dhadda
1088, Dhadda Bhawan
Chaura Rasta, Jaipur 302003, Rajasthan

Award for Excellence in the Sphere of Education & Medicine - 2003

Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan
Jakhan Devi, Mall Road
Almora 263601
Uttaranchal

Award for Excellence in the Sphere of Community & Social Service - 2003

Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement
Hanchipura Road
Saragur 571121, H D Kote Taluk
Mysore District, Karnataka

EARLIER RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARDS

Mahaveer Awards 1995

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

"Veerayatan" a socio religious
institution of Rajgir, Bihar

Mahaveer Awards 1996

For Excellence in the sphere of
Non-violence, Truth &
Vegetarianism

Sri S Jagannathan &
Smt. Krishnammal Jagannathan
an Octogenarian couple of
Gandhigram, Dindigul

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama
Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh

Mahaveer Awards 1997

For Excellence in the sphere of
Vegetarianism

Sri Ratanlal C Bafna
"Nayantara" Subhash Chowk,
Jalgaon, Maharashtra

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Sri Anna Hazare, Ralegaon
Siddhi, Ahmed Nagar,
Maharashtra

Mahaveer Awards 1998

For Excellence in the sphere of
Non-violence & Vegetarianism

Sadhu Vaswani Mission
10, Sadhu Vaswani Road,
Pune 411001

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Sri Avinashilingam Education
Trust Institutions,
Coimbatore 641043

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte
Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte
Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Warora
PO:Anandwan, Via Warora 442914

Mahaveer Awards 1999

For Excellence in the sphere of
Non-violence & Vegetarianism

Mrs. Maneka Gandhi
People for Animals
A-4, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi 110065

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Dr. G Venkatasamy, Chairman
Aravind Eye Hospital & Post Graduate
Institute of Ophthalmology
1, Anna Nagar, Madurai 625020

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata
Samiti, Sawai Man Singh Hospital
Jaipur 302004, Rajasthan

Mahaveer Awards 2000

For Excellence in the sphere of
Non-violence & Vegetarianism

Dr. Kalyan Motilal Gangwal
586, Sadashiv Peth, Laxmi Road
Pune 411030, Maharashtra

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Cancer Institute (W.I.A.)
18, Sardar Patel Road
Chennai 600 020, Tamilnadu

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Tripura Adivasi Mahila Samithy
(Mrs. Anurupa Mukherjee)
Krishna Nagar, Agartala 799001, Tripura

Mahaveer Awards 2001

For Excellence in the sphere of
Non-violence & Vegetarianism

Late Dr. Nemichand Jain
65, Patrakar Colony, Kanadia Marg
Indore 452001, Madhya Pradesh

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Dr. H Sudarshan
Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra
B R Hills, Yelandur Taluk 571441
Chamarajanagar Dist. Karnataka

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Bharat Sevashram Sangha
Rivers' Meet Road, Sonari West
Jamshedpur 11, Jharkhand

Mahaveer Awards 2002

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Vivekananda Rock Memorial &
Vivekananda Kendra
Vivekanandapuram Post
Kanyakumari 629702 Tamilnadu

For Excellence in the sphere of
Education & Medicine

Marudhar Mahila Shikshan Sangh
Vidyawadi, Kimel 306115
Sate Rani, Dist. Pali, Rajasthan

For Excellence in the sphere of
Community & Social Service

Dr. S V Adinarayana Rao
Director General – Prema Hospital
14-3-18, Maharanipecta
Visakapatnam 530002
Andhra Pradesh



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE SPHERE OF NON-VIOLENCE & VEGETARIANISM - 2003

SRI SIDDHARAJ DHADDA

Let there be no undesirable developments in the world and let people lead a peaceful life. Let ahimsa reign supreme and make people happy and content.

- Meri Bhavna

While most of us just pray for peace and non-violence, a few take it upon themselves to make these prayers a reality. Sri Siddharaj Dhadda is one of the few. A Gandhian to the hilt and hence a proponent of ahimsa and non-violence, he lives and works for his ideals. It is heartening that this nonagenarian's advocacy of peace and non-violence have reached far beyond the shores of our country. Leading a simple life, he practises what he preaches.

Sri Dhadda was born in 1909. Right from his student days in Lucknow University, he became interested in the Gandhian principles of peace and non-violence. Armed with a post-graduate degree in political science, he started his legal practice in Bangalore and then shifted the same to Jaipur. The practice did not hold his interest for long. Inspired by Gandhiji, he was drawn into the vortex of the freedom struggle.

In 1942, he plunged headlong into the Quit India Movement started by Gandhiji, which landed him in the Varanasi prison - the 'other home' of Nehru. As he languished in prison for two-and-a-half years, his resolve to follow the path of non-violence became stronger.

As a natural outcome of his involvement in freedom struggle, he was made the Industries Minister for the state of Rajasthan, after independence. When he realised that it was impossible to adhere to his principles in a political situation, he opted out of politics and resigned.

In 1951, he established a Sarvodaya Ashram in Khemal, a hamlet in the deserts of Rajasthan. He became a Jeevandani - a person who dedicates his life to develop an ideal and peaceful society - and experimented in various ways to bring about a peacefully co-existing community. Never one to think of the self, but only of the peaceful co-existence of people, he participated in the Bhoodan and Gramdan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

With his concern towards the welfare of the society, he dedicated himself to bring relief to the drought-hit Bihar in the late sixties. For a period of two years, he served as the Secretary General of Bihar Relief Committee.

As President of All India Sarva Seva Sangh of Wardha, he raised his voice against emergency, which led to his incarceration in jails across the country for nearly two years. After lifting of emergency and subsequent formation of a new Government, he was offered the second highest constitutional position in the country. Needless to say, he declined.

He edits 'Satyagrah Ahimsa', a monthly magazine and 'Gramraj', a weekly magazine. He has also authored several books on peace and non-violence. Internationally acclaimed as an exponent of peace and ahimsa, he has been invited in various capacities by countries like UK, USA, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Thailand, Lebanon and Egypt among others, to be part of their peace initiatives. His services have been recognised with the Jamnalal Bajaj Award and the Padma Bhushan.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, by conferring the award in the field of Non-Violence and Vegetarianism, not only recognises his philosophy but also hopes that it would inspire others to follow his footsteps.

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION
& MEDICINE - 2003**



**Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan
(USNPSS)**

...If I can ease one life the aching
Or cool one pain....
I shall not live in vain

Emily Dickinson, Poet

It was twenty years since independence. But the hill tribes of Uttarakhand were as good as non-existent to the rest of the world. The slow process of nation building was slower still as far as these people were concerned. The developmental works had still not reached the villages in the hills. A group of like-minded people took the matter into their hands and established the Seva Nidhi in 1967. Started as a public charitable trust, the scope of its activities could not be constrained to a single activity. As the activities of the Trust kept increasing, a separate society by name Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan was started in 1999. With a single-minded focus and unmatched dedication, the Sansthan has brought about an unimaginable progress in five years.

Education leads to enlightenment and a woman emancipated is a woman empowered. With these as their motive, the organisation works in the spheres of education and women's empowerment as the first steps towards developing the community. The specific needs of the community had to be borne in mind in any development project that was designed and implemented. In the field of education, the Community Education Programme was started with a course designed to suit the needs of the local people. The innovative approach was to have their village as a living example of ecosystem and hence analyse and deal with issues specific to the same. These courses were introduced in classes 6, 7 and 8. Initially started in one school as a non-formal and experimental method of teaching, it is presently being offered in 1500 schools. The state government has

accepted it as a regular course and hence more than 1500 teachers were trained to impart education by this method. This has benefitted nearly 1.5 lakh students.

What was started as a tiny spark has grown into a far-reaching flame, spreading its glow onto increasing number of children. With 350 balwadis functioning in the villages, nearly 7000 students, most of them girls, have been trained by the pre-primary education schemes. The education has truly enlightened a number of youngsters. It has not only educated the girls in the academic sense but has given them confidence and a sense of responsibility towards their community. This is evident from the fact that the girls who attended these programmes, have studied further and have come back to be the resource persons for the same programmes. Besides, girls who never stepped out of their houses have gained self-worth and confidence and are guiding others and helping them in attending training programmes.

USNPSS works in tandem with various women's groups. It has brought about a revolution in the mindset of the villagers, especially the men, at the same time humbly accepting its limitations as a development catalyst. The women are encouraged to participate in decision-making processes that affect them at the local, district and national levels. It did not take long for the women to realise their collective power. Thus they have started revolting against alcoholism and the changes are slowly emerging. The women have also brought about a change in the attitude of men, regarding child development. So men who are not employed, take care of the children at home - though reluctantly - while women attend to their duties.

Management of land and water resources is crucial in Uttaranchal since most of the population depends on agriculture, which in turn depends on the forest cover and availability of water. With the efforts of USNPSS, the villagers have learnt that shortage in natural resources will lead to ecological poverty. The Sansthan is working towards alleviating this ecological poverty and achieving ecological security.

As interlinked as they are, education has improved the economic status of the women, which in turn has improved their health. Thus the Sansthan has changed the lives of the community of hill people of Uttaranchal with sustained efforts. The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, conferring its award for Education and Medicine, congratulates the Sansthan's dedication.

**AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN THE
SPHERE OF COMMUNITY
& SOCIAL SERVICE - 2003**



Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)

If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and it will make not only for our own happiness, but that of the world at large.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Swami Vivekananda continues to inspire millions, even a hundred years after he walked this earth. Inspired by his philosophy, a handful of medical students decided to dedicate themselves to alleviating the physical suffering of our society. To them, the smile of a child cured meant more than millions. They desired for their expertise to dispel the darkness from the lives of fellow beings. Their community concerns prevailed over personal gains. Thus was born in 1984 in Mysore, the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, a non-profit organisation without any religious and political affiliations.

With the noble intention of providing cost-effective healthcare to the poor – but no resources to do so – they started with distributing physicians' free samples and graduated to conducting health camps. When the young doctors heard about the hunter-gatherer tribes who had been displaced from their homeland because of developmental projects - but not rehabilitated, the organisation established the Janakalyan Tribal Hospital in Bramhagiri village. Soon the youngsters realised that their healing touch would bring happiness but not the upliftment of the poor; so they decided to tackle illiteracy and poverty. The selfless and patient ministrations of the doctors made the tribes trust them with their life, which they would not have done with anybody else. Because they witnessed the rehabilitation of a HIV-infected mother who had been humiliated and turned away by many hospitals.

The trust placed on the doctors spurred them on to do more for the community. They saw the opportunity of moulding young minds and grabbed at it. Education was the means to achieve what they desired. To banish illiteracy, 'Viveka' - Tribal Centre for Learning was started as a non-formal education centre. As the lives of the tribes revolved around the forest, what the children learnt had to be connected to their way of life. Hence the curriculum has been designed with the local populace in mind, involving experimental learning and vocational training that is relevant to their means of livelihood. Nearly 4000 children have been benefitted by 'Viveka', which has been recognised by the Government of Karnataka. Another unit by name Viveka School of Excellence functions in Saragur. The SVYM has introduced a unique Vidyavahini or Mobile Education Programme, primarily for the Jenukuruba tribes. The method includes pre-school centres and mobile classrooms. The fact that nearly 100 school dropouts have come back to school after Vidyavahini was introduced speaks for its success.

Once the ill health that plagued the communities was weeded out, maintaining health devoid of malnutrition became the priority. Safe drinking water, housing and sanitation facilities have been arranged towards community development. The Movement also works towards creating awareness about water and land resource management and human rights. Training in animal husbandry, sericulture, agriculture, apiculture and tailoring are also imparted so as to make the tribes self-reliant. The Movement has guided and encouraged women to form self-help groups that also serve as micro-credit enterprises. SVYM has also founded a Vivekananda Institute of Leadership Development in Mysore.

As for the prime concern with which SVYM was started, namely healthcare, various programmes are being implemented. The Vivekananda Memorial Hospital at Saragur, a 40-bed hospital offers specialised treatment in various fields of medicine. With the motto of 'Health - A People's Movement', Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Health Awareness Programme 'Jagrutha Bharatha' using folk art, Tobacco Control Programme supported by WHO, Prevention of Transmission of AIDS and Outreach Programme involving mobile clinics, field camps, etc. are being carried out.

In the twenty years since its inception, SVYM has brought about a significant change in the lives of the people among whom it is working. The rewards of the movement are not just the way the doctors have shaped the lives and minds of the young and the old, but also the way in which their work has inspired many. For, a tribal girl who attended one of the Awareness Programmes started creating awareness on imbibing the information she received. She has set her mind on becoming a doctor. Another who has enrolled herself in college is impatient to come back to her own people and become a teacher. These are but two instances of a bunch of children whom the doctors have inspired.

In their attempt and success at making the lives of many meaningful, recognition has come SVYM's way through the National Youth Award from the Government of India and Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar Award from the Karnataka Government. The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation salutes the spirit of the SVYM and is happy to confer the award in the fields of Community and Social Service.

SINGHVI CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trust was established with the aim of assisting the weaker sections of the society, particularly in the field of healthcare and education. The Trust, among other forms of medical assistance, helped the physically handicapped initially by supplying them with auxiliary equipment such as hand operated tricycles, wheel chairs, custom made shoes, crutches, etc. But for the past few years, the Trust's focus has been in assisting the visually handicapped through supply of medicines and spectacles completely free of cost. The Trust conducts Dental-cum-Eye camps at Chennai, with the help of dental and eye specialists, which on an average benefit about 500 people in every camp. Nearly 35 such camps a year are held in suburban and rural areas within a hundred kilometre radius of Chennai, where more than 1300 people suffering from eye defects as also those needing dental care are treated. Apart from medicines, over 1500 persons are provided with spectacles free of cost every month.

The Trust has also initiated and implemented a project for recycling used spectacles. Nearly 6,450 spectacles have so far been repaired and distributed to poor patients after being matched with their requirements. Besides, dark glasses are distributed to the visually handicapped.

In addition, Mr. Sugalchand Jain, through the Singhvi Charitable Trust has undertaken the screening of students of Chennai Corporation schools for eye-related problems. The students were also provided with medicines, vitamin tablets and spectacles entirely free of cost. Further, persons requiring eye surgery are referred to a premier eye hospital in Chennai, namely Sankara Nethralaya, after ascertaining the fitness of the patients to undergo surgery.

Since the inception of the Trust in 1997, 94,779 persons have been provided with spectacles, 32,606 persons have been provided with medicines at a cost exceeding Rs.100 Lakh and 22,180 patients have been referred to Sankara Nethralaya

The Trust also provides assistance to destitute widows and medical assistance to those in need, including assistance for heart surgery. An amount of Rs.42, 40,559/- has so far been spent in this regard. The Trust spends Rs. 50,000 a month on ten to twenty patients who need financial assistance for their surgeries.

Donations to the Trust are exempt under section 80G and 35AC of the Income Tax Act.

VIDHYA JYOTHI TRUST

The Vidhya Jyothi Trust was founded by Sri N. Sugalchand Jain in 2000 to establish and maintain quality educational institutions such as schools, colleges, research institutions etc. for the promotion of education in all its forms and stages.

In pursuance of the object, the Trust has taken over three institutions which were till recently managed by a sister Trust:-

- (i) **Jadavbai Nathmal Singhvi Jain Vidhyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School** (providing education from I to XII classes).
- (ii) **Jadavbai Nathmal Singhvi Jain Vidhyalaya Primary School - Primary school** (offering classes I to V)
- (iii) **Jadavbai Nathmal Singhvi Jain Vidhyalaya Primary & Toddler's Wing** (providing Pre KG to V)
- (iv) **Sri Nathmal Singhvee Toddlers' Wing** (offering classes from Pre K G to U K G)

Together these schools cater to a student strength of 1360.

The institutions have a team 61 trained and experienced teachers and excellent infrastructure such as computer and science laboratories, libraries and attractive play materials.

The Trust proposes to acquire specialization in running such institutions to ensure quality education in the institutions managed by it.

Appropriate assistance in the form of scholarships for the payment of fees and assistance for the purchase of the books amounting to Rs.27,04,010/- has been provided so far to needy and deserving students of the school as well as to students of certain other schools in the city.

The Trust also offers free education to wards of its teachers and those of the staff members of its non-educational sister institutions. The Trust has recently established Tejas Computer Centre to impart computer education to their students as well as to members of the public.

Donations to Vidhya Jyoti Trust are exempt under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

JAINSINDIA TRUST

Jainsindia Trust is the brainchild of Sri Sugalchand Jain. It was started in 2000 as a religious charitable trust to propagate the philosophy, principles, literature, heritage, etc. of the ancient religion of Jainism. It also proposes to undertake projects to highlight the contributions made by the Jains in the spheres of education, medicine, economic development and culture. As a first step towards this, the Trust has published a book on the educational institutions established by Jains who have made Chennai their home.

Jains are considered as an affluent lot. Contrary to this belief, quite a number of them are indigent. While most of them do not seek help from others, some were running from pillar to post in the hope of getting their children educated. Also Sri Sugalchand observed that people who were hesitant to approach individuals for help did not mind help extended by institutions. When most among the Jains had the means to contribute towards uplifting the economically weak, it seemed right that they joined hands. So, in 2000, with donations from Jains, Jainsindia Trust was instituted by the community for the community.

The Trust takes care of the needs of the needy among the community. It supports the education of two hundred school and college students through scholarships. It also supports about fifteen widows by offering pension on a monthly basis. Through similar activities, the Trust ensures that the members of the Jain community are not at a disadvantage in matters of education and health for want of resources.

JADAVBAI NATHMAL SINGHVI TRUST

The Trust was established in 1983 to perpetuate the memory of Smt. Jadavbai, mother of Sri Sugalchand. It was founded with the purpose of providing assistance to deserving and needy students irrespective of caste and community. Help extended is in the form of scholarships, school fees, financial assistance towards purchase of books and uniforms. The Trust extends medical assistance too when necessary. It also extends

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S/o. (Late) Dr. Nemichand



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Community & Social Service

Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Jharkhand

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Community & Social Service

Dr. S.V. Adinarayana Rao

