



### Highlights of 2002

Asha Seattle continued to establish closer ties with its project partners. This included a number of site visits by Seattle chapter volunteers, which broadened perspectives, strengthened association with groups, and found and corrected shortcomings. Asha's goal is to bring about **socio-economic change** in the different communities that we work with, using education as a tool. Close involvements with our projects are essential to accomplish this.

In addition, Asha Seattle continued its usual local programs like the Picnic, Hike, Asha Fest, concert (Algorhythms). We also continued selling tea in Ragamala concerts, and cards, calendars and handicrafts in larger local functions.

### Projects

**This summarizes Asha Seattle Projects for calendar year 2002, based on project type. Many projects have been continually supported by Asha Seattle for a number of years now, and have grown to become very successful.**

#### 1) Alternatives in Education:

- a) **Anugriha:** is located in Arasavangadu in Tamil Nadu. The group has a model school providing a unique educational approach using the techniques of Glenn Domain. This school ensures that children from underprivileged families get high quality education.
- b) **Digantar:** is located in Rajasthan. Digantar is a voluntary organization (Registered society) working in the field of Elementary Education, mainly for the rural under privileged children. The organization is working for about 20 years; first 10 years it existed as a small school privately funded by a family. Since 1989, it is working as a registered society and being funded by a numbers of agencies. Funded since 1999, with a major funding for 2002-03.
- c) **Sumavanam:** The Neel Baugh Trust was started in 1982 with a rural school in Andhra Pradesh outside Madanapalli. The school has three teachers presently and 19 children from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - 10<sup>th</sup> grade. All children come from neighboring villages and their parents usually work as seasonal workers in agriculture. None of the families have had education beyond 2-3 years in schools, and are all below the poverty level. None of the children here will normally go to school given the financial constraints of the families. Funding since 2000.
- d) **Vikasana:** is a rural centre for education that provides free education to children of all ages from landless farmers of the neighboring villages. The children of migrated parents who cannot fit into other institutions also join the centre. Providing holistic and quality education, the class size is restricted to about twenty-five. Emphasis is laid on self-learning. Vikasana also takes services of resourceful people in the field of crafts, health and cultural activities. Funded since 2001.

#### 2) Child Homes:

- a) **Champa Mahila Society:** Champa Mahila Society was established in 1984 in the Basanti area of Sunderban in West Bengal. Basanti is ecologically a part of the delta between the Hooghly River and the Bay of Bengal. Approximately 95 percent of the total population depends on agricultural activities for their livelihood in this mono-crop area. The group was created to promote projects in the area to build a self-reliant community and develop a feeling of cooperation with focus on women's groups. It has formed 32 women's groups each having 10-15 members. Issues raised by these groups include dowry, health, sex discrimination and women's rights. This was Asha Seattle's first project, and is still going strong.

#### 3) Community Awareness programs:

- a) **Appropriate learning- The Spastic Society of Karnataka:** See section on disabilities and special needs.

- b) **Aralu (Co-Sponsored by Asha Chicago)**
- c) **Bharati Trust (in Tamil Nadu):** are a non-profit development organization working for the cause of upliftment and empowerment of Irula Tribal communities living in the interior pockets of Thiruvallur district.
- d) **Makkal Palli Iyakkam- People's school movement:** The idea behind this programme is organizing local communities to use government schools after school hours for community learning needs. This will hopefully make use of schools an additional 25-40 hours every week. The proposal was received and approved in July 2002.
- e) **Sahanivasa (co-supported by Asha MIT).**
- f) **SUPPORT:** is located in Mumbai, and is a group dedicated to fighting AIDS and drug abuse among street children in Mumbai. Asha Seattle has supported SUPPORT since June 2000.

**4) Community based interventions:**

- a) **IOI (International Ocean Institute):** is located in IIT Madras, and is a division of the Foundation for Sustainable development (India). The group works for socio-economic development of dalit villages. The larger target group for the Eco-villages Project consists of dalits, about 12000 landless in 40 villages. While the initial focus was on women, the Project now includes components for helping the children of the villages. Funded since 2000.

**5) Disabilities and special needs:**

- a) **Appropriate Learning (for children with Cerebral Palsy):** This project is being run by the Spastics society of Karnataka. The project was conceived with a view to providing educational and literacy services to (1) Children with disabilities including cerebral palsy. (2) Children from poorer sections of society with disabilities. (3) Integrating more capable Spastic children into regular schools. (4) Spread awareness of the different problems faced by children with cerebral palsy into the community. (5) Educate the general public on prevention of cerebral palsy.
  - b) **Astha- alternative strategies for the handicapped:** is located in New Delhi. An outreach project in the slum communities of Govindpuri, in South Delhi initiated in Jan 1996 - providing rehabilitation services to children with disabilities such as Polio, Blindness, Speech and Hearing impairments, Epilepsy, Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy and support to their families. Funded since 1998.
  - c) **Deaf Aid Society:** located in Bangalore. A school for Deaf Students. The aim of the Institute is to provide specialized schooling and vocational training to enable the students to become independent and productive. Most of the children come from very poor backgrounds where the parents do not have the resources for schooling and hearing aids. Funding was primarily to enable the school to obtain water and sewerage connections.
  - d) **Jeevan Gyanodaya:** is located in Chengalpettu near Chennai. Asha Seattle provided a one-time funding.
  - e) **Shastri School for the deaf and dumb:** is located in Bangalore. The instruction is in Kannada and follows the state board syllabus. The school does not have any funding from Government and is run by donors. Presently they have pressing needs for funds to construct buildings, to pay for salaries and to buy education equipments. Funded since 2000.
  - f) **Udvam Karangal:** is located in Chennai. Udavum Karangal has been rescuing wandering mentally sick persons from the street those who have no other facilities available. There are nearly 600 patients who are under treatment, care and rehabilitation. During this process they have also picked up number of mentally retarded children, and are rehabilitating them. Funded since 2000.
  - g) **National Association for Blind (NAB):** After banks were computerized in India, many blind people were loosing out on the job market. Earlier they had a quota in banks & other places but with computerization they automatically lost an edge. But with the help of the JAWS software they are getting back that edge. We gave this software to NAB a few years back & they have started a course to teach this. There is great demand for this course. It's enabling many to find jobs & also keeping them.
  - h) **Overcoming Hemophilia:** Hemophilia is a rare genetic disease that slows down the process of blood clotting. It's linked with the X chromosomes & affects the males. Men/boys with this blood disorder suffer numerous other problems caused by prolonged bleeding mainly their joints & muscles. Un-treated this can make joints immobile - the cause of crippling disabilities. Two young boys suffer from Hemophilia in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. We have been helping them with their surgeries followed by physiotherapy. Right now we are helping them with their treatment. Hemophilia has been a huge burden on their family emotionally & financially.
  - i) **Street-to-school (with Asha LA) and Voice (with Asha MIT)**
- 6) **Asha fellowship: Ravi Aluganti.** Asha supports a fellowship program that supports individuals of the highest quality and dedication. Support is given to those whose work in time will have a large positive impact by creating

an institution or a methodology. Fellowships are reviewed after a nominator actively working in India has nominated the potential fellow. Ravi works in Chittoor, AP. His projects include training government school teachers in multi-grade teaching, developing a resource center for teacher training, Organizing art and craft activities for teachers, children to develop creative skills, initiating parental involvement in the school etc. This is the first year of his fellowship.

7) **Formal Schools:**

- a) **Bhoomiheen Seva Samiti:** is located in Aau, U.P., and aims to provide basic education and skills to children of the landless and extremely poor kids of the Banda District in UP state of India. Has been funded since 1998.
- b) **BTS-Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha:** is located in Baikunthapur, in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal. It is providing integrated development support to the people from 6 villages in Kultali islands, from education to income generation and health care support. Funded since 2001.
- c) **Sankurathri is co-supported by Asha-NY, and Youth Dreams is co-supported by Asha LA.**

8) **Non-Formal education centres:**

- a) **Aralu, Bharati Trust and Champa Mahila Society, IOI and (see earlier)**
- b) **SSUP (co-supported by Asha Silicon Valley)**
- c) **RHEDT:** is located in Karamadai, near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The Project aims at educating children between 5 and 15. This includes basic education, vocational training, gardening, etc. The project runs throughout the academic year and educates about 50 children. Additionally, about 300 more children benefit from the extra curricular activities. This has been funded since 1995.

9) **After School Support Centres**

- a) **Chetana:** is located in Kurukshetra (near Delhi). This group targets children from very poor families. They are provided after school education and training, and are admitted into government schools. In addition, the children also get uniforms, books and health checkups. The project has been funded since 1997.

10) **Resource Centres and shared resources:**

These include **Auroville Education Center (co-supported by Asha Yale), Vidya Bhavan and Sutradhar.**

11) **Support a child schemes:** are amongst Asha's most popular projects. Here, under the Support a Child Program, donors are matched with individual kids of their choice. If the project concerned is willing the donor can even have a personal communication with the sponsored child. This usually means the sponsor spends between 10-20\$ a month for the child. The present projects being supported under this scheme are:

- a) **Champa Mahila Society:** see earlier. This project supports a large number of girl children in the Sundarbans (where CMS works).
- b) **Each One Teach One (EOTO):** was started in Mumbai by a few students in 1983, and has grown since. The focus is to educate children from economically backward sections of urban society. Over 350 children are now supported by EOTO, which admits children in government schools, and provides them with everything they need.
- c) **Prasanna Jyoti:** is located in Bangalore, and is a home for homeless girl children. It houses 18 girls from the age group of 9-19. They are provided with healthy housing under loving care, food, and clothing and are sent to good schools. They are provided opportunities to express themselves in cultural activities. The children are studying in various classes. Also three of them are doing Post SSLC career courses, viz., Diploma in Secretarial practices and Diploma in Computer Sciences.
- d) **Shastri school for the hearing impaired: (See earlier)**
- e) **Udvam Karangal (see earlier)**

12) **Vocational training:**

- a) **Kaithi Bee keeping:** works closely with Asha ashram, and is located at Kaithi (near Varnasi, UP). The project has set up a Research-Documentation-Training Centre, in the area of bee keeping and cultivation and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants, and has expanded to include tailoring classes, and is also working on including basic literacy with all these.

b) **SUPPORT (see earlier)**

**13) Working with the Government:**

a) **Ekalavya:** Ekalavya's Hoshangabad Science Teaching Project (HSTP) was a highly successful and large-scale program. This worked in government schools, looking towards joyful learning techniques, and covered 1500 schools in the district. This was reviewed by NCERT, and recommended for implementation throughout the country. However, political reasons resulted in this program suddenly being closed down (without any reasons given) a few months ago.

In addition, Asha Seattle is also working with groups trying to improve government school curriculum, especially **Avehi Abacus**. Avehi works in Bombay Municipal Corporation schools, and non-formal education centres run on the streets in Bombay slums, and B.Ed teaching schools in Mumbai. The program focuses on both students/children, and the teachers. Avehi has been funded since 2000.

**Finance Details:**

Description	Income	Expense	Net
Admin.Expenses			\$1,580.12
Bank Interest			\$137.07
Donation			\$214,367.81
Grocery Coupon Scheme	\$17,100.00	\$9,500.00	\$7,600.00
Merchandise	\$618.00	\$850.00	\$232.00
Project Support		\$222,567.00	
Special Events	\$17,357.44	\$6,090.62	\$11,266.82

**Current project commitments for 2002= \$300000 (approx)**

For More Information	Asha contribution slip
<p>All are welcome to join us at our bi-monthly meetings. They are held at Redmond Town Center. However, from next year the venue will be shifted.</p> <p>Information is available in our website. In addition, an email can be sent to the below address for more information. Donations are more than welcome, and will go a long way in changing many lives in India.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:asha-seattle-info@yahogroups.com">asha-seattle-info@yahogroups.com</a>                      Web: <a href="http://www.ashanet.org/seattle">http://www.ashanet.org/seattle</a></p>	<p>(i) I am enclosing __ \$25 __ \$50 __ \$100 \$____                      (ii) I would like to make a quarterly contribution of \$_____</p> <p>Name _____                      Address _____                      _____                      Phone _____                      Email _____</p> <p>Please make your checks payable to</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Asha for Education</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">&amp; mail them to                      Asha For Education (Seattle Chapter),                      23608, NE 45th Place,                      Redmond, WA 98053</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100% of your contributions go towards                      Asha's projects in India.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your contributions are tax deductible.</p>



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