



Blind Persons' Association

Annual Report 2012-13



Blind Persons' Association

(Regd under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 & FCRA, 1976)
(Regn. No.1581 of 1947- 48 under Societies Act and F-114 (Bom) under Public Trust Act)

C/o National Association for the Blind, Rustom Alpaiwalla Complex,124/127,Cotton Depot,
Near Reay Road Rly. Station (East), Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033

Annual Report for the year **2012-13**

Blind Persons'Association, Mumbai (BPA) is a voluntary charitable organization working since October, 1947 for the betterment of blind individuals residing in Mumbai and its suburbs with focus on the needs of non-institutionalized blind persons.

The Executive Council of BPA presents with pleasure the Annual Report of its activities for the year 2012-13

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of members has gone up to 946 after inclusion of 10 new Life Members. (Here BPA would like to clarify that the benefits are open to all visually handicapped in and around Mumbai and not limited to its members)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the year, the Executive Council met 4 times. The Working Committee met 6 times. We are happy to note that committee members took active part in the meetings and gave their valuable suggestions and ably undertook the task assigned to the sub-committees.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 65th Annual General Body Meeting was convened on Saturday, the 8th September 2012 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai. 102 members attended the AGM.

Report on THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITIES

BPA has many programs and schemes like Medical Assistance, Educational Promotion, Help the Aged, House Repair, Need Based Financial Assistance, Distribution of Items of Daily Necessities, Equipment Bank etc. It also organizes functions like Get Together, Hawkers' Day, Foundation Day, Annual picnic, Women's Day etc.

Apart from these regular activities, BPA would like to highlight its new ventures during the year.

- New avenue for job opportunities in Perfume Industry for the visually handicapped persons – a joint venture with CPL Aromas and V.G. Vaze College, Mulund,
- Launch of a special drive to increase Medical Corpus to ₹10,00,000/-
- Creating Corpus Fund of ₹1,00,000/- for award in memory of Padmashree Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas

Detailed Report follows...



MEDICAL CORPUS

BPA already has a Medical Assistance Scheme wherein approximately ₹70,000/- is disbursed annually to the beneficiaries. It covers clinical tests, treatment of ailments, purchase of medicines, surgery etc. The Executive Council decides the quantum of assistance on case to case basis on submission of Prescriptions, Bills and Medical Reports.

As the medical treatment is getting costlier day by day, we found this amount inadequate and decided to increase it substantially. A target of Medical Corpus of ₹10,00,000/- was aimed at, so that interest accrued upon would be available for needy beneficiaries. We are happy to announce that donors and well wishers, sighted as well as blind, have responded generously to our appeal and BPA could collect ₹7,24,000/- from August 2010 to March 2013. Many donors are still coming forward to help us in this noble cause.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

BPA has two schemes to promote education amongst **sighted children of blind parents**

- Free distribution of school material for Pre & Primary School going children.
- Educational Assistance in form of Scholarship to the children studying from primary to higher education and vocational training.

BPA also offers educational Assistance to **college Going blind students.**

On 16th June 2012, BPA distributed school material such as school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, scales etc. worth ₹25,000/- to 92 sighted children of 74 blind parents in BPA's office premises, at the hands of Mrs. Kusumben Shah, retired school principal and our regular donor. We thank Mr. Hitesh Mehta for his donation of 500 Note-books for this project.

Scholarship worth ₹99,000/- was distributed on 6th October 2012 to 157 sighted children of 113 blind parents at the auspicious hands of Mr. Kirtibhai Shah, convener of Dena Gurjari organization and editor of Dena Jyoti magazine.

₹87,200/- were distributed as Scholarship to 87 college-going blind students on 7th November 2012 at the hands of Mrs. Indra Chandrashekar, retired teacher from Bombay Scottish school. (37 female students received ₹37,200/- while 50 Male students received ₹50,000/-).

In all total amount of ₹2,11,200/- was spent under the scheme.

On all the three occasions some of the EC members and office-bearers were present.

Handing over scholarships to students



BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP

For the academic year 2012-13, Scholarship worth ₹19,200/- was given to 8 sighted school and college going wards of blind parents (₹2400/- each) – courtesy Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Our profound thanks to BPCL for their consistent support to our cause.

LIONESS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Last year, BPA had referred 60 sighted children of blind parents to Lioness Club of Vasant Vihar, Vikhroli. BPA's sincere thanks to the Club for their grant of ₹2500/- each, amounting to a total of ₹1,50,000/. The beneficiaries are still in receipt of this scholarship.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

During the year, medical assistance worth ₹81,444/- was provided to 45 clients. (₹55,933/- to 30 Male beneficiaries and ₹25,511/- to 15 Female beneficiaries).

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Under this scheme, BPA gives partial financial assistance to needy blind persons to acquire household articles such as Cots, Mattresses, Gas connections, Cupboards, Kitchen Racks and Utensils etc. BPA also provides financial assistance to needy blind persons to meet unforeseen expenditure caused by fire, flood, building collapse, untimely death of earning member of the family.

Medical Assistance for Manoj Vishwakarma



Total assistance of ₹90,700/- was disbursed to 46 clients out of which ₹14,000/- was given to 10 Male clients and ₹76,700/- was given to 36 Female clients

HOUSE REPAIR

BPA extends a helping hand to the needy blind residing in hutments and dilapidated dwelling units to get their houses repaired. The help is given in the form of material such as cement, sand, doors, windows, asbestos sheets, tiles etc. Out of the total assistance of ₹22,000/- to 11 beneficiaries, ₹14,000/- were given to 7 Male clients and ₹8,000/- to 4 Female clients.

Helpage client: T C George



Helpage client: Mr. Narendra Joshi



HELP THE AGED

BPA gives monthly financial assistance of ₹200/- each to infirm, aged and destitute Blind Senior Citizens above the age of 55 to meet their expenses for medicines, grocery, toiletries, clothes etc. This aid is provided at their doorsteps which builds up good rapport with them. We spent ₹96,600/- under the scheme to cover 42 clients.

The total amount spent for female clients in the above mentioned schemes is reflected in BPA Thackersy Fund for the Rehabilitation of Blind women.

EQUIPMENT BANK

BPA has been running an Equipment Bank for the blind for past several years. This is a unique scheme and probably the pioneer scheme of its kind in Maharashtra. Special aids and appliances such as White canes, Wrist watches, Chess Boards, Playing Cards, Writing Slates, Signature Guides and Weighing Scales etc. are made available at a highly subsidized cost to needy clients. During the year, 53 blind persons availed this facility.

BPA THACKERSY FUND FOR THE REHABILITATION OF BLIND WOMEN

BPA has established this benevolent fund for rehabilitation of blind women with kind courtesy of Thackersy Charitable Trust. During the year, 100 blind women were assisted in their hour of need to the tune of ₹1,53,111/-.

Besides the above mentioned schemes, BPA has referred 19 needy clients to various Sources / Agencies / Hospitals for assistance as per their requirements.

PERFUMERY TRAINING PROGRAM

CPL Aromas conducted Smell Capacity Test survey amongst Visually Impaired Persons. Thereafter, BPA and CPL Aromas decided to train selected candidates for training program in perfumery. Department of Cosmetics and Perfumery of KET's V.G.Vaze College, Mulund started a training program from March, 2012 for a batch of 10 participants. Out of these, five participants completed the course. We are happy to announce that two candidates got employment in perfume industry as Junior Evaluators. To our immense satisfaction, this has created new employment opportunities in the field of perfumery for visually impaired.

We appreciate the huge efforts, perseverance and patience put in by Perfumery Department team of Vaze College headed by Mrs. Renuka Theragaonkar. It is also very commendable on part of the students to complete this course, totally unfamiliar to them, with great faith in Mrs. Renuka Theragaonkar and her team. We are also grateful to CPL Aromas's whole-hearted support in this endeavor.

PADMASHREE Dr. RAJENDRA T. VYAS MEMORIAL AWARD

BPA has created a Corpus Fund of ₹1,00,000/- for institution of Padmashree Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas Memorial Award to be conferred on student for excellence in academic career other than regular streams.

FOUNDATION DAY

Blind Persons' Association celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on Saturday, the 27th October, 2012 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

Mrs. Shanta Narsian, our President, welcomed the speakers and audience. Mr. Joaquim Rapose, our General Secretary, spoke about the organization and its activities. Mrs. Shobha Chavda, our dedicated volunteer, introduced the speakers and welcomed them with bouquet at the hands of our Managing Committee members.

Mrs. Shibani Joshi, All India Radio Anchor & News Reader along with Mr. Anil Hardikar, Writer & Program Anchor, presented their program "Are Prashna, Are Prashna, Prashna Prashna, Are, Are". The audience enjoyed the program.

At the end, Vice-president Mrs. Anubha Dixit proposed the vote of thanks.



ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Annual Picnic was organized on Sunday, the 3rd February 2013, at Jeevan Dhara Center, Titwala in which Staff, members and their families participated. The attendance was low because of car-rally at NAB and Staff Selection examination. Breakfast, lunch and evening tea was provided to the picnickers. Different games and Lucky Draw was arranged for the entertainment of participants.

The blind members learnt about the adverse effects of addiction. It was a unique experience for the inmates of Jeevan Dhara to have fun and joy with blind members of the Association. The inmates of Jeevan Dhara were emotionally moved to see the blind overcoming their handicap with positive spirit and living a meaningful life.

Mr. Jin D'Silva, Secretary of the center, was kind enough to provide the venue free of cost and serve the food at highly subsidized rate.

We would like to appreciate the kind gesture of picnickers who spontaneously contributed more than ₹100/- towards the picnic expenses in response to our appeal. We could generate sum of ₹3600/- for this purpose. We spent around Rs. 15,300/- on this event.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Blind Persons' Association, Mumbai celebrated International Women's Day on Saturday, the 16th March 2013 at Panchayat Samiti Hall, Ambarnath. Mr. Godambe – BDO of Ambarnath, was the chief guest for the function.

Representatives from Bharat Gas were invited for a demonstration of safety measures and proper usage of Gas stove and Cylinder. The participants had gainful interaction with the authorities.

In the post-lunch session, Mrs. Surekha Bhide, counselor of the “Sakhya” project, was invited to deliver a lecture on Domestic violence on women and Government Health schemes. In the evening, an entertainment program “Bol Bahineche” on Bahinabai Chaudhary, a well-known poetess, was presented by Mrs. Pradnya Gokhale and her colleagues. The program was



widely appreciated. Thereafter potato slicers were distributed to all female participants as a token of gift. Breakfast, tea and lunch was served. The program received overwhelming response from the participants. This program was sponsored by State Bank of India – Thane Branch, LIC.- Thane branch, Ganapati Mandir – Titwala, Mrs. Kiran Jadhav of BPCL, Mr. A. J. Mistry and Mr. Arvind Nere.

OUR SINCERE THANKS

We are highly grateful to our Donors, Charitable Trusts and Well Wishers for their generous donation without which it would have been difficult for us to support our beneficiaries. This year we received ₹5,16,910/- from our 49 donors.

We specially thank M/s.Sorab S. Engineer & Co. (Chartered Accountants) for auditing our accounts free of cost every year.

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the services of volunteers, friends, well-wishers and staff for their help, support and co-operation extended to us.

Shanta Narsian
PRESIDENT

Y. D. Zope
HON. GEN. SECRETARY