



Blind Persons' Association

Annual Report 2013-14



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 **2013-14**

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 2013-14

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of members has gone up to 946 after inclusion of 20 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 4 times. We are happy to note that committee members took active part in the meetings, gave their valuable suggestions, and ably undertook the task assigned to the sub-committees

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 66th Annual General Body Meeting was convened on Saturday, the 28th September 2013 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai. 72 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 Ubtan packing and selling for the visually handicapped women from Vangani
- Organising Masseur camps at various venues for self-employment opportunities
- 'Resheembandh' - a new activity for youth.

Detailed Report follows...



Medical Assistance

MEDICAL CORPUS

BPA already has a Medical Assistance Scheme wherein approximately ₹80,000/- 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 ₹8,24,306/- from August 2010 to March 2014. 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 15th June 2013, BPA distributed school material such as school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, scales etc. worth ₹25,250/- to 92 sighted children of 85 blind parents in BPA's office premises, at the auspicious hands of Mr. Gajendranath Sarkar, ex-BJP president of Ambarnath and Mr. Dhananjay Bardade, the secretary of Siddhivinayak Mandir Trust. We thank Mr. Hitesh Mehta for his donation of 540 Notebooks for this project

₹72,000/- were distributed as scholarship to 71 college-going blind students on 23rd November 2013 at the hands of our office-bearers and EC members. (29 female students received ₹29,200/- while 41 Male students received ₹42,800/-).

Scholarship worth ₹1,03,700/- was distributed on 30th November 2013 to 156 sighted children of 118 blind parents at the hands of our office-bearers and EC members.

In all total amount of ₹2,00,950/- was spent under the scheme.

BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP

For the academic year 2013-14, 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



Need Based Financial Assistance



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

During the year, medical assistance worth ₹75,038/- was provided to 22 clients. (₹56,663/- to 14 male beneficiaries and ₹18,375/- to 8 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.

Total assistance of ₹53,200/- was disbursed to 25 clients - 18 female and 7 male.

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 ₹32,000/- to 16 beneficiaries, ₹20,000/- were given to 10 male clients and ₹12,000/- to 6 female clients.

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 ₹84,400/- under the scheme to cover 34 to 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.



Help the Aged



Need Based Financial Assistance

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. Sale of these aids fetched us ₹7,625/-

BPA THACKERSY FUND FOR THE REHABILITATION OF BLIND WOMEN

Thackersy Charitable Trust. During the year, 161 blind women were assisted in their hour of need to the tune of ₹1, 83, 075/-.

Besides the above-mentioned schemes, BPA has referred 65 needy clients to various Sources / Agencies / Hospitals for assistance as per their requirements

PERFUMERY TRAINING PROGRAM

CPL Aromas International had conducted Smell Capacity Test survey in April 2011 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 held a training program for the first batch of 10 candidates in the year 2012. Out of these, five participants completed the course. **We are happy to announce that four candidates are successfully employed in perfume industry as Junior Evaluators.**

Encouraged by this, BPA, CPL Aromas and KET's V. G. Vaze College, Mulund have started training program for the second batch of four candidates from March 2014



Masseur Camp

MASSEUR CAMP - A PLATFORM FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

First time in the history of BPA, we organized a three day Masseur Camp at Scout Hall, Dadar in April 2013. With kind courtesy of our well-wisher, Mrs. Shubhada Jahagirdar, we could get two stalls for this event free of cost at Konkan-Bazar exhibition. Three visually impaired masseurs could exhibit their skills in Foot Massage, Head Massage, Back Massage, Shoulder Massage etc. We got an overwhelming response from the visitors for this camp and received many enquiries for the home visits. Some of the visitors were kind enough to offer lunch and snacks to our masseurs. We appreciate the promptness and zeal of the staff and EC members to organize this event at a very short notice.

Another 3-day camp was held at Bhavans College, Andheri in the month of October 2013, which attracted approximately 135-140 clients. This could generate employment for three visually impaired masseurs. KRIPA CIRCLE- a group of ex-students of Bhavans College helped us to get the stall for this event.

At Mehta Park, Kandivali (west) one more event for masseur was organized from 24th to 26th January 2014. In this event too 3 masseurs got an opportunity for self-employment.

The response towards these camps boosted our confidence in organizing more such camps.

HAWKER'S DAY

The 6th Hawker's Day was celebrated on 2nd May 2013 at New Deccan English High School, Ambarnath (West) in which 89 blind hawkers participated along with their family members. At this occasion Mr. Namdev Bhosale, Joint Commissioner of National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation conducted a session on various schemes for availing loan from ₹20,000/ to ₹5,00,000/- for entrepreneurs. The session was interactive; many hawkers shared their experiences and put forth their queries regarding their loan. Mr. Bhosale assured his fullest cooperation in availing this facility to the needy.

Four hard-working and sincere hawkers viz. Mr. Datta More, Mr. Devnarayan Yadav, Mr. Ramesh Jaiswal & Mr. Abu Shamim were felicitated at the hands of Mr. Gajendranath Sarkar, Ex. President BJP Ambarnath. Our General Secretary MR. Y. D. Zope and the dignitaries on the dais appreciated the zealous efforts put in by hawkers for earning their livelihood. Mr. Nitesh Shah, one of our regular donors donated 75 shirt-pieces for this occasion, which were distributed amongst the hawkers.

Mr.Gajendranath Sarkar sponsored refreshments for the participants.

Mr. Purushottam Patel and Mr. Harishankar Sharma rendered their fullest cooperation in organizing this event.



Hawkers' Day



Reshimbandh

RESHIMBANDH

With the purpose of connecting the youth with our organization, we have started a new activity "RESHIMBANDH". Under this activity, this year we held Duet Singing Competition and Quiz Contest for the youngsters between the age of 16 to 35 years on Saturday, the 24th August 2013 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

Dr. Sameer Mansuri, was the chief guest and Dr. Veena Lidwin, professor at Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, was the guest of honor.

In Duet singing competition, 16 duos participated. Visually impaired professional youngsters accompanied them. The competition was judged by Mr.Sachin Mohite,Mr.Suhas Karnik and Mrs. Uma Munje who appreciated the competitors for their performance and announced the

names of first three winners. The participants received guidance and tips from the judges. At the end, all the three judges gave overwhelming performance. The atmosphere was filled with ecstasy.

Thereafter 35 boys and girls participated in quiz contest ably conducted by Mohd. Raza, Amjad Fitwala and Kiran Kadam. Out of seven groups, two groups were declared as winners.

With her spontaneous compering, Miss Radhika Bakhale added colours to the program.

The response for the program was overwhelming. The event will remain in the memories of the audience for a long time.

The program was sponsored by Dr. Sameer Mansuri, LIC India, Mahalakshmi Mandir Trust and four well-wishers.

The two youngsters, Madhukesh and Rahul played significant roll in making this event succesful.

FOUNDATION DAY

Blind Persons' Association celebrated its 66th Foundation Day on Saturday, the 19th October, 2013 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

On this occasion, 2012 & 2013 Padmashree Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas Memorial Awards were conferred on Ms. Ashmira Hamirani and Mr. Ekinath Khedekar for their excellence in education other than regular streams. Ms. Hamirani, a visually impaired post-graduate from TISS, got a fellowship for the project 'Pahal' under which she works with women prisoners at Bengaluru while Mr. Ekinath Khedekar, a visually impaired law graduate and Master in Management studies presently works as a Sr. Manager at Reliance Industries as a Finance-regulatory professional. The awards were presented at the hands of chief guest Mrs. Gool Ghadiyali, a well-known educationist and ex-principal of New Era Activity school.

Mrs.Madhaviben Vyas and her daughter Miss Siddhi Vyas were also present on the occasion as guests of honour.

Mr. Ekinath Khedekar humbly donated the amount of award Rs.5000/- to the organization to be used for upcoming and prospective candidate in coming years.

On this occasion, prizes were distributed to the winners of 'Reshimbandh' duet singing competition and quiz contest.

Thereafter Mr. Chandrashekhar Vaze , Chairman Jankalyan Sahakari Bank and President Maharashtra Seva Sangh, Mulund presented his well-received program 'Hasya Chintan'. The audience enjoyed the program. He generously donated Rs.10,000/- to our organization.

UBTAN PROJECT

This year, on Diwali, we launched a new income generating pilot project of Ubtan with a great zeal. This helped few visually impaired women from Vangani to earn their livelihood.

This being the first year of project, we had set a target of packing and selling 5000 Ubtan packets.

The packing was done in Vangani village by four V. I. women and a supervisor who were paid ₹1200/- each for this job.

The Ubtan packets were sold on stalls at Dadar, Mulund, Andheri, Vile-Parle etc. by our staff and volunteers. For selling of Ubtan, our enthusiastic team of volunteers went door to door in many housing colonies. In addition we received order of 1500 packets from BPCL.

We are happy to announce that we could earn ₹22,500/- through this project.

We take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Chaya Parchure-Desai, Assistant Director – NAB, Mr. Vasant Hegde, General Secretary - NFBM and Mrs. Shobha Chavda for their valuable suggestions and inputs, which encouraged us to go ahead with this project.



Ubtan Project



Musical Chairs - Annual Family Picnic

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Annual Picnic was organized on Sunday, the 9th February 2014, at Shantikunj Sevashram, Harigram, Panvel in which 110 members, their families and staff participated.

The participants played different games, strolled around the huge premises, and had chat with the inmates of Old age home.

After lunch, the participants had their entertainment program.

Thereafter winners of the games and lucky draw received prizes at the hands of manager of Ashram - Mr. V. R. Shenoy.

We appreciate and thank the management of Shantikunj Sevashram for providing sumptuous

and delicious breakfast, lunch and evening tea at the subsidized rates. We also thank Mr. Rohidas Nayak for free transportation back and forth between Panvel station and Shantikunj Sevashram. We thank all of them for making our stay comfortable and memorable. Our well-wisher Mr. Dinesh Gaur partly sponsored our picnic by donating ₹5000/-



Adv. Nayana Pardesi speaking on International Women's Day



Aparna Mayekar (Singing), Bipin Inamdar, Shyam Sayanekar (Tabla), Jayant on Keyboard

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Blind Persons' Association, Mumbai celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday, the 30th March 2014 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

After inauguration, 'Antakshari', 'Saree Draping' and 'Ukhana' competitions were held for our blind friends. Mrs. Manisha Sabnis judged Saree Draping competition while Mrs. Shobha Chavda and Mrs. Shubhangi Ghag were the judges for the Ukhana competition.

In the post-lunch session, a Candle-lighting competition was held for our sighted friends in whom three small girls surpassed all the adults.

Thereafter Mrs. Shubhangi Ghag and Mrs. Samidha Khare interacted with audience through poems and anecdotes.

Advocate Mrs. Nayana Pardesi, delivered a speech on amendments in Acts on Sexual Harassment at workplaces and Domestic violence against women. The speech was well received and appreciated by audience.

Much-awaited one-hour musical program by reputed singer Dr. Aparna Mayekar alias Rekha Davajekar started in the evening. Our visually-impaired artists Mr. Bipin Vartak (Dholak), Prof. Shyam Sayanekar (Tabla), Mr. Jayant Pavar (Keyboard) and Mr. Suhas Karnik (Duet singing) accompanied her during her performance. For one hour, the air was filled with music and she received many spontaneous 'once mores'. She also took us through the memory-lanes of her father and music director late Mr. Datta Davajekar. She also shared with us his journey in the field of Hindi and Marathi cine-era.

The prizes to the winners of various competitions held during the day were distributed at the hands of Dr. Aparna Mayekar.

Afterwards there was a lucky draw. Mrs. Vijaya Mirani and Mrs. Smita Chavan sponsored the gifts for it. At the end, small steel containers were distributed to all women participants as a memento. Breakfast, tea and lunch were served. The program received overwhelming response from the participants. This program was sponsored by Mr. Anand Mahajan, LIC India, Mahalakshmi Temple Trust, Soroptimist International Club, Mrs. Dipti Munim, Mrs. Anu Mistry, Mr. Hiranman Shinde and Mr. Ashok Kambale.

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 ₹6,43,798 from our 61 donors.

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

We also thank M/s Indus D'Sign for designing our logo, brochures, stationery, annual report etc. initially at a very concessional rate and for designing various specific banners, envelopes free of cost whenever needed.

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