



Blind Persons' Association

Annual Report 2014-15



Blind Persons' Association

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 & FCRA, 1976)
(Registration 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 **2014-15**

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, Thane and Raigad District with focus on the needs of non-institutionalized blind persons.

The Executive Council of BPA presents with great pleasure the Annual Report of its activities for the year 2014-15

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of members have gone up to 1,081 after inclusion of 46 new Life Members. (Here BPA would like to clarify that the benefits are open to all Visually Impaired in and around Mumbai and not limited to its members only)

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 had active participation in the meetings, they gave their valuable suggestions and ably undertook the task assigned to the sub-committees.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 67th Annual General Body Meeting was convened on Saturday, 13 September 2014 at Vitthal Mandir Hall, D.L.Vaidya Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai 400 028. This was attended by 236 members.

ACTIVITIES

BPA has many programs and schemes like Scholarship and Educational Assistance, Help the Aged, Medical Assistance, Need Based Financial Assistance, House Repair, Self Employment Project, Aids and Appliances at subsidized cost, Counseling Services, 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 venture of Volunteer Bank during the year

Detailed Report follows...

MEDICAL CORPUS

BPA already has a Medical Assistance Scheme wherein approximately ₹1,00,000 is disbursed annually to the beneficiaries. It covers clinical tests, treatment of ailments, purchase of medicines; surgery etc. The Executive Council decides the amount 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 thought that this is 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. Last year we could collect ₹1,82,694 for this corpus which helped us in completing our target of ₹10,00,000. **Our Medical Corpus now stands at ₹10,07,000.** We are extremely happy to announce that donors and well-wishers, sighted as well as blind, have responded generously to our appeal and BPA has achieved this target within five years. As many donors are still coming forward to help us in this noble cause, **BPA has decided to raise the Medical Corpus amount to ₹15,00,000** and we are confident of achieving this goal in a short span of time.

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 21st June 2014, BPA distributed school material such as school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, scales etc. worth ₹25, 000 amongst 97 sighted children of 72 blind parents in BPA's office premises, at the hands of Mrs. Basmati Jaiswal who sponsored the entire scheme. We are very grateful to our well-wisher Mr. Hitesh Mehta for donating 540 Notebooks, which he has been giving regularly since last many years.

Scholarship worth ₹80,000 was distributed on Saturday 7th November 2014 to 140 sighted children of 92 blind parents at the hands of our office-bearers and EC members.

₹72,000 were distributed as Scholarship to 41 college-going blind students on 30th November 2014 at the hands of Mr. Abraham John - father of renowned film actor John Abraham of Ishan Foundation in presence of our office-bearers and EC members. 19 female and 22 Male students received this amount.

In all total amount of ₹1,52,000 was spent under the scheme.



Scholarship for college going blind student

BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP

For the academic year 2014-15, Scholarship worth ₹67,200 was given to 12 sighted school and college going wards of blind parents (₹2,400 each to 8 students and ₹12,000 each to 4 students) – courtesy Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Our profound thanks to BPCL for their consistent support to our cause



Ankush Patnore received financial assistance for cupboard

LIONESS CLUB OF VASANT VIHAR 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 ₹1,17,579 was provided to 39 clients.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Under this scheme, BPA offers 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, sudden death of earning member of the family. Total assistance of ₹59,322 was disbursed to 28 clients -16 female and 12 male clients.



A beneficiary of House Repair fund

HOUSE REPAIR

BPA extends a helping hand to the needy blinds 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.



Amina Baig received aid under Help the Aged scheme



Yogendra Joshi received aid under Help the Aged scheme



Distribution of Braille watches under Equipment Bank

HELP THE AGED

In the past BPA used to give 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. However, with the rising cost of living, this amount was very meager and hence BPA has raised this amount to ₹300 each from the month of June 2014. This aid is provided at their doorsteps, which builds up good rapport with them. We spent ₹1,14,100 under the scheme to cover 35 to 41 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 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, Wristwatches, 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, 40 blind persons availed this facility by purchasing various above-mentioned aids. The sale of these aids fetched us ₹5,000.

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, 2014-2015 blind women were assisted in their hour of need to the tune of ₹1,96,237.

REFERRAL SERVICE

Although BPA has been running many schemes to help the clients, at times it is not possible to give the aids fully due to lack of funds and our limitations in some areas. Under these circumstances, BPA refers its needy clients to various Sources / Agencies / Hospitals for assistance as per their requirements.

This year our Referral of 144 clients to such agencies were fruitful, the details of which are as follows:

- 11 clients were referred to Government, BMC and Trustee Hospitals for tests like MRI, C.T. Scans etc and various operations.
- 18 clients were referred for Financial Medical Assistance to various NGOs and Charitable trusts. This helped them in purchasing some costly medicines and undergoing operations like Cataract, Kidney stones etc.
- 4 clients were referred to different Dialysis centers. Out of these, two patients are getting free dialysis facility while other two are getting it at subsidized cost.
- 14 clients were referred to Lotus Eye Hospital for Low vision test and other eye related ailments.
- 4 clients were referred for dental treatment to Nair Dental Hospital and D.Y.Patil Hospital.
- Assisted 7 clients to obtain blood from Blood Bank.
- 2 clients were referred to Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped for obtaining Hearing Aids.
- 9 clients were referred to Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana at various Tahasil offices for getting benefits through this scheme.
- 6 clients were assisted in getting Ration Card and Aadhar card,
- 5 visually impaired persons were referred to J.J.Hospital and Thane Civil Hospital for getting Blindness Certificate.
- 5 college going V.I. students were referred to Govt. as well as Private Hostels for accommodation.
- 4 sighted children of Blind parents were referred to residential schools.
- 4 sighted children of Blind parents were referred to Kotak Mahindra's Vocational Training Program.
- 3 clients were referred for Self-employment to Samrudhhi Foundation and Cheshire Home.
- 48 clients were provided with volunteers as per their nature of work.(e.g. Reader, Writer,Field work etc.)

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 held a training program for the second batch of 10 candidates in the year 2014-2015. Out of these, five participants completed the course and **We are happy to announce that all Five candidates have been successfully employed in perfume industry as Junior Evaluators.**

BPA, CPL Aromas and **KET's V.G.Vaze College, Mulund** will continue the training program for the third batch from June 2015.

MASSEUR CAMP - A PLATFORM FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

BPA has been organizing Masseur camp from last two years. In this, camp visually impaired masseurs exhibit their skills in Foot Massage, Head Massage, Back Massage, Shoulder Massage etc.

This year, a 3-days camp was held at Bhavans College, Andheri in the month of October 2014, which attracted around 200 clients. This could generate employment for four 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 masseurs was organized from 11th to 15th October 2014. In this event too 4 masseurs got an opportunity for self-employment.

At both the venues, many enquiries were received for the home visits.

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

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.



A lady receiving weighing scale for self employment

HAWKER'S DAY

The 7th Hawker's Day was celebrated on 1st May 2014 at New Deccan English High School, Ambarnath (West) in which 93 blind hawkers participated along with their family members.

Four hard-working and sincere hawkers viz. Mr. Sahebrao Chawan, Mr. Gajanan Pagare, Mr. Rajkumar Gupta and Mrs. Anita Avhad were felicitated at the hands of Mr. Gajendranath Sarkar, Ex. President BJP Ambarnath and Mr. Omkar Devra, President of Goshala Bhivandi. 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 towels for this occasion, which were distributed amongst the hawkers.

Mr. Gajendranath Sarkar and Mr. Omkar Devra sponsored refreshments for the participants.

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

RESHIMBANDH



Reshimbandh

Since last two years, we have started an activity 'RESHIMBANDH' with the purpose to attract the youth in our organization. Under this activity, this year we had organized Mono Acting competition for the youngsters between the age of 16 to 35 years on Saturday, the 9th August 2014 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

Ms. Urvisha Koradiya –Project Manager Sheshpath, was the guest of honor and Mrs. Vandana Shinde counselor of Bandra family court was the chief guest for this function.

24 youths had participated in the said competition which was judged by Mr.Subodh Khanolkar , Mr.Bipin Vartak and Mrs.Rashmi Jail who appreciated the competitors for their performances and declared the names of first three winners. The participants received guidance and tips from the judges. After this competition workshop on Pre & Post Mrs. Vandana Shinde - councilor from Bandra family court, conducted marital counseling, which was very enlightening.

Miss Radhika Bakhale with her spontaneous compeering 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.

LIC India, Mahalakshmi Manidr Temple Trust and Mrs. Shashikala Kopar a silent social worker sponsored the program.

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

FOUNDATION DAY

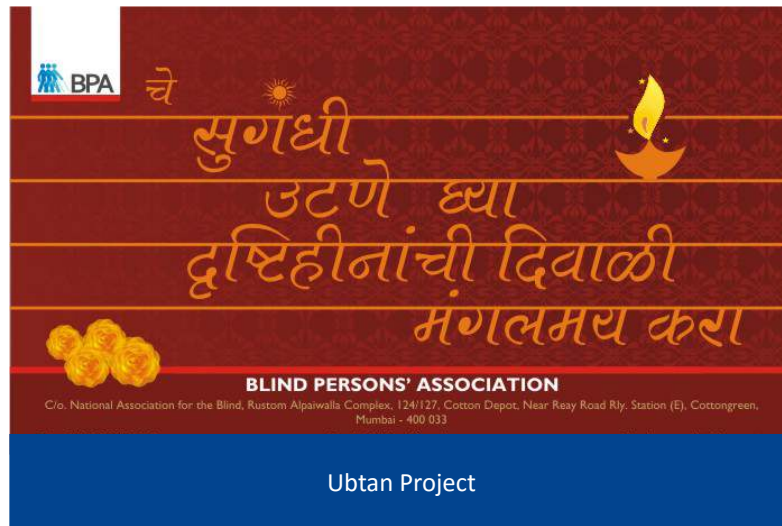
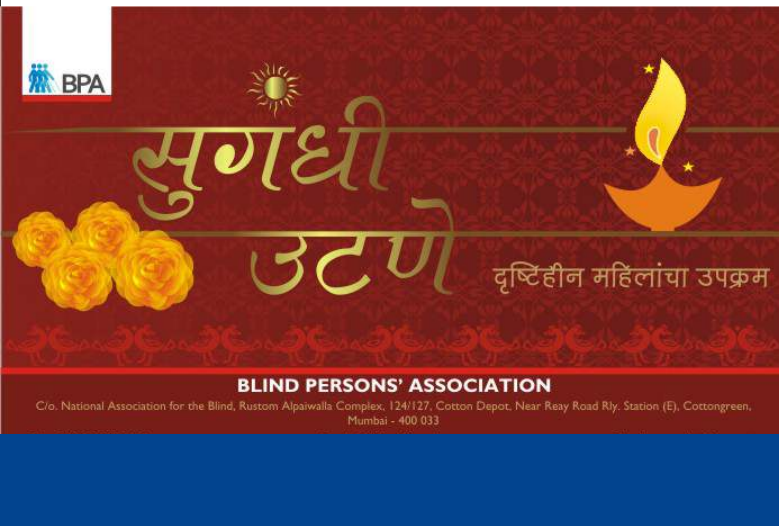
Blind Persons' Association celebrated its 68th Foundation Day on Saturday, the 18th October 2014 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai.

On this occasion Padmashree Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas Memorial Award was conferred on Ms. Jidnyasa Patil, a vision impaired girl, who in spite of vision impairment secured M.Tech Degree from V.J.T.I. Matunga, Mumbai.

The award was presented at the hands of chief guest Shree Achyut Godbole, a well-known Marathi author and internationally famed computer scientist, Economist, Psychologist & Musicologist.

Before the program Mr. Rajendra Chavhan presented a program called 'Hasre Kshan' (Talk show) which was well appreciated and enjoyed by the audience.

On this occasion, BPA launched its website www.bpamumbai.org at the hands of our chief guest Mr. Achyut Godbole.



UBTAN PROJECT

BPA launched an income generating program- Ubtan project in the year 2013 on the occasion of Diwali. This could generate income for some of the V.I. persons. Encouraged by this success, we decided to continue the project this year also. Few visually impaired women were engaged in preparing and packing ubtan powder at National Sports Organisation, Helen Keller Institute, Byculla.

Six visually impaired women and a supervisor could earn ₹1500 each from this activity.

The Ubtan packets were sold on stalls at Dadar, Mulund, Andheri, Vile-Parle, Borivali etc. by volunteers. For selling of Ubtan, our enthusiastic team of volunteers also went door to door in many housing colonies.

We are grateful to Mrs. Shobha Chavda for her valuable suggestions and inputs, which encouraged us to go ahead with this project.



Health Camp at Vangani



Health Camp at D. Y. Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai

HEALTH CAMP FOR THE BLIND

A Health Camp for the blind was organized at Munibaba School, Vangani, Dist.Thane on 11th January,2015 in association with Medical Fraternity of D. Y. Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai. 74 visually impaired persons attended the camp where they underwent Dental and General Medical Check-up.

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Annual Picnic was organized on Sunday, the15th February 2015, at, Arnala Beach Resort, Virar in which 153 persons including their families and staff participated.

In the morning, the participants enjoyed swimming in the sea and many of them strolled around the beach enjoying the Nature's bliss.

After lunch, the participants played various games like "Antakshari, Musical Chair etc.

Thereafter winners of the games and lucky draw received prizes at the hands of Mr. Suhas Karnik, Mr. Y. D. Zope and some of the senior members. The picnickers had sumptuous and delicious Breakfast, lunch and evening tea-coffee-ice-cream that was provided at the subsidized rates by the management of the resort for which we are grateful to them. We are especially thankful to our Vice-President Mr. C. A. Patu. Because of his initiative, we could get this resort at a very subsidized cost.

We also thank Mr. Prakash Raskar (Hon. Treasurer) who donated ₹5000 for free transportation back and forth between Arnala and Virar station. It was an enjoyable event for all.

Here, we would like to appreciate the kind gesture of picnickers who spontaneously contributed more than ₹150 towards the picnic expenses in response to our appeal. We spent around ₹52,072 on this event.



Annual Family Picnic at Arnala Beach Resort

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Blind Person's Association celebrated international women's day on Saturday the 28th March 2015 at Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar school for the blind from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

The function was well attended by blind women along with their sighted friends. Reputed lions club of Chembur Mrs. Sandhu madam and Uma Mumbaikar Principal of Kamla Mehta Dadar School inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp



International Women's Day

In the inaugural secession, a singing contest was held for women of two different age groups. In the first group total 12 women in the age group of 18 to 35 years participated while the second group was represented by 7 women above the age of 35 years. The competition was judged by Ms. Neeta Fernandes and Ms. Mona Tailor.

Thereafter a poetry reading competition was held in which 91 visually impaired women participated. In this contest, the participants read poems by various famous poets while some of them recited the poems written by themselves. Prof. Rohini Govilkar, Mrs. Pradnya Gokhle and Mrs. Shanta Narsian judged the competition.

In the second secession after lunch "Cereal sorting" competition was held in which three different types of mixed cereals were given to the participants for sorting. In this contest, 50 visually impaired women participated.

The next competition was "Coin in bucket" for partially sighted participants which included members and volunteers. The "Cereal sorting" and "Coin in bucket" contests were judged by Ms. Ruta Dixit.

In the next secession, two totally blind women Mrs. Damayanti Marfatiya and Mrs. Padma Rathod were felicitated by the chief guest Mrs. Uma Munje. This was to appreciate their efforts in nursing and care taking of their spouses during their prolonged illness. The chief guest also distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions and lucky Draw Winners.

Prize winners of various competitions:

Singing (18-35 years)

1. Ms. Triveni Shinde
2. Ms. Jyoti Sule
3. Ms. Krupali Raut
- C. Ms. Renuka Shinde

Singing (>35 years)

1. Ms. Ranjana Salve
2. Ms. Sudha Mhatre
3. Ms. Rani Narang

Poetry

1. Ms. Sudha Mhatre
2. Ms. Preeti Shinde
3. Ms. Renuka Shinde
- C. Ms. Vaishali Salavkar

Cereal Sorting

Ms. Swartha Waghmare

Coin in Bucket

Ms. Mangala

At the end, refreshments were served to all and the women participants were presented with the token gift of a Casserole. The function ended with the vote of thanks by our vice president Mrs. Anubha Dikshit. The program ended with singing of national anthem. The Women's Day celebration was a great success and everyone parted with the pleasant memories at the end of the function.

The program received overwhelming response from the participants. This program was sponsored by Mr. P. L. Tulsiani, Mr. P. N. Shah (C.A.), Mr. Shivaji Chavhan, Mrs. Anubha Dixit (Vice-President), Lions Club of Chembur Icon & Union Bank.

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 ₹7,72,670 from our 101 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.

Suhas Karnik
PRESIDENT

Y. D. Zope
HON. GEN. SECRETARY

BPA THANKS ALL THE DONORS FOR THEIR KIND SUPPORT