

Blind Persons' Association

Annual Report 2015-16



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 2015-16

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 2015-16

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of members have gone up to 1,112 after inclusion of 31 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 7 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 68th Annual General Body Meeting was convened on Saturday, 12th September 2015 at Shrimati Kamla Mehta Dadar School for Blind, Dada Saheb Falke Road , Dadar (East), Mumbai 400 014. This was attended by 85 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 ,competitions like Reshimbandh which is specially meant for visually impaired youth, 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.

MEDICAL CORPUS

BPA already has a Medical Assistance Scheme wherein approximately `1,10,000 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 amount is 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 `1,17,329 for this corpus which helped us in completing our target of `10,00,000. 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.**

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 27th June 2015, BPA distributed school material such as school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, scales etc. This Project was sponsored by Lions Club of Chembur Icon & notebooks were sponsored by Shri. Hitesh Mehta who is a regular donor. 95 sighted children of 75 blind parents were given away educational material at the auspicious hands of Mrs. Soni Sandhu & other Lions Club members in BPA's office premises. Scholarship worth `1,17,700 was distributed on Saturday 12th November 2015 to 147 sighted children of 102 blind parents at the hands of Mr. Chandrakant Mahadik, Trustee of Sant Gadge Baba Abhiyan. `73,000 were distributed as Scholarship by way of cheque to 60 college-going blind students on 28th November 2015 in the auditorium of Siddhivinayak Temple at the hands of Mr. Narendra Rane President of Siddhivinayak temple trust & Mr. Kadam & Naik the other trustees of the temple trust . 26 female and 34 male students received this amount. In the Same function Shri. Vinod Deshpande the Director of Dhruv Academic, Dombivali conducted a session on career counseling which was well appreciated. He also proposed to conduct special training programme for the visually challenged aspirants of various competitive examination.

For the educational programme of BPA in all total amount of `1,90,770 was spent under the scheme.



Scholarships were distributed

BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP

For the academic year 2015-16, Scholarship worth ₹72,000 was given to 10 sighted school and college going wards of blind parents. Courtesy Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Our profound thanks to BPCL for their consistent support to our cause.



Beneficiaries received financial assistance for cupboard

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

During the year, medical assistance worth ₹1,06,108 was provided to 43 clients.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

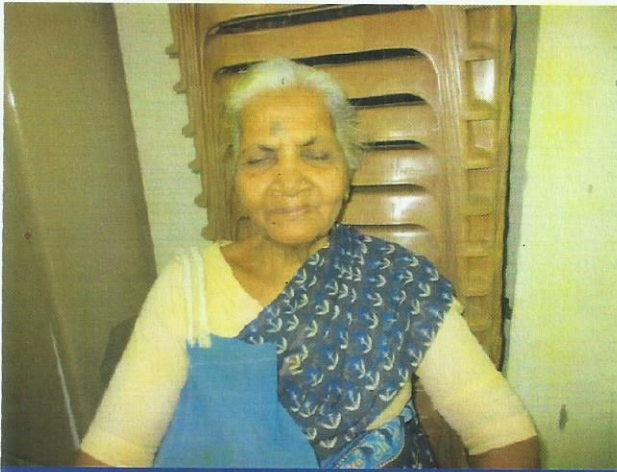
Under this scheme, BPA offers partial financial assistance to needy blind persons to acquire household articles such as Cots, Mattresses, Gas connections, Cupboards, Kitchen Racks, and Utensils etc. BPA also provides financial assistance to needy blind persons to meet unforeseen expenditure caused by fire, flood, building collapse; sudden death of earning member of the family. Total assistance of ₹52,900 was disbursed to 35 clients - 23 female and 12 male clients.

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 ₹29,000 to 16 beneficiaries, ₹18,000 were given to 9 Male clients and ₹11,000 to 7 Female clients



A beneficiary of financial assistance for bed.



Help the aged

HELP THE AGED

In the past BPA used to give monthly financial assistance of `200 to each beneficiary. Since June 2015 the amount of help aged was increased from `200 to `300 for gents & from `200 to Rs.500 for ladies. 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 `1,74,000 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 Empowerment of Blind women.



White Cane Day

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, 80 blind persons availed this facility by purchasing various above-mentioned aids. The sale of these aids fetched us `27,820.

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, 2015-16 blind women were assisted in their hour of need to the tune of `2,09,000.

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 139 clients to such agencies was fruitful, the details of which are as follows:

- 9 clients were referred to Government, BMC and Trustee Hospitals for tests like MRI, C.T. Scans etc and various operations.
- 21 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.
- 3 clients were referred to different Dialysis centers. Out of these, two patients are getting free dialysis facility while one is getting it at subsidized cost.
- 11 clients were referred to Lotus Eye Hospital for Low vision test and other eye related ailments.
- 1 client was referred for dental treatment to Yugandhar Hospital .
- Assisted 7 clients to obtain blood from Blood Bank.
- 6 clients were referred to Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped for obtaining Hearing Aids.
- 2 clients were referred to Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana at various Tahasil offices for getting benefits through this scheme.
- 13 clients were assisted in getting Ration Card and Aadhar card.
- 4 visually impaired persons were referred to J.J.Hospital and Thane Civil Hospital for getting Blindness Certificate.
- 6 college going V.I. students were referred to Govt. as well as Private Hostels for accommodation.
- 3 sighted children of Blind parents were referred to residential schools.
- 2 sighted children of Blind parents were referred to Kotak Mahindra's Vocational Training Program, and 2 sighted children of Blind Parents were referred to Don Bosco Training Programme.
- 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.**

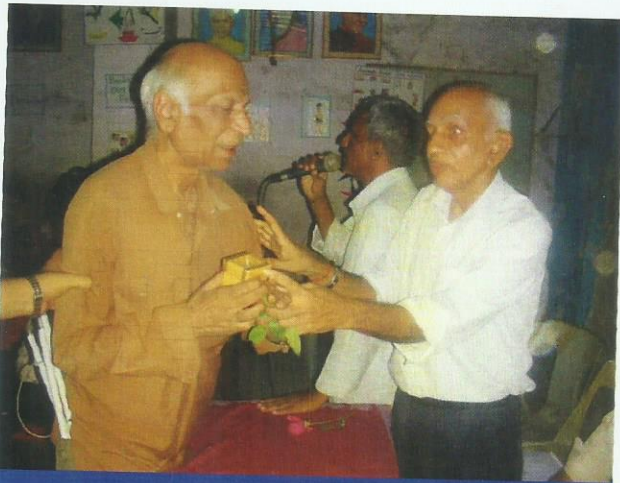
BPA, CPL Aromas and KET's V. G. Vaze College, Mulund will continue the training program for the third batch from June 2015.

ONE DAY DHARNA OF BLIND RAILWAY HAWKERS

Due to an initiative of BPA an umbrella organization was formed named United forum for the rights of the blinds . Shri Suhas Karnik president was appointed at chairperson of the forum. Under the auspice of the UFRB a one day dharna a programme was organized for the redressal of the problem faced by the blind railway hawkers. The protest was staged at the office of Shri Suresh Prabhu Honorable Minister of Railways on 27th April 2015 at Dadar (E). Nearly 400 blind hawkers participated in a day along dharna.

The delegation of the representatives of all the participating organization make the top officials of both Western & Central Railways. They assured the delegation to look into the problems sympathetically .But expressed their inabilities to legalize the hawking unless an amendment is made in article 144 of railway act.

The print media gave good coverage of the event .



Felicitation of hard working and sincere hawkers

HAWKER'S DAY

The 8 H Hawker's Day was celebrated on 2nd May 2015 at New Deccan English High School, Ambarnath (West) in which 80 blind hawkers participated along with their family members.

Four hard-working and sincere hawkers viz. Mr. Suresh Pawar, Mr. Namde Abhange , Mr. Dinesh Manik and Mr. Shantaram Shinde were felicitated at the hands of of Mr. Vaugh & Mr. Rathod official from social welfare department Thane , who apprise the hawkers of various scheme & facilities run by govt.on the occasion. 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 steel boxes for this occasion, which were distributed amongst the hawkers.

Mr. Pathak a silent social worker sponsored refreshments to the participants. We are also thankful to Siddhivinayak Mandir, Titawala & LIC of India, Thane Branch for donation of `5000 each for this event .



Enc
Encouraging Youth to showcase their talent

RESHIMBANDH

Since last three 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 22nd August 2014 at National Library Hall, Bandra (W), Mumbai.

Mrs.Neha Khare – Program Organizer All India Radio, was the chief guest for this function.

15 youths had participated in the Poetry competition which was judged by poets Mr. Suryakant Jadhav & Mohan Angre.

ALL INDIA CONFEDERATION OF BLIND'S CONFERENCE

A delegation of BPA which included Shri. Suhas Karnik, President, Mrs. Anubha Dixit, Vice President, Mr. Y. D. Zope, Hon. Gen. Secretary., Mr. Ramdas Nikam, Administrative Officer, Ms. Ananta Bhoje, E. C. Member along with Mrs. Ruchi Chaudhari & Savita Zende escort attended AICB Conference & General Body at Hyderabad from 10 H October to 14 H October, 2015. There were various sessions on education of visually impaired. There were panel discussions on various aspects of education and the faculty, members were experts in their respective fields. Mrs. Anubha Dixit was elected as Central Executive Council member of AICB. She would required to attend the meetings of CEC which are generally head ones in six months at New Delhi.

WORLD WHITE CANE DAY

On 15 H October World White Cane Day was observed at Siddhivinayk Temple at Prabhadevi. The trustees of the temples trust distributed 100 folding canes to needy blind persons. Shri. C. A. Patu, Vice President, Shri. Hiranman Shinde, Joint Secretary were present on this occasion .

FOUNDATION DAY

Blind Persons' Association celebrated its 68 H Foundation Day on Saturday, the 24 H October 2015 at Smt. Kamala Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Mumbai. A variety entertainment programme was presented comprising songs, instrumental performances, mimicry, poetry recitation etc. Thereafter Padmshree Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas Memorial Award was presented to Mr. Prashant Naik at the auspicious hands of Mr.

Narendra Rane (President of Siddivinayak Temple Trust, Prabhadevi, Mumbai). BPA selected Mr. Prashant Naik to receive this prestigious award because of his immense contribution in the field of Access Technology for the blind. Later in a response to this award, Mr. Prashant Naik spoke about lot of new technologies available which would make visually impaired persons independent and self-reliant. The foundation day programme concluded with a garba dance performance by low vision as well as totally blind persons which was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants as well as audience. A sumptuous dinner added flavor to the programme at the end.

WORKSHOP ON SCHEMES AND FACILITIES FOR WOMEN

BPA Mumbai organized a workshop for the visually impaired women on Friday, 18 H December 2015 from 2pm to 5pm at BPA office, Reay Road.

The President Mr. Suhas Karnik, V. P. Mr. C. A. Patu, Hon. Gen. Secretary Mr. Zope and Ms. Purvi Vora-Faculty of the College of Social Work - of Nirmala Niketan attended the session. The workshop was attended by 40 women .

Session 1 was on banking facilities. Shri. Thirki, Chief Manager of Bank of Baroda explained various schemes & facilities which could be availed by blind women.

Session 2: Stree Mukti Sangathana (FCC). The second session was by Ms. Jayeshree Pandit from Stree Mukti Sanghatana, Family Counselling Centre. This session covered the basic objectives of the family counseling centre namely to prevent domestic violence. The resource person spoke about ways in which stree mukti sanghatana helps women in their personal problems. Advocating self reliance among the visually impaired women and motivating them to come together was also highlighted during this session. Ms. Jayshree also informed the gathering that Stree Mukti Sanghatana provides vocational guidance and employment and also refer cases of temporary shelter to other agencies.

The Next session was conducted by Mr. Dilip Durge & Mrs. Shirke, officers from social welfare department of Maharashtra. They explain various schemes of the govt. for the empowerment of person with disability. The resource person also spoke about the new app to register the persons with disabilities and encouraged all the women to get registered in order to facilitate speedy services.

The Fourth Session was conducted by Shri. Radha Kurshna Nair from National Association of Disabled Enterprises. He oriented the participants about the activities of NADE. He provided information about the training & self employment opportunities for visually challenged. His main focus was to convert the disabled person into people who can contribute productively towards the economy of the nation. Many of the visually impaired women lacked the knowledge to market their products and hence this session proved very useful for them.

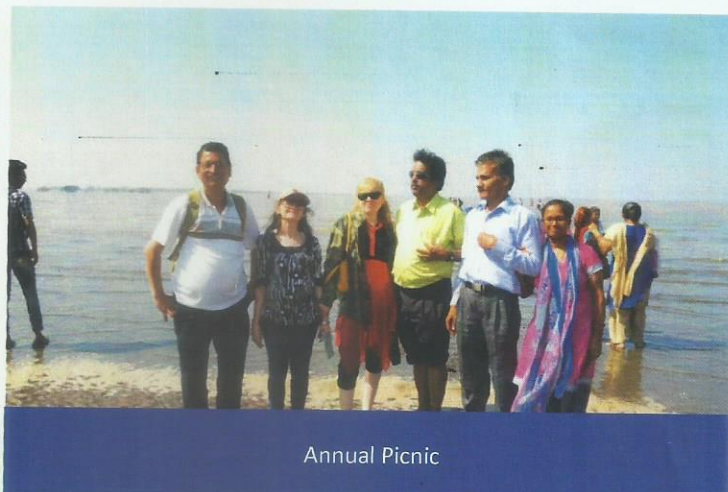
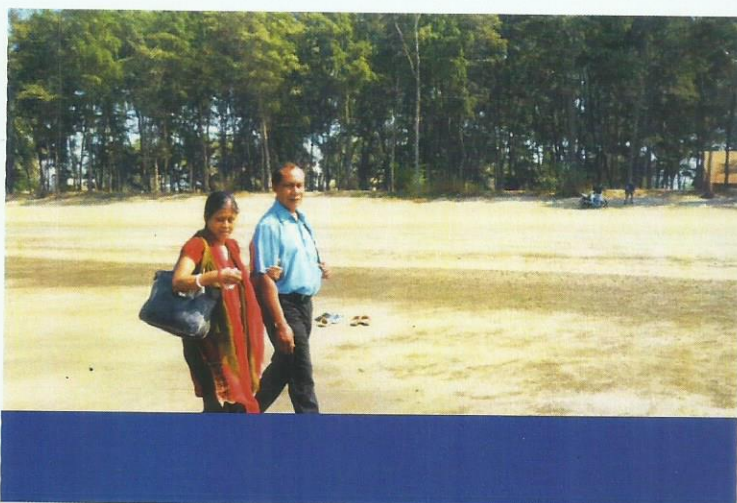
The last session was conducted by Ms. Sunita Mali from Reach Education Action Programme (REAP). She provided information about the agency and also spoke about Self Help Groups. This helps in decreasing the dependency on money lenders and make them more conscious about regular savings and investments. Small savings, internal loans, micro-credit from banks will help the visually impaired women become economically empowered.

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Annual Picnic was organized on Sunday, the 24 H January 2016, at Bordi, Dahanu in which 114 persons including their families, volunteers 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 Housie, Cricket etc.

Thereafter winners of the games and lucky draw received prizes at the hands of Mr. Suhas Karnik (President), Mr. Y. D. Zope (Hon. Gen. Secretary) and other office bears of the organization . The picnickers had delicious breakfast & lunch that was provided by Lions Club of Aadarsh Nagar. We are especially thankful to Mr: Hiramam Shinde Joint Secretary, Mr. Ashok Kamble treasures, Mr. Manohar Jadiyah, Member & Mr. Jayant Devgi of Lions Club of Aadarsh Nagar for making this event a grant success.



Annual Picnic

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Blind Persons' Association celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday the 20 H March 2016 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. Dr. Suchita Sawant, Mrs. Pradnya Gokhale, Mrs. Anubha Dixit Vice President &, Mrs. Archana Shinde, E.C. Member inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp.

In the beginning Dr. Suchita Sawant delivered a lecture on utility of Ayurved and Science behind celebrating Hindu festival. Thereafter elocution competition was conducted. 12 blind women participated in it. Ms. Yogita Tambe won the 1 P Prize & Mrs. Namrata Patkar won the 2nd prize . Ms.Rekha Shidhale & Mrs. Suhasini Bakre, retired professors of Mumbai University judged this competition. Thereafter talent show was presented by blind women.

In the evening session, Mrs. Jhelum Paranjape, renowned Odissi dancer was present as chief guest. On the occasion of International Women's day, Mrs. Deepa Thakur & Ms. Sulochana Terde were felicitated by chief



International Women's Day

guests for their successful journey of life in spite of visual impairment and all the obstacles in life. Thereafter the winners of various competitions and lucky draw received prizes at the hands of chief guests.

Prize winners of various competitions:

Elocution

1st

Ms. Yogita Tambe

2nd

Ms. Namrata Patkar

Ring into the Ball

1st

Mrs. Sarita Kataria

2nd

Ms. Medha Parmar

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

The program received overwhelming response from the participants. We are specially thankful to Daga Global Chemical Ltd, Basant Agro Tech India Ltd & Bassein Catholic Co-op Bank Ltd. for making this event a great success.

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 `5,15,354 from our 53 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.

S V R O P I S

Suhas Karnik
PRESIDENT

Y D Z

Y. D. Zope
HON. GEN. SECRETARY