

**BLIND PERSONS' ASSOCIATION,
MUMBAI**

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860,(No.1581 of 1947-48),
Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (No. F-114(B), & Foreign Contribution (Regulation)
Act, 2010 (No.083780467)

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

BlindPersons' Association, (B P A) Mumbai is a voluntary charitable organization working since October 1947 for the betterment of blind individuals residing in Mumbai and its suburbs, and surrounding districts including Thane, Palghar and Raigad, with focus on the needs of non-institutionalized blind persons.

The ExecutiveCouncil of BPA presents with great pleasure the Annual Report of its activities for the year 2020-21.

This has been an extraordinaryyear with Global corona pandemic which has led to truncated activities of the association. Many of the programs had to be deferred including the 73rd Annual General Meeting andtriennel election. The associationtried to continue with barestof activities to held the blind and visually impaired breathern within its jurisdiction.

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of membership is 1078 with sad demise of 25 members during the last year.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the year, the Executive Council met thrice 3, and the Working Committee met twice .Most of these meetings workheld virtually.

ACTIVITIES

BPA has many programmes and schemes like Scholarship and Educational Assistance, Help the Aged, Medical Assistance, Need Based Financial Assistance, House Repair, sale of Aids and Appliances at subsidized cost, Counseling Services, etc. It also organizes functions , cultural programmes likeReshimbandh (which is specially meant for visually impaired youth), Hawkers' Day, Foundation Day, Annual picnic, Women's Day etc.

Details of these are as under:

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:

BPA has a Medical Assistance Scheme under which an amount of Rs. 40,922/- was disbursed during the year to 14 beneficiaries. It covers the expenses incurred on clinical tests, treatment of ailments, purchase of medicines, surgery etc. The Association decides the quantum of assistance based on the production of appropriate medical documents. Considering the rising cost, the Association has set up a Medical Corpus Fund during the Financial year 2010-11 and as on 31st March 2021, it stands at Rs. 11,97,069/- which includes the donations of Rs. 1,15,000/- received during the year 2020-21. We aim to raise this as much as possible and the interest accrued on the same is utilized for the purpose of providing medical assistance to the needy blind people. We are extremely happy to announce that donors and well-wishers, sighted as well as blind are responding generously to our appeals and we would urge more and more people to come forward and donate for this purpose.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

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

- Free distribution of school materials for Preprimary & Primary School going children.
- Educational Assistance in the 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

During the year under review due to unusual circumstances we could not operate our Educational Programmes.

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, 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 etc. Total assistance of Rs. 9,300/- was disbursed to 5 clients during the year.

HOUSE REPAIR

BPA extends a helping hand to the needy blind persons residing in hutments and dilapidated dwelling units to get their houses repaired. The

help is given in the form of building materials. During the year an amount of Rs.12,000/- was disbursed to 6 clients.

HELP THE AGED SCHEME

Under this scheme we give Rs. 500/- per month per person, to financially poor blind persons who have reached the age of 60 or older to meet part of their expenses for medicines, grocery, toiletries, clothes etc. This aid is provided at their doorsteps, which builds up good rapport with them. During the year, 13 males and 13 females were assisted to the tune of Rs.1,56,000/-.

EQUIPMENT BANK

For last several years BPA has been running Equipment Bank for the blind. This is a unique scheme of its kind in Maharashtra. Special aids and appliances such as White Canes, Chess Boards, Playing Cards, Writing Slates, Signature Guides, Weighing Scales etc. are made available at highly subsidized cost to needy clients. During the year the materials worth Rs. 2,607/- were supplied to 24 poor and needy blind persons.

BPA THACKERSEY FUND FOR THE REHABILITATION & EMPOWERMENT OF BLIND WOMEN

BPA has established this benevolent fund for rehabilitation of blind women with kind courtesy of Thackersey Charitable Trust. During the year 2020-21, 12 blind women were assisted in their hour of need under our various schemes to the tune of Rs. 28,746/-.

FREE DISTRIBUTION OF WEIGHING SCALES:

The Lions Club of Chembur and our Association had jointly organized a programme of free distribution of weighing scales to poor and needy visually impaired people at their premises on Saturday, 13th January 2021. This which our ten needy blind people were provided with weighing scales

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BLIND HAWKERS ONE TIME-

Due to extraordinary circumstance where in all business suffered financial losses, BPA decided to distribute one time financial assistance to 120 hawkers worth Rs. 1000/- each. This was in the form of coupon which could be in cash by them for buying their business material.

RESHIMBANDH PROGRAMME:

This year the 7th "Reshimbandh" Programme was conducted on Saturday, 15th August, 2020, virtually. In this program a singing program organized. In this contest the following prizes were awarded
Mr. Shailesh Ambekar 1st prize 1500/-
Ms. Rupali Shelar 2nd prize 1200/-

Mr. Aftab Thakur 3rd prize 1000/-
Mr. JaishBaniaconsolation prize Rs.500/-
Mr. Deepak Kamble consolation prize Rs. 500/-

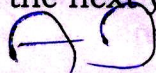
Since there were quite a few programmes on the same day, we received a tepid response in this contest.

OUR SINCERE THANKS

We are highly grateful to our Donors, Charitable Trusts and Well Wishers for their generous donations without which it would have been impossible for us to support our beneficiaries. This year we received Rs 4,22,00/- by way of donations from our 18 donors was received by way of General as well as Earmarked Donations for our various activities and projects.

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

We hope the next year would be a better year for all of us.



(Mrs) ANUBHA DIXIT
(PRESIDENT)



KETAN KOTHARI
(HON. GEN. SECRETARY)