

SARADA KALYAN BHANDAR  
General Secretary's Report – 2000-2001

Sarada Kalyan Bhandar is a woman Public Charitable Trust, registered on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1984 at Midnapore, West Bengal. Dedicated to the service of suffering humanities, its main charter is to uplift financially backward rural masses through education and health, to give financial support to needy meritorious youth, to improve the education of rural children of underdeveloped community, to organize literacy drive programme and to give support to women liberalization.

Sarada Kalyan Bhandar has a mission, a firm goal and meaningful objectives. Since 1984 the overall management of the organization was entrusted to four Trustees. In the year 2000, Dr. Krishna Bhattacharyya was the fifth member on the Board of Trustees. Being honoured as the member of The Public Service Commission, Govt. of West Bengal, as a protocol she withdrew from this commitment. Still we know she is very much with us always. We are happy to announce that in the year 2001 Sm. Jharna Chakrabarti of Prembazar, Kharagpur and Dr. Swapna Banerjee, Professor of the Dept. of the Electronics & Electrical Communication Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, are now the fifth and sixth member on the Board of Trustees. The organisation with six members on the Board of Trustees and seven membered Executive Committee implement the services through well-guarded Constitution. The organization is also supported by 22 lady members on the General Body, potential personalities as patrons, 149 sponsors from India and 34 from abroad.

Currently Sarada Kalyan Bhandar is supporting the Higher Education of 379 students from Higher Secondary to Postgraduate level including Medicine, Engineering, Veterinary and other vocational studies. We are expecting more than 200 new entrants from coming August-September 2001. Financial support to the beneficiaries under this project ranges from Rs.150/- to Rs.1,500/- per month. Books, other subsidiary educational assistance and medical help are also extended to needy students. A small library with valuable reference books and Magazines like India Today, Computer's Today, Competition Success Review, Nibodhata, daily newspaper etc. support the academic need of the students. Young groups are motivated towards various interactions through valuable Seminars, Competitions and classes on social, cultural and traditional values. Our students are showing positive response to these exposures as well as doing commendable results in various examinations. Our friends and well wishers have introduced various memorial prizes for different streams for encouraging them. Their talent is proved when we see them placed in various reputed jobs or awarded scholarships by renowned universities, both inland and aboard for various research and post doctorate studies. In the financial year 2000-2001 we received Rs.8, 29,278/- from public donation for Higher Education Project and spent Rs.6,86,682/-.

It is a great news for us that when we are to deny several merits for lack of funds, Foundation For Excellence from USA has given scholarship of Rupees 1 Lakh 12 Thousand Thirteen only for one year to 7 students for continuing their studies through Dr. Swapna Banerjee, the facilitator approved by FFE for 20 students. They have also approved Prof. Tapati Sinha as the second facilitator from the foundation. The Foundation has been approached for approving Sm. Mitali Das and Dr. Eva Dutta as Facilitators for 40 more students. The Foundation has assured that they will sanction scholarships to students satisfying their criteria.

We are proud to announce that the ex-students of Sarada Kalyan Bhandar are initiating "Sarada Kalyan Bhandar Alumni Association" today and registering them under this association. In this reference, the effort of Satyabrata Das, Kamal Mandal and few ex-students is remarkable. I strongly believe that a new milestone is set on the way of our future journey. We hope that this Alumni Association will give strength and inspiration to their mother institution.

Under our Community Oriented Program, 462 children including 20 orphans of eight villages-Baisakhipally, Gabnala, Khejurdanga, Bhagabatipally, Pakhijapally, Nichu Gope, a part of Rangamati and Hamarpata are given regular coaching for improvement of their studies. Physical training, yogasan, music and drawing classes are introduced for children to ensure their progress.

They are provided tiffin, milk, clothings including winter garments and study materials on regular basis.

It is mandatory for all local students to extend free rural service as tutors in the villages under our Child Welfare Project known as Kalyanpith. 48 student tutors are engaged as teachers in the project. Three coordinators, three assistant coordinators and two medical coordinators are in-charge of the child welfare project. They are overall responsible for the day to day running of its activities. Children of Kalyanpith are showing wonderful results in their school examinations. Percentage of their success is 99.2. This year Sm. Susmita Maity, who is attached to Kalyanpith since her childhood, has passed Madhyamik Examination this year securing 82% marks with 4 letters from Midnapore Mission Girls' High School.

We introduced child health care and rural health awareness programme in the year 1999. Now all 462 children of eight villages are under our Child Health Care Mission It is with the help of local Lions Clubs, Department of Field Publicity Govt. of India, Nehru Yuba Kendra, Rural Development Association, Midnapore Sadar Hospital and reputed doctors of the town that we are able to give medical support to these children.

It is worth mentioning here that in acute cases, children are sent to Bangur Institute of Neurology and PG Hospital at Kolkata where Dr. Manoj Kumar Bhattacharyya, Dean of Medical Science, Calcutta University very sympathetically takes personal care for their treatment.

This project is mainly supported by Asha for Education – New York/ New Jersey Chapter, India Friends Association LA, Street Children International New York and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar, Kolkata & Suman Prakashan Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

Total expenditure for the financial year 2000-2001 on Child Welfare Project is Rs. 3, 40,801/-

We have created Girl Child Efficiency Promoting Scheme, aiming to make the child grow with all her potentiality. Under this scheme the organisation takes the responsibility of overall expenses needed for the education, nutrition and health of a child from class IV. Rs.7, 500/- is spent yearly for one child. Dr. Lizy Philip of IIT Madras is sponsoring Kabita Barman of Gabnala village and Nirupama Trust for Educating Girl Child, New Delhi is sponsoring Deblina Maity of Baisakhipally and Barnali Shee of Gabnala village.

Mother being the nucleus of the family, can build a well-balanced productive society, if she has education, culture and honour for traditional values. We started implementation of Woman Efficiency Promoting Scheme by taking the entire financial responsibility of a girl student for continuing her higher education. This project aims at creating a positive status of women in the society and eradicating social evils like early marriage, torture and other woman atrocities caused for lack of economic freedom. We have now 7 girls under this scheme. A sponsor pays Rs.10, 000/- annually for five years to support a girl student under Woman Efficiency Promoting Scheme. The total annual expenditure on this scheme for these 7 girls is Rs.70 Thousand.

Asha for Education of NYC/NJ, USA, Sm. Sanghamitra Basu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture, IIT, Kharagpur, The Peerless General Investment Co. Ltd. of Calcutta, Dr. Chaitali Chakrabarti & Dr. Mitali Chakrabarti of USA.

Women awareness camps are also arranged time to time to motivate women folk in understanding some of the programs of social progress including their legal rights and different openings given to them in the society by the Government.

Gymnastic and Yoga classes for ladies are conducted regularly as part of the health programme. Classes on scriptures are organized once in a week for ladies.

Since 1989 we conducted the Child Welfare Project distributing the villages under 3 centers, begging and borrowing space from Primary Schools and local villages under very strained conditions.

This year Govt. of West Bengal has very kindly allotted 0.33 acres of land for our Child Welfare Project in Rangamati Mouza and the lease Deed is registered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2001 at Midnapore Sub-Registrar's Office. We have been able to fence the land with boundary wall with an extra

contribution of \$1000.00 received from India Friend Association, LA. The site plan is made by Sm. Sangamitra Basu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture, IIT Kharagpur. The Estimated cost for one storied building is Rs.26 lakh as per PWD schedule.

Our friends must be aware of the crucial situation that we are going to face to raise this huge fund. Still we strongly believe that however mite be the contribution from our friends, well-wishers and associates, spontaneous support from the generous public will help us to overcome this hurdle.

In the financial year 2000-2001, total Income is Rs.18, 40,714.56 and the total expenditure on various projects is Rs.15, 75,159.73, that means 85.57% is spent on beneficiaries.

The total asset value including land and building excluding 0.33 acres of Govt. Land as assessed for the financial year 2000-2001 is Rs.36, 67,422 .98.

Our fund source is only public donation. We need funds for various projects and administrative infrastructure. The credibility of donors supporting us is gradually established but as our target group of beneficiaries is rolling like snowball, more effort and connections need to be renovated.

We could not as yet mobilize National and International agencies to support the huge expenditure for administration. I am thankful to Omnikron Systems India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, for helping us in this matter. Our sponsors, donors, well-wishers, friends and associates are very much requested to give their judicious thought in creating a permanent fund for the organisation to run the administration smoothly. We have evolved a strong organizational identity and character linked with definite mission, appropriate programme and its implementation, and a high tone team spirit. It is time to add proficient ladies to stable the growth of this model Institution. Initiating an organisation is easy but continuing it in its model form is difficult until and unless dedicated workers pull the string and make significant contribution to its functioning.

Let us all take a challenge to preserve the dignity of rural young merits and also bring a radical transformation in the life of rural children and women through education, nutrition, health care and social awareness.

We have come this long way within such short span of time only because compassionate and socially rejuvenated people are supporting us whole-heartedly. Their spontaneous deep emotional identification is our asset.

Friends do step out and save the blooming rural youth by giving financial support to them for continuing their studies, spare a thought for these ill-fated poor child community so that they do not wither away unattended, and shield the dying flame with your own hands. Donate liberally for this noble mission.

I quote the immortal words of Swami Vivekananda that out lines the basic philosophy of Sarada Kalyan Bhandar- “ The only God to worship is the human soul.”

Thanks

Rekha Sarkar