

"Good values have a life of their own. If you live by them, they will grow and become stronger. And their example spreads and touches all around us. There is magic in them. If we remain focused on them, they enrich not just our personal lives but everything around us."

Narotam S. Sekhsaria

Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation is a not for profit initiative created to support enterprising individuals and innovative organizations. Its goal is to promote excellence among individuals, improve the quality of life of those living on the edges of the society, promote and protect the traditional culture and art forms.

The Foundation was established in 2002 by Mr. Narotam Sekhsaria to support individuals and organizations in the areas of education, health and livelihood. Right from its inception it has continued its spirit to not only support charitable and philanthropic initiatives but also to partner with developmental enterprises.

The Foundation believes that if each individual has access to health care and an option to pursue a meaningful education and through it an opportunity for livelihood, this is the only way that India will truly move forward. The Foundation strives to partner with initiatives and endeavors which believe in the same goals and contribute towards their realization.

In pursuing the above goals the Foundation nurtures meritorious students through the scholarship programme, supports mid career professionals through its fellowship programme, supports initiatives of mass learning and innovative education models. It supports community health initiatives, strengthens public health infrastructure and institutions and encourages private charitable initiatives in health care. It partners with initiatives which provide opportunities for capacity building and skill training for employment.

HEALTH

The Foundation's commitment to health care has prompted it to support models and innovative projects, capacity building of health care personnel, institution building, research and documentation

INITIATIVES IN HEALTH WITHIN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

The Foundation is committed towards elevating the health status of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society. Since the public health system caters to the health care needs of these people, the Foundation engages with the system and attempts to develop and strengthen the facilities. As a step towards the above goal the Foundation has supported the following initiatives:

The Liver Transplant Programme of the KEM Hospital. With this support the Department has been able to conduct staff capacity building and procure equipments for Modular Operation Theatre for conducting Liver Transplants. The Department of Pediatric Anesthesia has been supported for its infrastructural upgradation. With this grant the Department has been able to obtain the Datex Ohmeda Anesthesia Machine.

The Department of ENT & Head and Neck Surgery of Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College & General Hospital, Mumbai was supported by the Foundation for its infrastructural upgradation. With the Foundation's support the Department has been able to obtain a Valleylab Electrosurgical Cautery Equipment.

The Foundation's commitment to facilitate quality health care has prompted it to support the various departments of Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals in securing ISO Certification.

The Foundation has supported the Cardiac, Obesity and Lifestyle disorder OPD at the Police Hospital at Nagpada, Mumbai.

SUPPORT TO PRIVATE CHARITABLE HOSPITALS

In India private health care providers with philanthropic ideology have been providing health care to the people for generations. The Foundation engages with some of these charitable initiatives and supports them to reach out to the community.

The Foundation has partnered with Prince Aly Khan Hospital in construction of a fourteen bed cancer ward to promote and strengthen cancer care in the hospital. Along with this, the Foundation has also supported the capacity building for medical professionals in Laryngo-tracheal surgery and assisted with the technical upgradation for the oncology ward.

The Foundation is particularly committed towards facilitating good and affordable eye care for people. As a step towards this the Foundation has partnered with Aravind Eye Care Services in taking eye care to the underserved areas by strengthening the Arvind Managed Eye Care Services. The partnership with Aravind Eye Care has contributed towards establishing and managing a sustainable eye care programme in different parts of the Country.

The Foundation has supported Gujarat Blind Relief and Health Association, for its initiatives on preventing and combating blindness among the people of Gujarat. With the Foundation's support the Association has been able to run an eye hospital and relief programs in two Districts of Gujarat State. The initiative has also contributed towards addressing the issue of nutrition related blindness among people in the lower economic strata.

The Foundation supports Share Your Care, Community Outreach Programme of Bhaktivedanta Hospital in its relentless efforts to provide comprehensive eye care to children. As a part of this initiative, the Foundation supports the school vision screening and treatment programme.

SUPPORT TO NGOs AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES IN HEALTH CARE

With its vision to contribute towards elevating the health status of communities, the Foundation supports grassroot and community based organizations in their initiatives:

MASUM's endeavour to upscale the interventions towards improving the health of women and adolescents in Purandar Taluka. The programme includes early detection and treatment of RTIs and cervical cancer, detection and management of uterine prolapse among women, intervention to reduce anemia among women and adolescents and life skill education including reproductive health rights to adolescents.

Tathapi for its initiative to incorporate the Body Literacy Workbooks into schools in Maharashtra. The project aims at developing Body Literacy Workbooks in three regional languages, creating a core group of trainers and incorporating the same into the school curriculum.

Niramaya Health Foundation in developing Information Education and Communication material for the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme among adolescent school going children. The Programme is interactive and participatory in nature and addresses children from Municipal and Private Schools.

Institute for Community Organisation Research for conducting a study on nutritional and health status of fishing communities in the Uttan-Gorai area in Mumbai.

Umeed Child Development Centre for organizing an international workshop on Management of Humanitarian Emergencies- Focusing on Psychosocial Issues of Children and Families; and developing and launching the Mental Health Intervention Aides Training Programme.

Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust to facilitate a comprehensive rehabilitation process for persons with disability and demonstrate a model for community based rehabilitation.

Khoj Melghat to set up a helpline service to connect the community with the nearest public/ private hospital and training of tribal girls in emergency care.

Bal Asha Trust for their health care and nutrition programmes among children.

St. Jude India Child Care Centre for its initiatives in the areas of education, counseling and therapy.

Arpan for spreading awareness about child sexual abuse amongst various stakeholders, strengthening the personal safety skills of children, building capacities of care givers and counseling of adult survivors.

THE NAROTAM SEKHSARIA FOUNDATION GRANT / AWARD ON TOBACCO CONTROL

The Foundation believes in promoting good work on the issue of tobacco control. On that view the Foundation announced grant / award to recognize organizations and individual involved in tobacco control and support them to continue their efforts in future. A grant of Rs. Five lakhs each was awarded to three organisations on the basis of their excellent and effective activities related to tobacco control. Three individuals engaged in tobacco control with demonstrated work experience were awarded with Rs. One Lakh each.

Research, Training and Publication

In the area of Health the Foundation has supported following initiatives:

International Federation of Head and Neck Oncology Society's (IFHNOS) Conference on Head and Neck Oncosurgery, organized by the Tata Memorial Hospital.

The Foundation for Medical Research for their research project on water borne diseases in rural communities of Maharashtra;

Ummeed for the publication of their 'Directory of Services' required for children with development disabilities.

Publication of Dr. Chandalia's patient education booklet 'Living with Diabetes'.

Healis Sekhsaria Institute of Public Health for undertaking research through various epidemiological studies on tobacco and related advocacy initiatives.

Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust Delhi for organising the Inter Country Meeting on "Promotion of Inclusivity in Education, Employment, Health & Well Being of Persons with Disability in the South-East Asia Region".

Organising of the Third National Bioethics Conference on the theme ethics, equity and justice held at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

EDUCATION

The Foundation endeavours to promote education, research and training by institutions; supporting diverse projects in education which seek to facilitate capacity building; granting scholarships and fellowships to recognize and promote excellence; supporting various projects that are aimed at developing the human resources of educational institutions so as to improve the quality of education; and extending opportunities for access to quality education to various sections of the society.

SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Scholarship and Fellows Programmes of the Foundation endeavours to promote academic excellence in India, build capacity through continuing education and give access to quality education for all.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate Scholarships in Engineering

Scholarships for undergraduate studies in engineering are awarded to students from institutions offering undergraduate courses in engineering. As a part of this competitive programme merit- cum-means scholarships, award of excellence and certificates of merit are awarded to the students every year. Students of thirteen engineering colleges benefit from this programme.

Undergraduate Scholarships in Medicine

The scholarship programme for undergraduate students in medicine includes merit-cum-means scholarships, merit scholarships for books, award of excellence and certificate of merit. The programme is offered to students of nine medical colleges.

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Postgraduate Loan Scholarships

The Foundation offers interest free loan scholarships to meritorious students to pursue post graduate studies at institutions of repute in India and abroad. The scholarships are open to students throughout the country, who plan to pursue postgraduate studies in a wide range of disciplines. The awardees of the scholarship are pursuing higher education in the pure and applied sciences, social sciences, management studies and rehabilitation science at some of the leading institutions in the world, including the IIMs, ISB, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley amongst others. A unique feature of the scholarship programme is the mentoring process built into it.

Merit Scholarships for Postgraduate Students in Medicine and Staff Fellowships:

One time scholarships are awarded to meritorious post graduate students in the first year of medicine. Fellowships are conferred to teaching and para-medical staff, nursing staff and teaching staff for visits and training at centers for excellence in India.

Ph.D. Research Scholarship

The Foundation awards Scholarships to researchers from the University of Mumbai and University of Pune for pursuing their Ph.D. At present the students pursuing research in Chemistry and Contemporary Studies at the University of Mumbai and Computer Science and Pali at the University of Pune are being awarded Ph.D. Scholarships.

FELLOWSHIPS AND CHAIRS

Fellowships- Medical Education and Training

The Foundation awards medical fellowships to young surgical residents at Prince Aly Khan Hospital and Tata Memorial Hospital for obtaining further specialized training in the area of Head and Neck Oncology and for undertaking programme accredited to the National Board of Examinations leading to the conferment of Diplomat of the National Board.

Instituting Chairs in Chemical Engineering at The Institute of Chemical Technology

The Foundation extended a corpus grant to ICT to institute two chairs at the Professors level and one chair at the lecturer level in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Institute of Chemical Technology.

Scholarships for Professional Studies of Children of Police Personnel

The Foundation has instituted a scholarship scheme for children of police personnel. As part of this initiative Excellence Awards are being conferred to students in the final year of professional courses.

Fellowship in Cleft Surgery

A Fellowship has been instituted to be awarded annually to an Indian surgeon in the field of cleft surgery, to undergo further training with Prof M Mommaerts at the A Z Sint-Jan AV Hospital, Brugge, Belgium.

Fellowships for Trainee Conservation Architects

Three Fellowships have been instituted to be awarded annually to graduate architects in the field of preservation and conservation of architectural heritage at the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Pondicherry.

Higher Secondary Awards

The Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation started the NSF Higher Secondary Awards in 2005 to support meritorious students of the lower income group to continue their education after the completion of SSC. The scholarships are administered by the Bombay Community Public Trust.

Support to NGOs and other Civil Society Initiatives in Education

Civil society initiatives have contributed significantly to bridge the gap in education. The Foundation has supported the following projects:

SETU Charitable Trust, in their endeavour to promote education among underprivileged children from backward districts of Bihar and to work towards mainstreaming school dropouts back into the education system.

Vedanta Vision for a curriculum for student programme called “Strong Foundations, Successful Futures” to achieve their full potential based on the principles of vedanta.

Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI), towards training and capacity building through the courses conducted by School of Rehabilitation Science and Consultancy and partnerships with government and non-government institutions to develop effective rehabilitation services for children with disabilities.

Krishnamurti Foundation India in its efforts towards promoting educational opportunities for children in underserved areas. The Foundation’s support has been dedicated towards a rural school project, as a practical and low cost initiative. Support has also been extended towards their initiative “School in the Box”, which is a model education system for primary school students in rural areas.

The Foundation supports Kshetropasna Educational Institute, an organization involved in providing value based holistic education, towards construction of the premises for the Kestra Vidyalaya, a model day boarding school.

Research, Training and Publication

In the area of education the Foundation has supported the following research, training and publication initiatives:

Asiatic Society for Digitization of the library resources, refurbishing the audio visual equipments and for acquiring an ISO certification.

The Foundation has supported the upgradation of the library of B.K. Somani Memorial Polytechnic, Sophia College, Mumbai.

CITISPACE to conduct a survey of open spaces in Mumbai.

Vedanta Vision for publication of the book 'Beyond Harvard' by Mrs. Jaya Row.

LIVELIHOOD AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Foundation has a vision to raise the level of 'employability' especially for populations in skill based occupations, women, and youth. With this in mind the Foundation has supported the following programmes:

The Chirawa Rural Development Project in partnership with Ambuja Cement Foundation to initiate community development projects in Rajasthan. The range of activities supported are conservation and management of water and other natural resources, community health and sanitation, education and development of programmes among women and the youth.

PRADAN in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan and other trusts to initiate food security programmes through self help groups at Sirohi district at Mt Abu, Rajasthan.

Victory Arts Foundation's Peer Group Educator Programme to train fifty youth from the partner NGO's to be dancing instructors.

Yashwantrao Chavan Pratisthan's project "Yashashwini" for imparting training to women in rural areas through their Self Help Group Programme.

Kherwadi Social Welfare Association's, vocational training centre for the urban youth "Yuva Parivartan" at their outreach centre in Thane.

SPJ Sadhana School, Mumbai, a pre vocational skill training school for the mentally challenged was supported by the Foundation towards equipping one classroom in the new extension building with teaching aids to assist in the learning of the mentally challenged students.

ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The Foundation is committed to promotion and conservation of Indian heritage, art and culture. As a part of this commitment, it has supported the following initiatives:

Restoration and conservation of the ancient Rameshwar Temple and the Ganpati Temple at Banganga.

Devi Foundation in publishing a book on Indian Contemporary artists titled "Young India".

Nrityanjali to participate in the World Folk Dance Festival at Spain.

Living Tradition for organising a cultural programme on Eastern Indian Dance Forms.

Vedic Research and Cultural Heritage for education of six students at the Vedapathashala.

National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai to revive and promote Sufi Music.

Umang series for promoting young talent in the field of dance and music;

SUPPORT TO CIVIC ISSUES AND GOVERNANCE

The Foundation has supported PRAJA, a voluntary organization which works towards empowering citizens to participate in the governing process. The Foundation's support has enabled the organization to develop systems for increased accountability of elected representatives and better participation of the community and the process of governance. The organization realizes its mission primarily through an interactive website, generation of white papers on issues of urgent civic concern and outreach through campaigns and communication with civil society groups.

CITISPACE, Mumbai is an NGO which works for the protection of all Public Open Spaces and advocates the right use of those spaces. The Foundation has supported the logistics of carrying out a survey of open plots in 24 wards of the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

URBAN DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Mumbai is a forum that supports interaction among architects, urban designers and professionals from such related fields as urban economics, sociology, planning, conservation and history. The Foundation has supported UDRI in this endeavour to generate awareness on major issues concerning the urban fabric of Mumbai and to expose urban design and planning to other mediums through public forums, workshops and seminars etc.

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