



# MAITRI

## Charitable Trust

### Bodhgaya

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## Annual Report of MAITRI Centre's

### 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

#### Programmes

##### Health, National

##### Leprosy Elimination

Our collaboration with the **State Health Services** has been ongoing since 1989, requiring monthly reports to the **District Leprosy Officer (DLO)** for the leprosy eradication programme. Since 2002 continues our involvement in the **integration process** with the assistance to the government staff at the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the entire district (24 provinces – **3,151 villages, population 5,236,718**) in the verification and management of **new cases**, which in the past 12 months have amounted to **402**. Since 2003 overall **15,347** new cases.

Regarding the **Prevention of Deformities (POD)** programme, in 12 months assessed **284 high risk cases**, instructed **602 disabled cases** for **self-care**, trained **405 deformed patients**, **5,046 community members**, and **120 government staff members**. In 14 years overall **17,490, 16,651, 17,152, 49,352** and **5,589** respectively. Particularly valuable to the District Health Services our **POD camps** at the government PHCs with distribution of **sandals** and **dressing kits**: in 12 months held **7** camps, distributed **110** pairs and **415** kits. .

**Health Awareness** programme continues along with the above activities as **Information-Education-Communication (IEC)** and **Inter-Personal Communication (IPC)**, for which we have covered in 12 months **2,839 villages**, touched **1,053,965 people** and **36,047 students**, carried out wall-paintings in **109 places**, and manned our stall for **75 days**.

We have also continued our **additional assistance** as required by the **District Leprosy Officer (DLO)** such as the **monthly collection** of data at the PHCs of **Imamganj, Dumaria, Dobhi, Barachatti and Fatehpur** provinces and the **occasional delivery** of MDT drugs from the State Health Society, Patna, to the District Leprosy Office.

Patients from all over the district seek **temporary** hospitalization at our **hospital**. Since September, 1999 admitted an **overall total of 1,522 patients** : **1,421 ulcer cases, 101 reactions**. In 12 months total **34: 30** and **4** respectively.

Our **shelter** for homeless, deformed patients closed for lack of homeless patients in Gaya District. Previously sheltered **23**.

- **Jun.1-Oct.31, 2019**: Our **all-year-round booth with display** at permanent site at Bodhgaya continued its operations in the hot season **byweekly**, i.e. on Saturdays and Sundays, to approach local visitors from all over the district.

- **Nov.1, 2019-Mar 15, 2020**: Manning of the booth **3 days/week** throughout the winter.

- **Jan 26, 2020**: Celebrated **World Leprosy Day** with our special health education programme comprising of display of posters, distribution of leaflets, speeches carried out through some provinces by 2 jeeps. Field workers visited **25** villages with population **40,900** and manned Bodhgaya stall all day with the support of our teachers.

- **Mar 22-May 31**: Manning of the booth suspended due to the lockdown because of **Covid-19**.

#### TB Control

Our TB work continues along the same line as during our collaboration with the **State and District Health Services** for the activities under **RNTCP (Revised National TB Control Programme)**, i.e.

1) In the 10 provinces of Bodhgaya, Mohanpur, Barachatti, Imamganj, Dumaria, Atri, Bathani, Mohra, Fatehpur, and Tankuppa through our contacts with ASHAs (government village health workers) and our **5 sputum collection points**. In 12 months **registered 341, released from treatment 179** patients, **sputum tested 421. Under treatment 162, supplements and food** provided to **72** for a minimum of 6 months. Since 1995 overall registered cases **9,234**.

2) **Awareness** activities carried out in **2,834 villages (1,054,591 people, 36,047 students)**, wall-paintings in **109 places**.

3) In 12 months hospitalized at the **TB Ward 20** very serious patients, since 2008 overall hospitalised **313**, fully recovered **262**.

- **Mar.24, 2020**: Due to lockdown **World TB Day** celebrated only with a procession of our Fulchater School students and teachers through 9 villages (population 7,010).

Still awaiting response from the District TB Officer, Gaya, to our application for collaboration with the government health services within the RNTCP.

#### Child Immunization

Terminated in January, 2016.



## Various, Institutional Mother and Child Care

In view of the continuing poverty among the lower castes, stepped up our activities for both programmes, which are carried out in 3 provinces with clinics twice a week, i.e. 1 mobile and 1 at the Centre's OPD.

1) **Pre- and post-natal care** : - for pre-natal care in 12 months **318 new expectant mothers** have attended our clinics for monthly check-up by our doctor and to receive **supplements, anti-tetanus vaccination, iodised salt**, and other required assistance. At present **under treatment 135**;

in 12 months **171 new-born** babies (92 females + 79 males; 8 twins) thus since 1997 **overall total 7,259 women registered** and **5,574 babies born**, including 53 pairs of twins;

- for post-natal care commenced in January, 2017 special care for **weak and anaemic mothers** at our weekly clinics, where they receive medical care and **supplements** and in some cases provision of **pulses**. So far **treated 121**.

2) Mainly below 5 years of age, the children treated under **child care** are mostly female, in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of life, affected by severe malnutrition and neglect. We provide **milk and supplements** and other care. In the past 12 months register-ed **298 children**. Under treatment **163**. **Overall registered** and cared for **3,866 children, restored to health 3,241**.

Treated for general ailments **1,085 children** between 2 and 5 years of age.

Since October, 2014 our outreach includes girls age 6 to 14 to address their health issues particularly related to **undernourishment** and **anaemia**. In addition since 2017 we have been distributing **sanitary napkins** to **our under treatment** patients for a token amount of Rs5/pack. In the past 12 months registered **132 girls, overall registered 734 girls**, who have been receiving **supplements** and in some cases **legumes**.

## Birth Control

In addition to the personal advice provided to women at our mother care clinics, currently a campaign has been run aimed at poorer families in the villages involved in our leprosy, TB, and mother and child care programmes. In 12 months succeeded in having **102 women** undergo tubectomy at the Primary Health Centres of 3 provinces. Since 2007 **overall operated 1,323 women**.

In 12 months covered **147 families** and addressed **2,105 family members**. Since 2003 **overall covered 1,770 families** with **40,237 family members**.

## Physical Rehabilitation

Pending the **reconstructive surgery** of **7 disabled leprosy patients** due to the uncertainty related to the availability of hospitals recognized by the State of Bihar. This is required for the grant of Rs8,000..

Since 1993 **total of 101 rehabilitated** including **9 children** for various types of disabilities, 1 of whom was a **cleft lip and palate** case. .

## HIV/AIDS Awareness

Continues the **health education programme** in interior villages aimed at the families of migrant workers and along the Grand Trunk road linking Delhi to Calcutta mainly aimed at truck drivers.

In 12 months covered **55 villages** and **35,240 population**, with direct health education imparted to **285 persons**, and addressed **135 truck drivers**. Distributed **310 packs of condoms** provided by the government health services.

In 14 years **overall covered 2,976 villages with 1,501,801 population, educated 32,135 persons, and addressed 6,965 truck drivers**. Distributed **12,516 packs of condoms**.

## Educational Programmes

### Primary Education in Schools

On account of the unsatisfactory level of the government schools up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade continues our 21 year long partnership with the villagers of **Fulchar Village** while the **school committee** duly maintains the buildings of the **Village School**.

- **Dec.10, 2019**: Held mid year tests for all classes with the attendance of **145 pupils**.

- **Mar. 19-23**: End of year exams of all **145 pupils** (none dropped out) with outstanding regular attendance in all 5 grades in both formal and non-formal classes followed by supplementary tests. **Promoted 33**.

- **Mar. 24**,: Participation of the pupils of MAITRI's school in the celebration of **World TB Day** with processions through 9 villages (population 7,010) exhibiting posters and chanting slogans drawn and written by the pupils.

- **Apr. 1**: **Overall total** of pupils enrolled for the new school year 2019-20, **145** with no new registrations. However classes suspended due to the Covid pandemic.

- **May 7**: Cancelled the annual **early morning procession** to the Bodhgaya Main Temple and all other events for the celebration of the **2564th Buddha Jayanti** due to the Covid pandemic.

### Adult Literacy

Re-started and re-suspended the **Hindi** and **English** literacy classes for MAITRI staff at our premises.

## Water Resources & Afforestation

No installation of deep boring tube-wells due to the Covid lockdowns.

## Animal Care

Recognized by the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** in 2008, the programme consists of

- 1) the **rescuing of animals** since 1993 : in 12 months rescued **7 dogs** of various ages (4 puppies), **3 goats, 1 calf**. Died **44** animals. Born **12 kids**. Our **Animal Shelter** has now **64 dogs** ranging in age from 14 years to 8 months, **15 goats, 6 kids, 1 horse, 1 mare, 2 fillies, 1 colt, 2 cows, 1 bullock, 3 cocks, 1 tortoise, 1 cat-fish**.
  - 2) **Veterinary care** provided to **41 pets** of the surrounding community. In 16 years **overall treated 1,542** animals.
  - 3) **Animal Birth Control (ABC)** programme. In 17 years **overall sterilizations 3,671** : **152 shelter dogs, 3,474 stray dogs, 45 other animals**.
  - 4) The **large animal care** programme for the treatment of village cattle continues through the service at the OPD. In 15 years overall treated **1,893** cows, bullocks, calves, goats, and others.
- *March 9, 2020*: Held **1 ABC minicamp** with **Dr. Deepak Kumar**, Vet. Surgeon. Sterilized **9 dogs** (6 females).

## Charity & Others

**Distributed comfort material: 775 blankets** along with **63 sweaters** for children, women, and men, **90 garments** (mainly baby clothes, dhotis, sarees), and **1,750 sanitary napkins, food** to TB patients, children from 0 to 14 years, anaemic women in our programmes for 6 months (**220 patients**), and **educational material (105 items)** to **25** poorer pupils of our village schools. **Overall totals 19,354, 6,690, 3,491** respectively.

Provided leprosy patients with **110 pairs of footwear** (overall total **8,890**) and **415 dressing kits** (overall total **5,082**), plus **overall 427 goggles** for lagophthalmos patients.

So far enabled **6** underprivileged persons to achieve **self-sufficiency**.

Suspended **long-distance adoption** programme. for lack of collaboration from the boy's family.

## Special Events & Activities

- *Aug. 23-26, 2019*: Received the visit of Italian supporter **Ms Chiara Cioncoloni** who visited our Fulchar school.
- *Oct. 28*: Celebrated **Deewali**, the Festival of Light, by all of MAITRI's staff and in-patients with the lighting of 1,000 lamps in the campus.
- *Dec. 1, 2019-Jan.15, 2020* : Biweekly **distribution of blankets** to leprosy, TB, and mother care patients from all over the district, with contribution towards the cost of fare. Funds donated by long-time donors Berliner **Buddhistische Akademie**.
- *Dec. 20, 2019-Jan.7, 2020*: Volunteering by old time friend and supporter, Mr **Phil Hunt**, from Australia.
- *May 7* : Cancelled the annual **early morning procession** to the Bodhgaya Main Temple and all other events for the celebration of the **2564th Buddha Jayanti** due to the Covid pandemic.

## Staff

Our working force has undergone various changes :

### Present staff members : 23

1 director

2 consultants : 1 medical doctor, 1 chartered accountant

3 field workers : 2 paramedical workers, 1 field coordinator

1 lab technician (part time)

2 educational workers : 2 teachers

5 administrative workers : 1 admin. coordinator, 1 accountant (part time), 1 driver, 1 cook, 1 helper

9 campus care-takers : 1 animal nurse, 2 handimen, 5 sweepers, 1 night-guard,

## Real Estate

### Land & Buildings

Continued major repairs of roofs and other wood infrastructure of all buildings.

At a standstill the construction of the temple.

### Legalities

After completion of the **second arbitration** by the Delhi High Court regarding the construction of MAITRI campus with a **higher award** to MAITRI, the counterpart's **new appeal** is still to be heard.

Still pending some of the **civil suits** filed by MAITRI at Gaya Court regarding parcels of land inside the property.

Still pending at Patna High Court our **petition** for the recovery of the balance dues from the Government of Bihar.



## Finance

### Running Expenses

At present most of the programmes are being funded through general donations and private and institutional grants, the major of which are

- June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020 : Commenced and completed the utilization of **FPMT Inc.**'s grant 2019-20 for our leprosy and mother & child programmes.

- Feb. 1, 2020 : Commenced the utilization of **Chiesa Valdese**'s grant 2020-21 for our TB care programme.

### Investment

Major rehauling of 2 Mahindra jeeps.

### Future Projects & Prospects

Continue the **ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme** to limit the stray dogs' population of Bodhgaya.

Continue and expand **water resources** and **afforestation programmes**.

Enlarge the **horses' enclosure**, build a **shed for the cows**, and complete the construction of the **temple**

Complete the **final registration** of the balance 1½ acres of land.

**Fundraising** for all existing and planned projects and programmes. Encourage the setting-up of other **Friends of MAITRI** groups along with seeking of **fundraisers**.

*Adriana Ferranti*, Director

## *MAITRI : Always Ready to Assist the Needy*

*The consequences of Covid go well beyond the physiological manifestations of the disease, as the measures taken by governments to contain the contagion have created havoc in all economies. In India after repeated lockdowns since March millions of people and their families are without sustenance, as the earning members of households are jobless. The elderly are particularly hit by the situation, as the government subsidies reach only some occasionally.*

*Thanks to the fundraising effort of some of MAITRI's trustees, money was donated towards relief efforts and we could thus select the most indigent among the people of our village, Dhandhwa, and provide rations for two months. With joy and gratitude 31 persons came to the centre to collect their rations and it*



*made us happy to have contributed to the relief of some of the suffering. It however falls within the state administrations' duties to consistently provide for the population in exceptional times like this and we hope that with time regular supplies will be streamlined.*