



Inspiring Social Change

ASIAN FOUNDATION  
FOR PHILANTHROPY

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# AFP Newsletter

ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2008

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Thought of the  
day...

*“Non-one has  
ever become poor  
by giving”*

*-Anne Frank*

### AFP TEAM

Bala Thakrar

Director

[Bala.Thakrar@affp.org.uk](mailto:Bala.Thakrar@affp.org.uk)

Nimmi Unadkat

Project Officer

[Nimmi.Unadkat@affp.org.uk](mailto:Nimmi.Unadkat@affp.org.uk)

Jayanathi Beliappa

Project Manager (India)

Kruti Buch

Project Officer

[Kruti.Buch@affp.org.uk](mailto:Kruti.Buch@affp.org.uk)

(T) 020 7091 9348

## AFP LAUNCHES ITS ENDOWMENT FUND

The New Year has seen the successful launch of AFP's Endowment Fund with a £30,000 contribution from Rizz Patel, Managing Director of Letting International. The fund will help ensure the long-term financial sustainability and independence of AFP, helping to reach the target of £100,000 by March 2009.

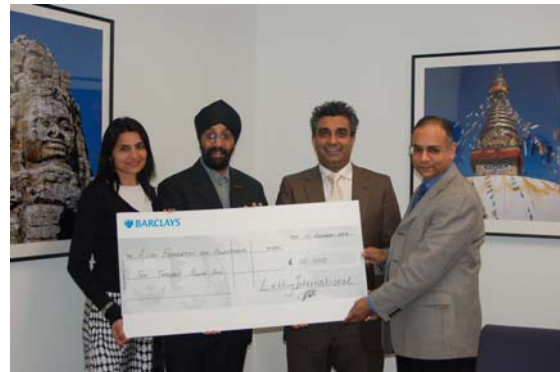


Rizz Patel helps AFP to start the new Year with a bang!

### ENDOWMENT FAQs

#### What is an Endowment Fund?

An Endowment Fund allows small and large scale philanthropists to pull together and utilize dormant funds in order for these funds to benefit communities now and in the future



L-R: Bala (Director), Mohni (Chair), Rizz and Arun (Trustee)

#### How does it work?

Donors pool their money into the fund which is then invested in a professionally managed investment portfolio. The "pot" of money remains intact and is continually invested. Any interest accumulated will be used to support AFP and its partner charities.

#### What can AFP achieve with an Endowment Fund?

Ensuring financial sustainability allows AFP to focus on the development of its three programmes; Paropkaar, Daan and Jagruiti. With this fund, AFP can continue to financially support small vital projects.

If you would like more information or contribute to the Endowment Fund, please contact [Bala.Thakrar@affp.org.uk](mailto:Bala.Thakrar@affp.org.uk) or call 0207-091-9485.

# Where does your money go?

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The development of the [Daan](#) Programme has been extensive . Funds donated to AFP have been allocated to small but important projects with our partner organisations. Here is one example:



Patients visiting a rural outreach clinic

## Richmond Fellowship Society (RFS)

[RFS](#) offers care and support to people with mental illness. Located in Bangalore, RFS's rural branch, Pragati, supports patients in 70 surrounding villages. The Pragati branch provides free consultation and medication at a monthly outreach clinic for those with mental illness and epilepsy. After a steady

rise in attendance, there are now approximately 400 people per clinic. Through the Daan Programme, AFP allocated £4000 for the extra staff needed to maintain this clinic. The expert staff provide support to the patients between the monthly clinics through home visits. By monitoring their health, discussing any difficulties faced and assessing their home care, RFS provides essential support for these people. Who are already marginalised by society for being poor and suffer discrimination due to their mental illness.

## FACTBOX

### UK

- Depression is prevalent in the Asian community compared with non-Asian communities.
- Suicide rates among young Asian women is 2 times higher than the UK national average.
- Most cases of people suffering from mental illness are unreported and therefore untreated. To find out more click [here](#)

### India

- Over 90% of people suffering from mental illness never receive a diagnosis.
- An estimated 25 million people are in need mental health services.

It is difficult to obtain accurate figures of the number of people suffering from mental illness in both the UK and India due to the stigma and discrimination associated with such illnesses. Cultural barriers have proven an obstacle in people receiving treatment as families are ashamed and prefer to hide their or their loved ones illness.

# Volunteering in India

As the summer drew to an end, our next batch of enterpid volunteers flew out to Bangalore in October. Here is **Hilesh Chavda's** story.



Diwali in India

## Why did you choose to volunteer?

Having graduated from University, with a plethora of opportunities ahead of me, I realized how fortunate I am. Having all of these opportunities, I felt it is only right that I do something to help so I chose to volunteer in India. I chose India because even as third generation Indian I still feel strong cultural and religious ties to the place and the people.

## Tell us about your placement.

I volunteered with SAATH, an organization that works to improve the lives of vulnerable people in both rural and urban Gujarat. My role involved working in the UMEED project which trains youth living in slum areas to fill gaps in the local job market. My placement objective was to develop Human Resources Policies that

## Returned Volunteers

**Mr Dial Sharma** has proved that age is only a number. In his early 70s, Mr Sharma brought energy and enthusiam to the small village of Amarpukashi. With over 40 years teaching experience, Mr Sharma helped train local teachers, many of whom had little formal training. By creating a tool-kit to be used to train others, Mr Sharma has left a lasting impression on many, receiving the highest praises from his hosts Mukatji and

could be used in all the UMEED centres. This would help SAATH with employing the best teachers to train the youth. I also helped in creating a marketing brochure detailing SAATH's work.



Hilesh, (nearest left) working on HR policies at the Umeed centre

## What did you gain from your placement?

Through working in the SAATH office and seeing the work of the staff I have gained a good knowledge of issues the urban poor face. I learnt how to be diplomatic, tactful and sensitive to the culture and people I was working with.

For anyone interested in the next cycle in July, please contact [Nimmi Unadkat](#).

Jyotiji Singh at the Society for Agro-Industrial Education.

**Jysotna Atara-Khoda**, a successful business woman volunteered with Ahemdabad Women's Action Group (AWAG). Jyostna was involved in marketing products of AWAG's income generation project to local retailers and NRI market, negotiating with major companies like Big Bazaar. AWAG have opened a shop and used Jyostna's expertise in marketing their products.

# India's Development: Bollywood or Bust?



“What do you associate with India today?” The opening question posed at AFP’s *Bollywood or Bust?* event at Belgrave Community Hall in Leicester set the tone for the day. Whilst many identified aspects such as culture, tradition and progress, the whole group recognised the increasing disparity between India’s 380million who survive on less than 50p a day, and the growing middle class who are benefitting from the continuing recent economic boom. The next stage for many who attended the event was to see how they themselves, as British Asians could help support those who have been left behind in the development cycle.

The day began with a discussion of the different perspectives of India, with distinguished panel members providing their own personal experiences. Again the duality of India was something they all emphasised.

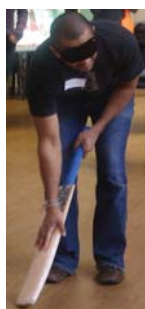
The afternoon allowed the participants to take the lead, with the two fun filled sessions. Blind Cricket brought home the skill of visually impaired cricketers and our reliance on sight. The Trading Game stirred up a passionate debate on the inequalities of trade and power on a national and international scale. Everyone went away



Negotiations in the “Trading Game”

learning something new and realising their role in India’s development through our Parivartan booklet, guiding them on small steps to help make a difference. As one person said, “It definitely broke a few myths I had about India.”

## An Evening of Blind Cricket



Which way is the bat?

KPMG’s offices provided the perfect backdrop for an evening with a difference. George Abraham spoke of his determination to bring Blind Cricket to the masses in India, resulting in the formation of the first Indian Blind Cricket Team and World Cup in India. Like all AFP events, there was a twist! The audience were in for a surprise when they were blind-folded and George began a session of Blind Cricket. Here’s how to play: The game is reliant on audio aids. A normal cricket bat is used but the ball is slightly larger

and made of plastic. Inside there are ball bearings, which the players listen out for.

There are three levels of visual impairment, and each team must have the same number of blind players to ensure that everyone is included and participates in the game. To find out more visit [www.eyeware.org](http://www.eyeware.org)

**Why is sport important to development?** Sport enables disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn life skills of teamwork, leadership as well as instilling self-confidence. Sport is also used to educate youngsters on a range of issues and this education is vital for community development.

**Pen and paper—all you need...**...you can make a difference by simply writing a letter to India House or the Department for International Development ([www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)) about the issues you are passionate about, make sure your voice is heard.