



ASIAN FOUNDATION
FOR PHILANTHROPY

Registered charity no.
1110180

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2006

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 14 Volunteers sent to India
- Raised £15,000 through fundraising
- Produced AFP documentary

THE AFP TEAM

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AFP Newsletter

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Introducing Asian Foundation for Philanthropy

Who we are

Many British Asians are interested in opportunities to get involved in contributing towards development in India but just not sure quite *how* to do so. This inspired the idea of AFP.

We are UK based registered charity, set up in December 2004. We work closely with communities in India to offer British Asians a chance to contribute either their time, money or both to various projects.

Who we work with

AFP focuses on identifying projects and organisations which seek to empower local people and encourage them to seek creative solutions which will be sustainable and contribute to development in India over the long term.

The picture (right) is at the Beluka Trust block printing unit where women are taught crafts skills which enable them to play an



Women at the Beluka Trust

active role in society through earning a living.

What we do

In 2006 AFP established the Paropkaar International Volunteering Programme. So far 14 volunteers have gone to India. The Donor Programme supports a number of charities — more details on page 3.

AFP's events in Leicester, London and Cardiff allowed people to discover how they could contribute towards grassroots organisations in India. More details on upcoming events on Page 4.

Why India?

India's rapid ascent to attain a recognised position in the global arena over the past decade has been well documented. From Bollywood to it's growing prowess as a financial market, India's presence has truly been felt in the West.

AFP is focusing on India as it reflects the demographics of the British Asian community in the UK. The economic and political stability in India compared to its neighbours makes it more accessible to work there.

As we build our experience and capability, we hope to expand our efforts to cover more countries. Whilst India has advanced, developing infrastructure and facilities

offering healthcare and education, the benefits are not being equally distributed. The statistics below indicate the scale of the issues India still needs to tackle:

- **260 million** survive on less than \$1 a day.
- **35 million** children aged 6-14 receive little or no education.
- **20 million** are registered disabled, and **6 million** people registered as being affected by HIV/AIDS.

However these official figures are known to be understated.

Such groups need support from organisations who understand the issues faced.



Bala joins (clockwise from top left) Sumrit, Shalin, Meera & Amitee in Bangalore.

Paropkaar

(Sanskrit-to serve unconditionally)

Volunteer Stories

'Volunteers increase the children's understanding of other people's cultures. This is especially helpful to kids who are going in for international adoption' - Dr.Nomita, Director at Ashraya



Returned Volunteer Sumrit talks about her experiences at a pre-departure training session

Meera's Journey

Meera Saujani spent time volunteering at Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG) in Gujarat for two months. Here, she talks to us about her experiences.

What motivated you to volunteer in India?

"My first trip to India was three years ago, and I was struck by the extent to which poverty exists. Economists talk about India becoming a powerful economy, yet the poverty is still immense. My family always send money to charities in India but as a student, I feel it is difficult for me to donate anything substantial. Volunteering provided me with a means to support others through giving my time and share my skills."

What was your role?

"My work involved putting in funding

applications, producing AWAG's annual report and publicity material. I also compiled their research papers on domestic violence. Being in an office all day could get frustrating but I knew that's where my skills were being best used. I left knowing that the work I had completed was a valuable contribution to the organisation." **Would you volunteer in India again?** "Absolutely! It was an amazing experience that I'll always remember. As well as helping AWAG, I gained a lot from my time in Ahmedabad. It opened my eyes to a lot of new things and allowed me to learn a great deal about myself. I want to go again next year, and would definitely recommend the experience to anyone!"

The Survival Guide

Before volunteers go on placements, the AFP team ensure that they are comfortable with the journey they are about to embark on. The training addresses their fears on a range of topics from tackling mosquitoes to traveling around!

Covering essential practical issues and giving information on history and development, the training also gives an opportunity to meet those who have lived to tell the tale!

On return, one volunteer said "I really came to appreciate the values I learnt at

the training once my placement started."

Sometimes volunteering can be a more daunting experience for those who are going to be staying at home! So AFP have information packs for parents, and are available to answer any questions parents may have.

One parent said: "Our main concern was not being able to keep in touch with our daughter. However, there was a landline at the placement, and AFP provided all the contact details of the placement for us."

What they did last summer

Shalin Saujani, a qualified 'A' Level teacher went to the **Hope School** in Bhuj. Using his football and cricket skills he was able to do much more than just teach!

Amitee Parashar, recent LSE graduate, completed a research project at **Saath Charitable Trust**, in Gujarat.

Milli Shah, 4th year medic, worked in the Orphanage at **Ashraya** in Bangalore. Her research will improve care offered to children.

Sumrit Bola, also a medic student, worked on a range of projects which come under the **Richmond Fellowship** project in Bangalore. The work is focused on helping people suffering from various mental health illnesses.

Shriti Karia worked at **Amarpurkashi** in Uttar Pradesh learning about issues faced in rural India. You can read more about her experience at www.affp.org.uk

What can YOUR money do?

A generous donor recently contributed money towards building a wall marking out the school grounds from the fields at The Jaffarpur School in Uttar Pradesh

This was an important project for the school, as they have often faced problems with animals venturing onto the school grounds. This was not only disruptive for the children and teachers, but could also be dangerous.

In the rural communities it is also difficult to persuade parents to send their children to school instead of working on the land. By creating a school which the local community can be proud of, parents are more likely to want to educate their children.

In this way, instead of embarking on larger capital projects, AFP works closely with charities to identify projects which will have tangible benefits for the wider community in both the short and long term.



Children at the Jaffarpur School

Charity Profiles - An insight into some of the charities we work with

Beluka Trust

Beluka Trust works with 15 villages in Karnataka, focusing efforts on women, children and underprivileged families.

The work includes supporting micro enterprises run by vulnerable women. Two challenges they face is ensuring these enterprises are sustainable, and also effectively marketing their products.

Amar Jyoti Research & Rehabilitation Centre

The school was set up by Dr. Uma Tuli in 1981 to cater for the needs of children with disabilities. Disabled people are still treated very differently in India and not offered the same opportunities as able-bodied people. Amar Jyoti takes a unique approach where 50% of the 400 students, and 30% of the teachers at the school have

some kind of disability. There is also a medical care unit which caters for disabled people and seeks to rehabilitate them.

Mitra Jyothi

A rehabilitation centre for people with visual disabilities. Many beneficiaries of their programmes come from rural families who are not aware of how to provide care which leads to rehabilitation. They seek to work closely with women, who are more likely to be excluded from mainstream society due to their disability through helping rehabilitate them and teaching them arts and crafts skills through which they can earn a living.

Udayan Care

Udayan Care is committed to sustainable social development through

working with the disadvantaged children and women. Through their Ghars (Homes) in Delhi and surrounding areas they offer opportunities to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

All our charities work in one of our four development areas: Education, Health, Livelihood & Disability. See the website for more information on other charities:

[Ahmedabad Women's Action Group](#)

[Amarpurkashi Rural Polytechnic](#)

[Dalit Foundation](#)

[Hope Worldwide India](#)

[Richmond Fellowship Society India](#)

[Saath Charitable Trust](#)

[Samuha](#)

[Vidya Niketan](#)

Every little bit helps....Giving up one latte a week for a year can raise over £100 which can:

Provide a midday meal at the Hope School for one year

OR

Support one year training for an unemployed youth through the Saath Project

FUNdraising Achievements!

Shalin raised a cool **£250** through a sponsored bike ride!

That's 21,000 Indian Rupees and could help AWAG with a telephone helpline service. Paropkaar Volunteer

Chandni Davda raised £500 which will contribute towards resources for an IT centre at the Vidya Niketan School.

AFP Events

Portraits of a Broken People

Nishant Lalwani: Photo Exhibition @ The Hub

The Dalit community is one of the most oppressed communities in India.

Nishant's photography exhibition held through October and November this year at venues including The Hub in London offered people an insight into the social injustice endured by the Dalit community about through Nishant's photographs.

The funds which were raised from the auctioning some of the photographs have gone towards the [Dalit Foundation](http://www.dalitfoundation.org). (<http://www.dalitfoundation.org>)

You can have a look at more of his photographs at www.nishantlalwani.co.uk and read an interview about his experiences at <http://www.pressureworks.org>.



Viewers enjoy looking at Nishant's Photographs

The man behind the AFP Documentary

Mukul Devichand, a talented current affairs journalist who recently gave up his time and expertise to produce the AFP documentary. After graduating from Columbia University, New York he has reported for newspapers based in Cairo and New York.



Mukul & Alope entertain children whilst filming!

More recently he has worked with Panorama to produce documentaries ranging from The Catholic Church and Aids to Terrorism in Britain. "I was keen to use my skills as a film maker to produce something which would give me an opportunity to have an impact on people as well as connect me to my roots." Producing the AFP documentary with his brother Alope, a reporter for Al Jazeera International, gave just that chance. "I found working in India a very moving experience - it was inspiring to see the creative thinking that is used in many of the projects and the energy that people have."

The documentary will be shown early 2007 on the Community Channel and will soon be on the AFP website

Watch this Space!

AFP's Paropkaar Programme Launch was held in April 2006 at Café Lazeez. Keep an eye out for the AFP Launch to be held on 8th March 2007.



Nimmi at the Leicester Mela

AFP representative Nimmi Unadkat attended the Leicester Mela in September 2006 – keep an eye out for details on other Mela's, university and community events where you can come and meet AFP! If you would like AFP come to your university, or a community event, please get in touch with us!

Returned Paropkaar Volunteers Meera and Shalin gave talks on their experiences in Leicester. Their mum, Ranjan gave a talk from a parents perspective and how she felt about her children going out to India.

You can listen to volunteers experiences in February 2007 when the BBC Asian Network will be airing a Video Diary. More details to follow.

AFP was chosen as the nominated Partner Charity on the new UK series of Sony Entertainment Television Asia's biggest reality TV Show...Boogie Woogie. Which was aired over Christmas 2006

If you want to support the AFP's work in the UK, contact us to see how we can help you turn your idea into an event!

Check www.affp.org.uk for updates on events, venues and timings