

Activity and Progress Report

From 1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020

*In year 2019/2020, with the donations for **Hand in Hand** and in cooperation with **Prajnana Mission**, its partner organisation in Odisha/ India, the education and health projects as well as the projects in the field of disaster relief and civil protection, were successfully continued.*

HEALTH PROJECTS

The **Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres (HCHC)** provide free treatment to people without access to adequate medical and dental care. Since the year 2000, the founding year of Hand in Hand, five Health Centres have been established in the Puri District, West Mednipur and in Cuttack, one of which has been developed into the **HCHC Jagatpur Day Clinic**, which celebrated its opening in February 2014. Medical and therapeutic treatments are offered there in centralized medical fields. In addition, Mobile Health Camps are offered in urban slums and in remote rural areas.

Three **Hariharananda Health Centres (HCHC)** situated in Balighai/ Puri, Jagatpur/Cuttack (in the state of Odisha) and Bhisindipur (in the state of West Bengal), have treated **69,598** patients throughout the year 2019/2020. **From July 1999 to March 2020, over 1.5 million patients were cared for in all of the HCHC.**

HCHC Jagatpur

HCHC day clinic in Jagatpur/Cuttack offers its outpatient services 6 days a week. They include laboratory tests (daily), outpatient eye care (once a month) and other specialist medical care such as cardiology (twice a month), urology (twice a week), neurology (twice a month), obstetrics and gynaecology (three times a week), paediatrics (three times a month), orthopaedics (twice a week), dermatology etc. The day clinic HCHC Jagatpur, has a full-fledged dentist's room, in which around 60 patients are currently treated daily. Smaller surgical interventions are carried out daily in surgery. Since 2016/17 the physiotherapy department owns a high-frequency diathermy machine and a device for knee exercise. It is equipped with all common devices for the therapy of an average of 30 patients per day.

In 2016 a second semi-automatic analyser and a CBC machine (Complete Blood Count) were acquired, and **in August 2019 a fully automatic analyser, a Na/K analyser and a coagulant machine** were put into operation. On average, around 60 patients are treated a day. **Radiography services** were added in December 2019. On an average, today, 10 X-rays are carried out each day. **In spring 2020, a first aid room** was set up on the ground floor.

Currently, 23 doctors, 2 pharmacists, 2 laboratory technicians, 1 x-ray technician and 3 ANMs and other staff, are serving in the HCHC Jagatpur. The day clinic is specialising now in smaller surgical interventions and has become famous, for example, in treating diabetic foot ulcers and burns. Physiotherapy has become an alternative to medicinal, pain therapy. Patients from near and far are coming for treatment at the Health Centre in Jagatpur.

At the HCHC Jagatpur, they performed 21,818 laboratory tests, 1,359 surgical interventions, 304 ECGs and 4,195 patients received physiotherapy treatments. Moreover, 3,016 X-rays, and 9,650 dental treatments were carried out.

HCHC Balighai and HCHC Bhisindipur

HCHC in Balighai is open 6 days a week. Alongside conventional general treatments, the centre also offers specialist eye and skin consultations, as well as dental treatments twice a month. Mobile Health Camps in remote villages are scheduled regularly. **Ayurvedic treatments have been carried out since the financial year 2019/20.** Mobile Health Camps offering free general and specialised treatments, as well as dental ones, are organised in city slums and rural areas. These camps can reach areas where people normally have limited or no access at all to medical facilities.

HCHC Bhisindipur offers homeopathic treatments on 2 days every week.

Village Health Projects

The **Village Health Project Athagarh (Upavanam)**, offers homeopathic treatments 6 days a week and dental care twice a month.

The **Village Health Project Arua**, situated in Arua on the premises of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School, offers two days a week allopathic treatment and twice a month dental care. **Homeopathic treatments** have also been carried out **since 2019/20.**

In the two Village Health Projects 23,798 people received medical treatment in 2019/2020.

Mobile Health Camps

Mobile Health Camps offering free general and specialised treatments, as well as dental ones, are organised by the Prajnana Mission in city slums and rural areas. These camps can reach areas where people normally have limited or no access at all to medical facilities. **Up to July 2019, the Health Camps allowed for 3,000 sick people to receive medical treatment.**

EDUCATION PROJECTS

HARIHARANANDA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL and CHRYSALIS

Since July 2004, the **Hariharananda Balashram Residential School** project has been offering children from extreme poverty, a home, health care and education. The residential school provides the children with free clothing, food, and everything they need in their daily life. The school has its own Health Centre for the health and medical care of the children. Health checks are carried out twice a week, and dental health prevention and treatment is provided twice a month. The Health Centre is also open to the inhabitants of Arua, the village in the district of Kendrapara where the school is located.

Each year, 40 children aged between 4 and 5 years can be enrolled in the school for 14 years, including the 2019/20 financial year. The school has a nursery (Nursery 1 and Nursery 2) and offers children quality-certified schooling up to grade 10 (secondary level 1) and, since July 2017, up to grade 12 (secondary level 2) by the Central Board of Education (CBSE). The final exams for secondary level 1 and secondary level 2 are public and are conducted by CBSE.

The approval for education up to secondary level 2 is a result of the **Chrysalis project, which emerged from the Balashram project in 2016**. Within the framework of Chrysalis, students who have completed the 10th grade are accompanied and supported for a successful transition to a practical or dual vocational training, or further studies according to their interests and talents.

In addition to the regular education, **extracurricular courses** in the areas of **art & culture** and **sports & games**, are available to the children. Since the academic year 2013-14, the children also receive **vocational training** as part of a **competence-oriented programme**, where they acquire skills in subjects such as bicycle repair, PC assembly, desktop publishing, sewing, textile design and crafts, installation, electrical installation, and the like. The extracurricular subjects aim, on the one hand, to promote the specific talents and interests of the children, and on the other hand, to enable practical, competence development which is parallel to school education. They form a very successful development in the design of the educational programme at Balashram. Students at Balashram have repeatedly won prizes in Regional, National and even International competitions.

In the academic year 2019/20, 483 children (226 girls and 257 boys) lived in Balashram; **since April 2020 there have been 511.**

2019/20 there were 45 children in Nursery 1 and 51 children in Nursery 2.

In March 2019, the 5th class finished the 10th grade. The CBSE conducts the final exams. In 2019, all students successfully completed the 10th grade.

The academic school year 2019/2020 consisted of 14 school classes (including 2 pre-school forms) with 24 teachers, 26 caretakers, clerical staff, workers and volunteers – all of whom constantly endeavoured to support and maintain the school and residential school services and establishment. An assistant nurse and a health worker take care of the children's health on an ongoing basis.

- The **biogas plant**, commissioned in 2018, currently covers 80% of fuel requirements. LPG is used for the remaining requirements. Wood is no longer used to run the kitchen.
- In December 2019, the school started the **solar power project**. This currently saves 50% of the school's electricity costs. Due to the great success of the solar power project, the solar power system will be further expanded.
- In December 2019, construction work began on the mini auditorium, and was completed in August 2020.
- In April 2020 the improvements to the staff quarters and painting work on the buildings, were completed.

CHRYSALIS

Chrysalis supports graduates of the Balashram Residential School on their flight into life after school. This special project of Hand in Hand, guided by Prajnana Mission, has the scope to give graduates, with their different pre-requisites, the best possible support.

- 82% of the students from the first group have completed their +2 education. Some of them are studying at Skill Development Institutes. Some students from the first group, who have completed training for the development of specific technical skills, are now employed at the Amara Raja Group of Industries. Some will graduate in the academic year 2020/21.
- The second group of students in science has completed their +2 education. The students took the public exams in March 2020. The results are not yet known.
- From the third group, 5 boys and 5 girls from Balashram, together with 7 girls and 6 boys coming from outside schools, were admitted to the 12th class in Balashram, which focuses on sciences. Fifteen girls and 3 boys are still staying at Balashram while they complete their distance learning course in arts. They are supported by Balashram teachers and some outside tutors. The remaining graduates have started vocational training.
- With the school year 2019, the 11th level started with 23 children, 13 of whom are coming from other schools and do not live at Balashram. They will move up to grade 12 in the school year 2020.
- Starting this academic year, in August 2020, the 5th group of an 11th class in the humanities branch could begin at Balashram.

HARIHARANANDA SHIKSHASHRAMS: New small village schools

The Hariharananda Shikshashrams project started as a further educational project in 2018/19. Independent village schools have been created in several districts of Odisha, where children receive, at a minimum cost, basic and good quality education. Two of the 30 planned schools have already opened. They are all called Hariharananda Shikshashram, followed by the name of the village the school is located in.

The first school was built in 2018-19 in Rajanagar, in the district of Athagarh and a second one in Mayurbhani. A total of 22 students are currently attending Preschool-1 and 34 are attending Preschool-2. Classes for Standard 2 will start in the academic year 2020-21. The application for state recognition has already been submitted. Currently 4 teachers and one supervisor are employed in the schools.

DISASTER RELIEF AND LASTING DISASTER CONTROL

After the incredibly strong cyclone Fani, which hit the east coast of India at the beginning of May 2019, support from the Hand in Hand Disaster Fund was immediately passed on to the Prajnana Mission. Prajnana Mission and the Puri Health Centre offered immediate emergency assistance by organising 12 medical camps where they provided medical care for approximately 1,200 people. They also distributed packages with urgently-required relief goods, to families which were most affected by the disaster.

Storm and flood-proof one-room houses were built for **sustainable disaster relief**. The donations from Hand in Hand Europe and Hand in Hand USA enabled the construction of 90 houses in 46 villages within 6 districts in Odisha. By July 2020, seventy-five houses could already be handed over to people who were made homeless by the storm. The remaining 15 houses are under construction. The storm also caused serious environmental damage. **Reforestation projects** have been running since 2019-20.

Many migrant workers and day labourers in India were prevented from returning to their villages due to the lockdown because of the Corona-Pandemic. Numerous people became homeless overnight and found themselves unable to feed their families. The government provided food for 2 meals a day, but was far from enough. With the help of Hand in Hand, the Prajnana Mission, in consultation and cooperation with the respective district leaders, was able to provide food, hygiene products and protective masks to about 400 affected people in the district of Kendrapara - a total of 5,000 masks were distributed to people in need in the surrounding villages. In addition, the Prajnana Mission delivered food twice a day to social workers and security forces in Puri who were on duty around the clock, also as a token of appreciation for their work.

General Activities

- During the financial year 2019/2020, Hand in Hand issued two **Newsletters**, as well as one edition of the **Spotlight** magazine. They were released, as always, in German and English, and were sent to our donors and published on our website.
- After the devastating storm in May 2019, an extraordinary appeal for donations was launched.
- Due to the worrying consequences of the Indian government's measures to curb the spread of the corona virus, an extraordinary donation mailing was sent out in **July 2020**.

- In the same year, **the founder as well as the secretary of the Prajnana Mission**, our partner organisation in India, visited our Hand in Hand organisation in Vienna. Our guest contributed to a positive exchange.
- Members of the **Hand in Hand Board, the Stiftung Metacenter Sozialprojekte based in Switzerland**, as well as additional **friends and donors from Poland, Austria, Germany and Holland**, also visited during this financial year, the projects in India. The board members, together with friends and supporters, took the opportunity to interview some Balashram pupils to acquire first-hand impressions and field reports. The group also visited the Health Projects and the Health Centre in Jagatpur/Cuttack and were able to discuss with colleagues of **Prajnana Mission**, important aspects for future cooperation.
- Members of **Hand in Hand as well as sponsors and donors from Europe and the USA** visited the projects in India in this financial year and had the opportunity to conduct interviews with the project managers on site and with students in the Balashram. Important questions for further cooperation were discussed.
- Throughout the financial year 2019/2020, the **President, the Vice President and the Secretary** of Hand in Hand participated at several European fundraising events to support the projects in India. Fundraising programmes were organised in several European cities.
- Besides the yearly **General Assembly, Board Meetings** and several workshops were held during this financial year. On top of these meetings, the members have been keeping in touch through a regular exchange of emails and telephone calls.
- Thanks to Web-Conferencing, voice over IP, emails and reciprocal visits, the exchange of information between the **Prajnana Mission** in India and **Hand in Hand** Headquarters in Vienna, has been both continuous and highly positive.

In collaboration with our European sister organisations “Stiftung Hand in Hand Deutschland”, “Hand in Hand Schweiz”, “Stichting Hand in Hand Netherlands”, “Hand in Hand France” and “Support Group Poland”, we are able to look back on a successful year.

Hand in Hand USA and other non-European Hand in Hand groups have sponsored and financed the projects as well. In India, many voluntary helpers and coordinators are participating in different projects.

Vienna, August 2020