

Activity and Progress Report

From 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019

INDIA

1. Health Centres

*In the Calendar Year 2018/2019, **Hand in Hand** and its partner organization **Prajnana Mission**, were able to successfully carry out their joint Health Projects. The following projects offered free medical care and prevention for underprivileged people in India:*

HCHC in Jagatpur/Cuttack offers its services 6 days a week. They include specialist medical care such as paediatrics, dermatology, orthopaedics, geriatrics and also dental care, pneumology, internal medicine, and surgery. The expanding laboratory can now provide blood test results on the same day, thus avoiding long waits for patients coming from afar. The number of medical specialists offering their services for free, is increasing.

HCHC in Balighai is open 6 days a week. Alongside conventional general treatments, the centre offers also specialist eye and skin consultations, as well as dental treatments twice a month. Moreover, Mobile Health Camps in remote villages are scheduled regularly.

HCHC Bhisindipur offers homeopathic treatments on 2 days every week.

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

The Village Health Project Arua, offers two days a week allopathic treatments and twice a month dental care.

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 normally people have limited or no access at all to medical facilities.

*The Mobile Health Camp of HCHC stopped by the **Sevak nursing** home for destitute senior citizens, in Jaipur, where it examined and treated all 102 residents.*

Statistics for 2018/2019

- Three **Hariharananda Health Centres (HCHC)** situated in Balighai, Jagatpur/Cuttack (in the state of Odisha) and Bhisindipur (in the state of West Bengal), have treated **69,808** patients throughout the year 2018/2019. At the HCHC Jagatpur, they performed 18,846 laboratory tests, 1,118 surgical interventions, 306 ECGs and 3,746 patients received physiotherapy treatments. The physiotherapy department, which opened in 2017, can treat 20-25 people a day. Most of its cases relate to pain therapy and post stroke treatments.
- At the **Village Health Project (VHP)** situated in **Arua** on the premises of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School and at the **Village Health Project (VHP)** situated in **Athagarh, (Upavanam)**, **42,242** people received medical treatment in 2018/2019.
- **Regular Health Camps** were held in **cities and rural areas** of Cuttack, and Puri in Odisha. The Health Camps allowed for **28,155** sick people to receive medical treatment.
- In the years 2018-2019 a second semi-automatic analyzer and a CBC machine (Complete Blood Count) were put into operation. The physiotherapy department now owns a high-frequency diathermy machine and a device for knee exercise.
- HCHC Jagatpur 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.

2. Hariharananda Balashram School

*During the academic year 2018/2019, **Hand in Hand**, together with the **Prajnana Mission**, has been continuously supporting the Balashram Residential School project in the Indian state of Odisha:*

- **560 pupils** (approximately an equal number of boys and girls coming from destitute families, have received during the past school year 2018/2019, accommodation, clothing, food, medical treatment and tuition.
- The academic school year 2017/2018 consisted of 13 school classes (including 2 pre school forms) with 24 teachers, 25 caretakers, clerical staff, workers and volunteers – all of whom constantly endeavoured to support and maintain the school and residential

school services and establishment. 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.

- **The biogas plant**, which cost 22.600 €, has been completed and provides fuel to the new kitchen instead of using wood for cooking. The primary goal had been to ban wood for cooking, completely. Vegetable scraps and food leftovers are added to the biogas plant for fermentation. **The concept of the ecocycle** involves also the production of **compost as plant fertilizer**, made from plant residues or from animal feed leftovers, like hay.

- **CHRYSALIS**

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

- Most students from the first group 2015/2016, 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.
- The second group of students has completed one year of their +2 education. Most of them are staying at Balashram and are studying at nearby colleges.
- From the third year, 5 boys and 5 girls, together with 7 girls and 6 boys coming from outside schools, were admitted to the 11th 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.

- **New, small village schools**

Independent village schools have been created this year 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.

EUROPE

- During the financial year 2018/2019, 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.
- In the same year, **the Secretary of the Prajnana Mission** visited our Hand in Hand organisation in Vienna. Our guest contributed to a positive exchange by telling our Hand in Hand supporters about his first hand experiences with the projects in India. His recollections were greeted with enthusiasm and resulted in several successful fundraising events.
- Members of the **Hand in Hand Board**, as well as additional friends and donors from Austria, Germany and Holland, visited also 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.
- Throughout the financial year 2018/2019, the **President** and **Vice President** 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 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 2019