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HAND IN HAND

Organisation for Humanitarian Aid

Activity and Progress Report

From 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HAND IN HAND is an [international non-profit organisation for humanitarian aid](#), founded in Vienna in March 2000. This was followed by HAND IN HAND USA (2001), HAND IN HAND Foundation Germany (2005), HAND IN HAND Switzerland (2006), HAND IN HAND Foundation Netherlands (2007) and HAND IN HAND France (2008).

The present activity and progress report describes the current developments of the HAND IN HAND projects in India and summarises the specific activities of the HAND IN HAND organisations in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and France.

The activity reports of HAND IN HAND Switzerland and HAND IN HAND USA are available at www.handinhand-schweiz.org and www.handinhandusa.org.

All the organisations listed above, work for the conception, planning, financing, and implementation of the HAND IN HAND aid projects in the areas of education, health, and disaster relief in Odisha. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India with an exceptionally high degree of exposure to natural disasters.

The aid projects are implemented in cooperation with the partner organisation of HAND IN HAND, the PRAJNANA MISSION in Cuttack, Odisha, India. The structure of HAND IN HAND together with an overwhelming voluntary commitment, enables up to 80 to 90% of the donations to flow into the projects efficiently and allows for almost all donations to reach those so urgently in need.

HAND IN HAND pursues exclusively charitable goals. As a result of international cooperation, it is possible to break hopeless cycles of poverty by:

- Giving children living in extreme poverty a home, the chance to grow up healthy, and quality education - and thus a future.
- Providing medical care to people without access to health services and medicines.
- Providing rapid and sustainable aid in the event of natural disasters, to protect people, animals, and the environment.

The HAND IN HAND health projects - the [Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres \(HCHC\)](#) - are in Balighai, Jagatpur, Arua, Athagarh and Bhisindpur. More than 30 doctors offer general and special medical treatments in the Health Centres.

The HAND IN HAND [education projects](#) are currently:

- The Hariharananda Balashram Residential School
- The Chrysalis project, which emerged from the Balashram project
- Tuition Centre in Arua

The HAND IN HAND **disaster relief and civil protection** includes:

- Provision of immediate life-support assistance such as medical aid, provision of food, hygiene items and emergency kits.
- Helping to restore destroyed infrastructure, such as building storm- and flood-proof, one-room houses.
- Provision of agricultural land and seeds for replanting and reforestation.

All HAND IN HAND projects stand for an **ecologically-attentive and care for life**, and aim at increasing autonomy. With green ideas for a healthy future the following was achieved:

- The expansion of the gardens and the construction of a well in the Balashram Residential School
- The construction of a farm building for the supply of dairy products and the preservation of The Indian humped cattle (Zebu)
- The construction of a biogas plant connected to the farm building
- The instillation of solar panels

In the year 2023 / 2024, with the donations for HAND IN HAND and in cooperation with PRAJNANA MISSION in Odisha (India), its partner organisation, 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 medical treatment to people without access to adequate medical and dental care. Since 1999/2000, the founding year of HAND IN HAND, five Health Centres have been established. There are more than 30 doctors offering health services across all the centres on a voluntary basis.

General health and dental services are provided in the OPD (outpatient department) centres at Balighai, Puri District and Bhisindipur, West Medinipur district. Homeopathy services are offered at the HCHC Bhisindipur, Athagarh, and in the Village Health Project (VHP) in Arua. The HCHC in Balighai has started Ayurveda services in September 2018 and Homeopathy services since February 2021.

The HCHC in Cuttack, has been developed into a Day Clinic. It started on February 14, 2014, at New Industrial Area, Jagatpur. This complex is serving the general population by providing medicine, surgery, paediatrics, gynaecology, and other health services. During normal times, each day more than 200 patients from the nearby communities receive medical help and treatment.

In addition, free mobile general health camps, specialised health camps and dental health camps are offered in urban slums and in remote rural areas. Via the Village Health Camps, medical care is consistently and continuously offered in regions with insufficient or no access to health facilities.

Centre	Inauguration	Allopathy	Homeopathy	Ayurveda
HCHC Jagatpur	1999	 7 days a week		
HCHC Balighai	1999	 5 days a week	 1 day a week	 1 day a week
HCHC Bhisindipur	2004		 2 days a week	
VHP Arua	2010	 Alternate days	 1 day a week	
VHP Athagarh	2012		 7 days a week	
HCHC = Health Centre VHP = Village Health Project				

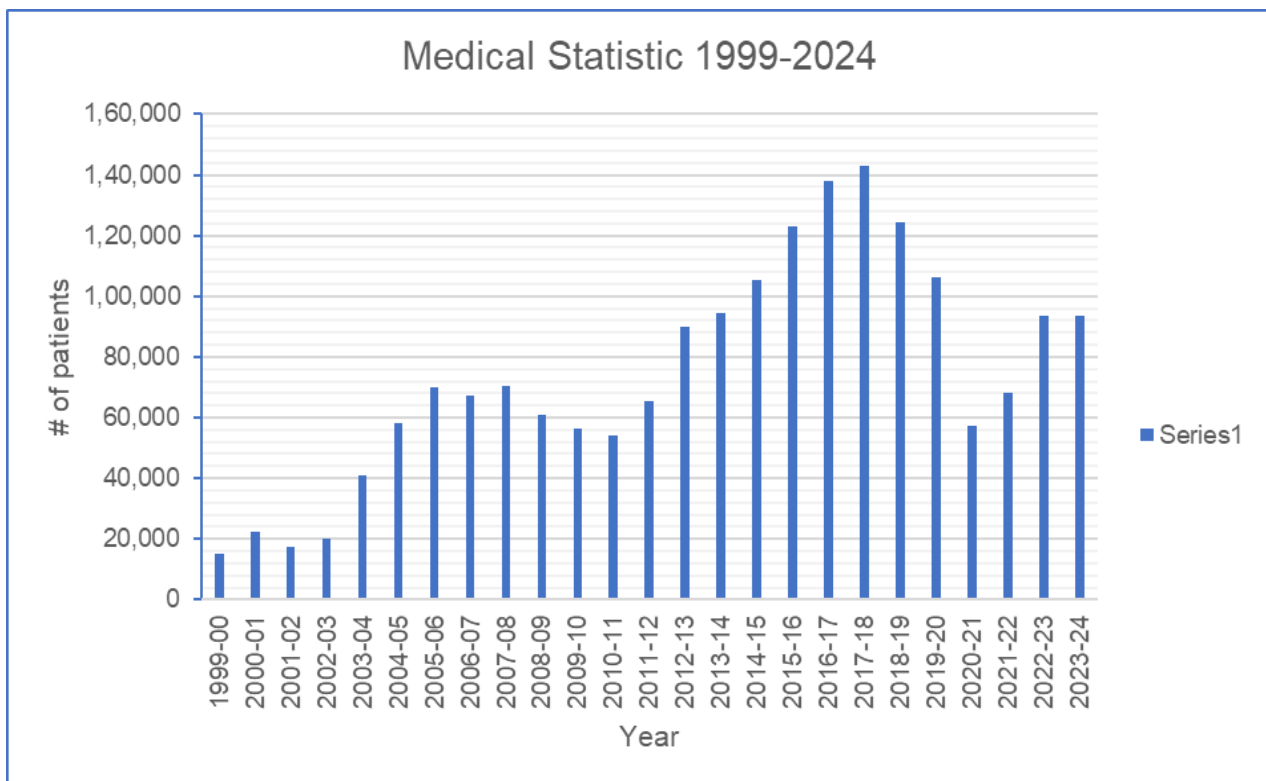
STATISTICS

From July 1999 until March 2024, the HCHC provided medical assistance and medicines for close to 1.79 million patients.

Despite COVID pandemic, about 57,288 people could avail the medical services during 2020-21 and 68,209 people during 2021-22. During the period from April 2022 to March 2023, about 90,077 patients were treated. The drop in the number of patients since the year 2018-19 is due to the opening of a government urban public health care centre in Jagatpur 2018 and due to the pandemic as only patients not having COVID symptoms were treated at our health centres. The treatment of COVID patients was tied to the state hospitals. The monthly average of the number of people taking OPD treatment during 2020-21 was 4,774; but it increased to 5,684 during 2021-22, 7,506 in 2022-23 and to 7812 in 2023-24.

The year-wise breakup of patients treated:

Year	Total Patients Treated		Year	Total Patients Treated
1999-00	15,147		2012-13	89,973
2000-01	22,218		2013-14	94,272
2001-02	17,370		2014-15	105,418
2002-03	20,167		2015-16	122,828
2003-04	41,087		2016-17	138,085
2004-05	58,371		2017-18	143,001
2005-06	70,151		2018-19	124,581
2006-07	67,473		2019-20	106,045
2007-08	70,304		2020-21	57,288
2008-09	60,993		2021-22	68,209
2009-10	56,199		2022-23	93,491
2010-11	54,096		2023-24	93,746
2011-12	65,514		SUM TOTAL =	1,787,415



FUTURE PLANS

- Introduction of Yoga Therapy in the HCHC
- Land Development Project: The land behind HCHC Jagatpur was purchased for future medical projects.

HCHC JAGATPUR (Day Clinic)

HCHC Jagatpur day clinic celebrated its opening in February 2014 in the new industrial area of Jagatpur. The clinic provides especially for the poor and offers general medical and therapeutic treatments, as well as health services in centralized medical fields such as paediatrics, gynaecology, and surgery. About 200 - 300 patients receive medical help every day in the day clinic.

The clinic has a very good reputation in the entire region. It has state-of-the-art diagnostic services provided throughout the year. The number of people who utilized the services offered is as below:

	2020-21*	2021-22*	2022-23*	2023-24*
Laboratory Services	14,508	13,360	20,123	22,955
Surgical Services	1,030	607	1,041	703
ECG	325	467	564	495
Physiotherapy	2,964	8,354	9,210	9,572
X-Ray	800	1,120	1,906	2,203

*April to March

The day clinic offers outpatient services six days a week. They include ECG examinations and tests, because of which patients do not have to go to diagnostic clinics for carrying out tests. In 2023-24 an immunoanalyser was added to the diagnostic services.

Moreover, laboratory tests (daily), radiography services, 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. are being offered.

Eye OPD has been running since October 2014 and on an average 50-60 patients being treated once a week. Because of the non-availability of voluntary doctors on a continued basis due to COVID, the services were suspended for about one year from February 2020 until February 2021.

The dressing unit for all types of minor injuries is equipped to handle many kinds of dressing cases such as burn cases, ulcers with maggots, gangrene, etc. Burn cases, diabetic foot ulcers, lipoma and other similar cases are regularly treated at HCHC Jagatpur.

In spring 2020, a first aid room was set up on the ground floor.

Enhanced dental services initially were restricted to extraction, filling and scaling. With the availability of hydraulically operated dental chairs with all other necessary equipment, HCHC Jagatpur is also carrying out Root Canal Treatment.

Physiotherapy has become an alternative to medication, pain therapy. In 2016/2017 the physiotherapy department was equipped for the therapy of an average of 30 patients a day. Until to date nearly 60 people use this service daily.

HCHC Jagatpur is currently generating nearly 65% of the operating expenses from its physiotherapy and diagnostic services.

In 2023 -2024 an additional staircase was constructed for emergency evacuation. Moreover, an additional area of 0.33 acres behind the current HCHC Jagatpur was purchased for future expansion.

HCHC BALIGHAI

The HCHC in Balighai, Puri, in the state of Odisha is offering conventional general medical treatments and specialist health services. Unlike HCHC Jagatpur, health services at HCHC Balighai were interrupted due to COVID pandemic. It has been in full operation again since the summer of 2021.

The Health Centre is open 6 days a week. In addition to the regular health services, HCHC Balighai is offering Ayurvedic and Homeopathy health services. Ayurvedic treatments have been carried out since February 2018 and homeopathic treatments since February 2021. Special health camps with the help of local ayurvedic specialists are organised for specific diseases. Physiotherapy services are usually offered twice a month. The centre also offers specialist skin consultations, as well as dental treatments twice a month.

Eye OPD services were being offered on alternate months at HCHC Balighai using Eye examination equipment viz., mobile Keratometer and Vision Drum. Because of the non-availability of voluntary doctors on a continued basis, the services are currently not being provided. Efforts are on to search for doctors or cooperation-partners who will come and serve on a voluntary basis.

In addition, special allopathy medical camps for ENT, gastroenterology, and cardiovascular diseases are being organised. These camps can reach areas where people normally have limited or no access at all to medical facilities.

Total of 14,884 patients took treatment during April 2023 March 2024.

HCHC BHISHINDIPUR

HCHC in Bishindipur in the state of West Bengal offers conventional general medical treatments and specialist health services, such as homeopathic treatments on two days every week.

Eye OPD services are currently not being provided, because of the non-availability of voluntary doctors on a continued basis. Efforts are on to search for doctors or cooperation-partners who will come and serve on a voluntary basis.

The OPD services at Bishindipur were utilized by 2,429 patients in 2023/2024.

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 on the premises of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School, offers four days a week allopathic treatment and twice a month dental care. Regular homeopathic treatment has also been carried out since 2019/20.

The OPD services at the Village Health Project at Athagarh and Arua was utilized by 6,900 patients and 9,304 patients, respectively.

EDUCATION PROJECTS

HARIHARANANDA BALASHRAM RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Since July 2004, the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School in Arua / Kendrapara has been offering children of extreme poverty—without primary care and prospect for schooling—a safe home, health care and holistic, high-quality education. The children living in neglect in urban slums or in severely underserved, hard-to-reach rural areas are selected by a specially qualified commission. Each year, 40 girls and boys aged between 4 and 5 years can be enrolled in the Balashram for 14 years, where they receive comprehensive care. They are then supported in the Balashram follow-up project 'Chrysalis' until they are able to look after themselves and even then: the Balashram remains their home.

Hariharananda Balashram Residential School is managed by Prajnana Mission, based in Jagatpur / Cuttack. Based on the students' performance and other establishments including different infrastructures, laboratories, trained teachers, etc. Central Board of Secondary Education has extended the affiliation of Balashram up to March 2030.

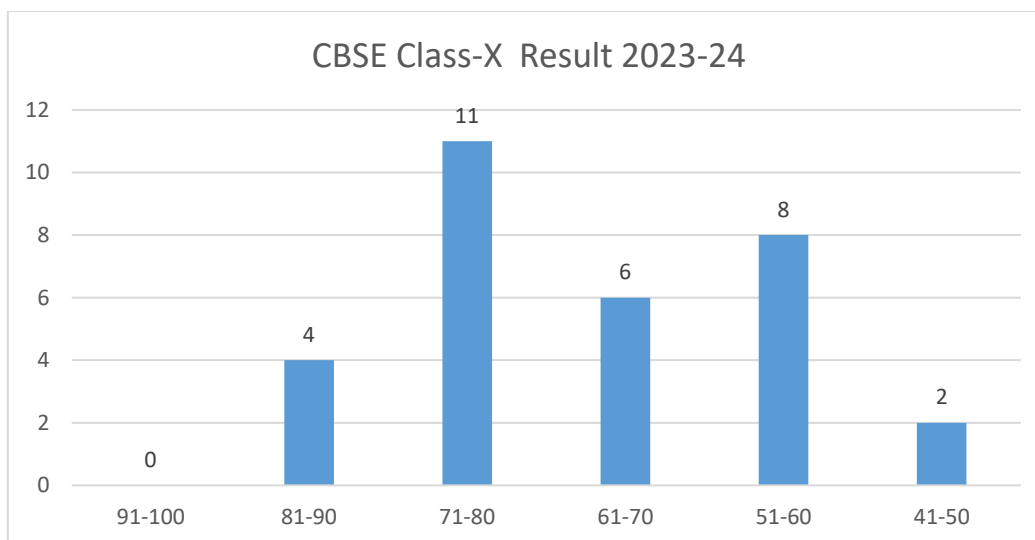
The school has a nursery (Nursery 1 and Nursery 2) and offers children, starting at the age of 6, a CBSE quality-certified schooling up to grade 10 (secondary level 1). After completing the compulsory years of schooling (Grade 10), children move on to Secondary 2, where students in Grades 11 and 12 are offered a stimulating curriculum based on the CBSE syllabus. The final examinations for Secondary 1 and Secondary 2 are open to the public and are conducted by CBSE.

During the year 2023-24, Balashram had 563 students (281 boys and 282 girls); 33 teachers including the principal and 52 non-academic staff. About 40 students (20 boys and 20 girls) were admitted in Nursery for the academic year 2023-24. About 30 students joined for Class 11 course in 2023. Class 10 and 12 annual results were declared by CBSE in May. This year's admissions process for kindergarten classes 2024-25 was completed in the first week of April.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The lessons are mainly held in English. The school follows the CBSE curriculum, which integrates a Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) according to the guidelines of the CBSE. In the school curriculum, English is the first language, Odia is the second language and Hindi is the third language. It covers the areas of mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and environmental sciences. The schools teaching-learning concept follows concepts of activity-based learning and promotes audio-visual learning.

ACADEMIC RESULTS OF CLASSES X (CBSE Examination)



The above graph represents the results of Class X exams for the academic year 2023-24. In this academic year 31 students graduated. Four students scored in the range 81-90 and 11 students in the range 71-80. The class average was 67.57. All the students passed. Only one student could not take part in the final examinations because she fell ill.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The children and adolescents are encouraged to dream of a life that they freely choose for themselves, and to realize their dreams actively and through their own efforts. This is reflected in the school's logo which bears the inscription "Make Your Dream a Reality" and in the Balashram's pedagogical approach, and ultimately in the organisation of care in the residential school, as well as in the actual teaching.

To provide the best possible environment and support for the development of each child's individual talents and potential as well as a natural sense of social responsibility, extracurricular offerings in the areas of vocational training & life skills, art & culture, nature & environment, and sports & games are available to the children.

The total students of the school (except KG and Nursery) are divided into 4 houses (teams); namely Valmiki, Vasishta, Vishwamitra and Vyasa. These four houses will have inter-house competitions that include debate, calligraphy, chanting, essay writing, games, sports, and so on. Every Friday these competitions are held. Each house will have students from all classes (class I to class X). Moreover, there are different clubs including Science, Language, Heritage Eco-Club, and Youth Club etc., to conduct different Co-Curricular activities. Every Friday various inter house competitions including quiz, song, dance, debate and extempore speech are organized in the school.

Vocational Training & Life Skills

In addition to the CBSE curriculum, vocational and life skills have been taught since the 2013/14 school year, when the first children turned 13 to 14 years old. Since then, students in classes VIII to X have been undergoing a competence-oriented programme for the development of life skills. Extracurricular subjects include IT, general knowledge, ethics and values education. In concrete, courses are available to the girls and boys in tailoring, gardening, desktop publishing, computer hardware assembly, plumbing, electrical house wiring, bicycle repair, hair cutting and cooking, among others. Each student enrol in at least one training course for practical skills development. The girls and boys may enroll in more than one course depending upon their interest. These classes are once a week on Sundays. The class duration is two hours. The aim of this programme is to make the young people understand the value of work and competence.

Samkalpa - Ethical-Moral Education Camps

SAMKALPA means firm determination. The students are encouraged to be clear about the goal of their life and be determined and faithful to achieve this. The goal of life in turn is determined by his/her inculcate ethical-moral values. The Sankalpa Education Camps are a step towards inculcating high ethical-moral values among the senior students. For the academic year 2024-25 it will be held in October.

Arts & Culture

Extracurricular activities in the visual and performing arts have always played a central role in Balashram's educational programme. The CBSE gives particular importance to an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, which also includes the integration of art and culture in both curricular- and extracurricular learning. Therefore, visual and performing arts are partly compulsory for the children from nursery to class IX. The children learn drawing and painting, to make collages, drawing in two dimensions and acquire craft skills. In the performing arts, each child takes at least one of the three subjects dance, music and tabla. For music lessons, Balashram is affiliated to the *Pracheen Kala Kendra* of Chandigarh University*. The girls and boys also learn classical Hindustani and Odissi music as well as traditional Odissi dance.

*) Pracheen Kala Kendra of Chandigarh University is the oldest organization in India that promotes classical arts. We are affiliated to it, and they support Balashram.

Games & Sports

Games and Sports are an integral part of the school curriculum. Throughout the year students participate in various competitions organised both inside and outside the school. The students are trained by coaches in football, rugby, volleyball, handball, kho-kho and kabadi.

Balashram is a member of Sahodaya School Complex, Eastern Odisha Chapter. Sahodaya School Complex is an association of 20 CBSE schools from different locations. This association discusses different issues related to education. In addition, they also arrange different competitions among other CBSE schools. Our school became the runners up in the Kabaddi Tournament during 2023-24 academic year. Moreover, in the Yogasana competition, Khirod Bhoi & Snehalata Pradhan also participated at Odisha state level, respectively.

The 18th Annual Sports meet was held in the school premises on 1st and 2nd December 2023. In total, 26 different events were organized in different categories. From senior boys Ankit Kar of Std-XI, and senior Girls Mandui Soy of Std-XI became champion in the annual sports.

Scouts & Guides

The school offers the students the opportunity to join scout & guides groups. For the boys it is the Sri Yutkeshwar Scout Troop and for the girls the Anandamayee Guide Company. There is a third group, the Bulbul Group, for the very little ones from the kindergarten classes. A total of 100 students from different classes are enrolled in one of these groups. They regularly participate in various community outreach programmes.

From 7th to 10th November 2023, a state level meet of all scouts in Odisha was organised by the scouts and guides state headquarter (BBSR) with competitions in various disciplines. Our students were awarded third place in the group dance, second place in the food-villa and first place for the best waste-craft. Our scouts won a gold medal in the debating competition, a special prize for seva and a silver medal for the best expression in dance.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Parent Teacher Meeting:

On 27 and 28 May 2023 a meeting took place between the teachers and the parents or guardians of the children. The meeting and the exchange with the children's relatives took place in four phases, so that an exchange with everyone was possible. On this occasion, the parents were also invited to the celebrations of the Puja holidays (celebration at the start of the holiday) to give them the opportunity to spend a joyful time with their children. The parents were guided through the Balashram and stayed for two or three days.

Alumni Meet:

On 25 June 2023, the first alumni-meeting with Balashram graduates took place in the Sadhan Sadan Auditorium. The school was founded in 2004. In the meantime, many students have already left the Balashram. Some are continuing their studies at a university; others are already working. Around 120 former students took part in the all-day programme. Vice Principal Vibhuti Ma moderated the programme. It was a heart touching event that took place in the blessed presence of the school's founder Paramahansa Prajnanananda and other venerable monks.

Teacher Training Programme:

Balashram organized a Teacher Training programme on 9th September, 2023 conducted by 6 CBSE school Teachers. The school had also welcomed Biren Das, a renowned Artist of Odiya Film industry on 21st September, 2023. The honorable Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, acting chief justice of Odisha High court, was invited to Balashram for an interaction with the students and teachers on 3rd December 2023.

Orientation Classes:

The founder of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School Shree Guruji Paramahansa Prajnanannada has taken orientation classes for the students and teachers monthly for the overall development of Balashram.

Excursions

As a part of the academic activity, study tours for Nursery to Class-XII had been arranged to different places of Odisha.

Celebrations at Balashram during April 2023 – March 2024

Celebrations	Dates
Utkal Diwas	April 1
Earth Day	April 22
Shri Gurudev's Birthday Celebrations	May 27
International Yoga Day	June 21
Rath Yatra	June 20
Welcome Ceremony of Nursery Kids	July 18
Balashram Foundation Day	July 29
Shri Guruji's Birthday Celebration	August 10
76 th Independence Day	August 15
Shri Krishna Janmashtami	September 6
Shri Ganesha Chaturthi	September 19
Teacher's Day	September 5
National Unity Day	October 31
Children's Day	November 14
Kartika Purnima (Boat festival)	November 19
19 th Mahasamadhi celebration of Shri Gurudev	December 3
Christmas Celebration	December 24-25
New Year Celebration	December 31-January 1
Birthday of Paramahansa Yoganandaji	January 5, 2024
National Youth Day	January 12, 2024
Republic Day	January 26, 2024
Saraswati Puja	February 14, 2024
Mahasamadhi Day of Paramahansa Yoganandaji	March 7, 2024
Mahashivaratri	March 8, 2024
Mahasamadhi Day of Swami Sriyukteshwarji	March 9, 2024
Holi	March 25, 2024

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

The school has its own Hariharananda Charitable Health Centre to check the children's health and dental health and ensure their well-being. As part of a Village Health Project, health camps are organized four times a week for the village people. However, with the outbreak of COVID the village health camps we cancelled and could not be continued since then.

Balashram HCHC serves the village with a Homeopathic service on one day and allopathic doctor every alternate day during the week. There are dental camps twice a month. A pharmacist helps in the functioning of the medical centre with a visiting doctor.

FACILITIES

- The residential school has 26 dormitories for girls and 23 dormitories for boys.
- In April 2024 a new teacher was recruited. The principal, 34 teachers and 52 non-teaching staff employed at Balashram.
- The school is well equipped with a computer laboratory that has 45 computers and a projector for teaching information technology. Since 2013-14, Balashram has introduced an audio-visual learning system. Balashram frequently uses TeachNext tools - a digital teaching and learning system.
- The new central library was completed in February 2021.
- Construction work on the mini-auditorium began in December 2019 and was completed in August 2020. The grand opening of the auditorium took place on 16 February 2021.
- The solar power project was commissioned in December 2019 and it supplies electrical power of 50 kVA to school campus. Requirement for Balashram is 100+ kVA. Based on the success of this project, a 10kVA off-grid solar power project was installed on the school terrace. Completion date was March 2022.
- In December 2019, construction work began on the mini auditorium, and was completed in August 2020. The ceremonial opening of the auditorium was on 16 February, 2021.
- 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.
- Organic farming had been taken up at Balashram shortly before the outbreak of the Pandemic in 2019. About 8.5 acres of land is being cultivated for paddy and an organic vegetable garden is also developed for Balashram kitchen.

FUTURE PLANS

- With an aim of nurturing the children from Class I to Class V separately and to create more space for the senior children in the existing facilities, there is a plan for the construction of separate facilities for the younger children. This project will be taken around October 2024.
- As per the Guidelines for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) provisions for existing Schools and Schools seeking affiliation with the Board mandate must have either a ramp or a lift on all floors of the school building. Accordingly, Balashram is in the process of installing a lift. This will be operational by August 2024.
- The celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Balashram will take place on 22 and 23 December 2024.

CHRYSALIS

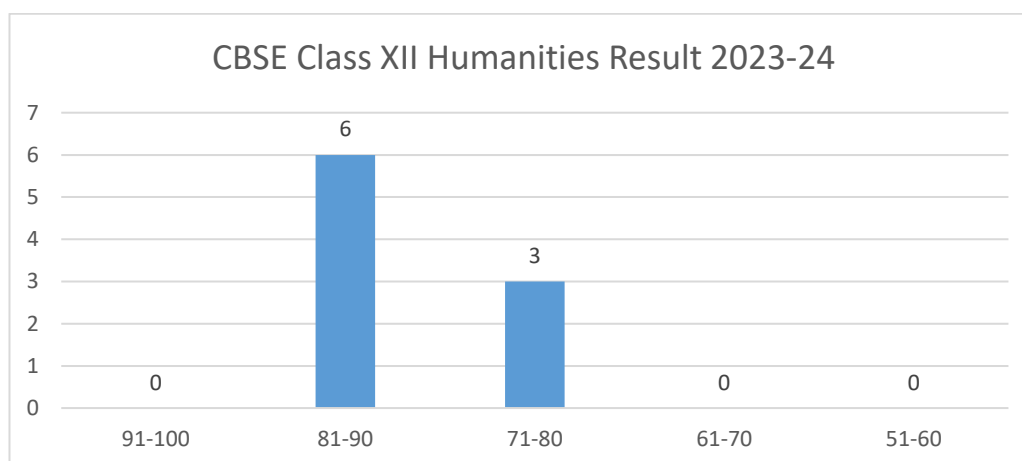
Chrysalis supports graduates of the Balashram Residential School after leaving school. This Balashram follow-up project has the scope to give graduates the best possible support. The school received the Composite Provisional Affiliation for Secondary School from the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, in 2017. The approval for education up to secondary level 2 is a result of the Chrysalis project, which emerged from the Balashram project in 2016, and it is an important milestone in the school's development. Since then, it is possible to harbour the children for 14 years at Balashram and to give them further education at levels +2 and +3 after completion of compulsory schooling (class X).

Out of the 32 students, 31 students took the Class X examination in 2023-24. One student did not take the examination as she was afflicted with Tuberculosis. Out of the 31 who passed class X in 2023-24, 13 students joined the science stream and 14 the humanities for class XI and class XII. Four students are pursuing studies by themselves.

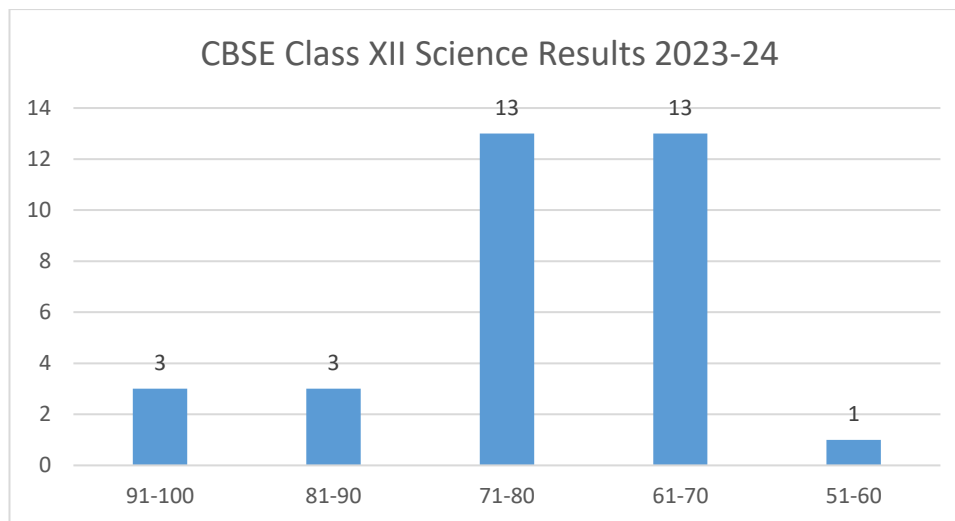
Out of the 23 students of 2010-11 batch having passed class XII in 2023/24, 13 students have applied for courses in Bachelor of Pharmacy Nursing, and sciences for +3 (a 3-year degree course); and 9 students have applied for humanities studies for +3.

Nine students from the 2007-08 intake were able to study at university as part of the Chrysalis programme. They all graduated +3 this year; of these nine graduates, four students have secured employment in the relevant sectors.

Class XII students of Balashram have taken the CBSE examination for the year 2023-24 and received their results:



The above graph represents the results of Class XII exams in Humanities for the academic year 2023-24. In this academic year 9 students graduated. Six students scored in the range 81-90 and 3 students in the range 71-80. The class average was 81.



The above graph represents the results of Class XII exams in Science for the academic year 2023-24. In this academic year 33 students graduated. 3 students scored in the range 91-100 and 3 students in the range 81-90. 13 students scored in the range 71-80 and in the range 61-10 also 13. One student scored in the range 51-60. The class average was 73.23.

TUITION CENTRE

A tuition centre was constructed in 2021/22 in Arua / Kendrapara near the Balashram Residential School. It offers tutoring classes for the children of the villages of Arua, Kadliban, Hatapatana, Keshpur and Nuapatana, with the aim of raising the children's educational levels. Initially there were about 150 students of the nearby villages who were attending the tuition centre. By this academic year the number has come down to 70 to 80. The decrease in the number is due to the other tuition centres that opened up in the vicinity. The tuition centre offers two shifts: morning and evening.

Classes I to VI come for tutoring in the morning while students from classes VII to X come in the evening. Graduates of Balashram, who live on the Balashram campus and study in nearby educational institutions under the Chrysalis Project, teach in their free time as tutors in the new Centre.

Parents of the children pay a small fee which covers the electricity costs and the examination fees. Retired government teachers who live in the villages, visit the Centre frequently and offer suggestions on how to improve teaching for the children. Parents-meetings are organised at regular intervals with the aim of promoting the parents understanding of their children's educational journey. Moreover, an ethics lesson is held every Sunday and is attended by about 60 to 70 children.

The main goal of the Tuition Centre is to compensate for the poor quality of education in the regular village schools. It wants to help students, who find regular school classes difficult, to

understand the basic courses of the lower grades. The tutors try to meet the individual needs of the students and advise the parents accordingly. The response of the villagers to the Tutoring Centre has been very positive.

Three students of 10th grade studying in a village school, and who received support in the Tutoring centre successfully passed the last school year.

In 2023-24, the Tutoring Centre building was extended, and a large hall was built above the classrooms. A library was set up there, and part of the extension is used for sewing courses.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF HAND IN HAND

- In the financial year 2023/24, HAND IN HAND produced two donor-letters, Christmas mail, the Sponsorship-Letters, and an issue of the donor magazine Spotlight and sent them out by post and email.
- In the mailings were enclosed postcards, and notecards based on drawings by the children. Atelier Silke Weiß again designed and sponsored a Christmas card for HAND IN HAND as well as a summer-card.
- The donor-letters were published in German and English in 2021 and additionally in French, Hungarian, Polish, and Spanish from spring 2022. Translations into Italian and Dutch followed in 2023, and in Portuguese in 2024.
- The Spotlight was published as a print version in German, English, French and Polish.
- A PDF version of the French Spotlight is available on the website www.handinhand.fr; a PDF version of the Dutch Spotlight is available on the website <https://handinhandnederland.org/>
- PDF versions of all languages are published at www.handinhand.at. Moreover, in the Spring 2023 emailing, the PDF version of the Spotlight's translations in Dutch, Italian, Polish, and Spanish could be sent along with the English, French, Portuguese and German versions.
- The new website for HAND IN HAND in Europe has gone online in Spring 2024. The website will be available in German, English, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Polish, Russian and Portuguese.
- This year fundraising programs were held in various European cities. In Austria, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands, small charity auctions and in Austria also raffles were held this year for the benefit of the children of Balashram. In Austria, Germany and the Netherlands live concerts took place and, and in the Netherlands, even gong-baths in favor of HAND IN HAND. In Germany and Switzerland HAND IN HAND information and Christmas booths were organized. In the UK charity walks were undertaken in aid of Balashram. In Germany, HAND IN HAND was presented during the Kriya Yoga Festival.

- Paramahansa Prajnanananda, the founder of our partner organisation in India, PRAJNANA MISSION, visited the HAND IN HAND organisation in Austria. He participated in a fruitful exchange on the future vision for HAND IN HAND.
- Also, Swami Achalananda Giri, the longtime managing director and now vice president of the PRAJNANA MISSION, his successor since the beginning of 2024 Swami Divyaswarupananda Giri, and Histas Damania, who supports the PRAJNANA MISSION significantly as a successful and gifted architect and project manager, visited the HAND IN HAND in Europe also in this financial year. Thereby a fruitful exchange about the continuation of the common projects in India took place.
- Members of HAND IN HAND, PRAJNANA MISSION as well as supporters and donors from Europe exchange information about the implementation of the projects and the further development of the international organisation HAND IN HAND at least monthly, often weekly in Zoom meetings.
- Regularly meetings are held with HAND IN HAND USA, and the PRAJNANA MISSION in India with the aim of strengthening and expanding HAND IN HAND's international and worldwide cooperation.
- The president, the management, the treasurer and members of all HAND IN HAND organisations in Europe travelled to India in spring 2023 to discuss and plan the further development of the projects in India together with the PRAJNANA MISSION.
- The President, Vice President, Executive Director and board members of HAND IN HAND were able to inform about HAND IN HAND and raise funds for the projects in India during Europe-wide events in the financial year 2023/24.
- In addition to the annual general assembly, board meetings, as well as working meetings via Zoom, were held during this financial year. Apart from that, the board members are in telephone and/or email contact.
- The exchange of information between the PRAJNANA MISSION in India and HAND IN HAND in Europe is very constructive thanks to web conferences, internet telephony, email, and mutual visits.

Thanks to the international collaboration of HAND IN HAND Organisations in Europe, "Stiftung HAND IN HAND Deutschland", "HAND IN HAND Schweiz", "Stichting HAND IN HAND Netherlands", "HAND IN HAND France" and Support Groups in Poland, Hungary and the UK and non-European HAND IN HAND supporters, we can look back to a successful business year. HAND IN HAND USA makes a significant contribution to the planning, coordination and financing of the humanitarian aid projects in India. In India, Europe and in the USA many voluntary helpers and coordinators are participating in the different projects.

Vienna, May 2024